

THE

HONORS



ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-17

CONNECTION

**NEW HEIGHTS:
HONORS STUDENTS
GO OUT OF THEIR
COMFORT ZONE IN
SEARCH OF
SOMETHING GREAT**



Honors Interdisciplinary Courses Engage and Excite

By: Mollie Rubinstein, Junior, PR and Psychology Major

This past semester, students in the Bantivoglio Honors Concentration realized the interrelationship between different fields of study as well as the interrelationship between academia and the community. These exciting experiences took place in three of the wonderful courses offered by honors. These three courses were: Experiencing Literature, Service Learning, and Pursuit of Happiness/Adventure.

Experiencing Literature: Science and Literature is a course taught every semester by Professor Hyde. Professor Hyde brought this course to Rowan from the University of Pennsylvania. She enjoys seeing students learn that science and literature are related. This course is typically populated by engineering majors and helps them bridge the gap between STEM and Literature by exploring both scientific and literary works. Experiencing Literature focuses on four novels, "The Time Machine" being a



Charlie Chaplin from the film *Modern Times*, which gives the Experiencing Literature course its title.

student favorite!

Professor Rose teaches Honors' Service Learning Course. Professor Rose always dreamed of immersing students in their community and showing them how to bring what they learn in a classroom to life. She achieves this by providing students with a community service opportunity every other week throughout the semester. One notable project this past semester was students going door to door in Camden, getting local residents to fill out surveys that were necessary to obtain a grant to better their lives. Other student favorite projects include speak-

ing with seniors at North Gate and learning about the medical field. Through these experiences, students had the opportunity to see the effects of history and politics in the Urban community and discover how they can help local citizens overcome challenges.

Pursuit of Happiness/Adventure both taught students the interrelationship between the Social Science disciplines (i.e Psychology, Anthropology etc.) and helped them bring their classroom studies to life. Co-taught by Dr. Angelone and Dr. Willis, this course was created by the two professors to engage students in the concept of Positive Psychology (the positive aspects that inspire successful societies). This goal was achieved by having students take on several challenges such as rock climbing. Both professors are extremely happy with how this course turned out. They enjoyed seeing the bond built between classmates in addition to seeing students try something new and push their boundaries. Dr. Angelone and Dr. Willis feel that students left this classroom having had amazing growth as people, which is the ultimate compliment for a teacher.



H.G. Wells' *The Time Machine*, a favorite of students in the Experiencing Literature.

Honors Group Spotlight: Trading Card Game

By: **Harrison Hawkins, Senior, Chemical Engineering**

When the Honors class of 2017 entered freshman year there were 5 active Honors groups; three years later, there are 17.

One of the biggest changes in the Honors Concentration is that there are more opportunities for students to earn their Honors hours than ever before. From the Jazz Band to Intra-mural Sports, Honors groups cover a wide variety of interests. One only has to walk through the Honors Wing of the Whitney Center on a Thursday or Friday to see the multitude of students gathered in Honors group meetings. As student involvement continues to grow, some groups are looking forward to holding events in addition to their weekly meeting. One such group is the Trading Card Game (TCG) Group.

The TCG formed during the Spring semester of 2016. Despite being one of the more recent additions to the group roster, it has experienced high and consistent membership. “At that time, my friends and I would play a lot of Magic the Gathering and we wanted an outlet in Honors to meet people who shared our love of trading card games” remarked Nathan Lamb, TCG Group Co-Leader. The group has done just that, bringing in students from all years to partake in the games. Despite the variety of students from different majors and years, Nathan affirms that the group has a strong community feel.

Aside from the normal meetings, TCG plans to hold small tournaments commonly known in the card community as drafts. In these drafts, participants compete using a deck made from random booster cards they acquire at the beginning of the tournament. This aspect helps to level the playing field between experienced and beginner players, making the tournament welcoming to all. Depending on the type of draft, participants may pay a small amount to cover cost of the cards and could win many more booster packs depending on how they place. TCG hopes to hold several drafts this upcoming the spring semester.



The Trading Card Game Group, growing in popularity, gathers once a week to game. (Photo By: Harrison Hawkins)



Tim Suto smiles as he contemplates his next move. (Photo By: Harrison Hawkins)

Learn More About Honors Groups!

A full schedule and description of the TCG and other honors groups can be found on the Honors Concentration Web page. Students with an active interest in forming new groups are always welcome to reach out to the Honors Student Organization Programming Coordinator, Harrison Hawkins, to start the group forming process. This process involves reporting an active interest in the new group and detailing the specifics of the group such as location, meeting time, and educational value. Applications are then reviewed by the HSO, Dr. Talley, and Dr. diNovi for approval.

Honors M.O.M.A Trip

By: Joe Gramigna, Sophomore, Writing Arts

Early on November 6th, Honors photography students (and Honors students with a general interest in art) boarded a tour bus headed for the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. The city was more vibrant than usual on this particular day, since the New York Marathon was taking place. Additionally, the presidential election was only days away, so Trump supporters were gathered outside of Trump Tower.

Upon arrival, students were given tickets to enter the museum, which consists of numerous floors displaying a wide array of artwork. A large exhibit was dedicated to the modern refugee crisis, with an entire wall covered in the names and causes of death of those who had lost their lives attempting to leave war-torn countries. A full-sized replica of the aid stations that are set up to help refugees was also present and open for a walk-through.

A group of Honors students made a point to relax and check out a film being shown in the museum. This exhibit, which included the film, is titled *Imponderable*, and the artist behind the work is Tony Oursler. Oursler worked with David Bowie, so the strange and fantastical film was not a complete shock to those familiar with the singer's visual style.

Another section of the museum was dedicated to apartment furnishings, with examples ranging from mid-twentieth century Germany to contemporary American. For those who

enjoy paintings, works by Picasso, Van Gogh, and other classic painters could be found within the museum's 1880s-1950s collection galleries.

Following the artistic exploration, Honors students were allowed to explore the city at their own leisure. One group, accompanied by Professor Erika Tsuchiya, headed to Long Island to visit MoMA's PS1, an art institution affiliated with the museum. Others stayed around Manhattan, checking out the marathon, New York Public Library, etc.

Accounting and Finance major Marie Totzke felt that the trip "was a very enriching experience, especially the photography exhibition. I really enjoyed 'The Shape' exhibition and the holographic film."

Public Relations and Marketing major Sam Trembly shared similar sentiments, "MoMA was really interesting and broadened my view of what art can be".

The Honors MoMA trip was certainly a successful excursion for the concentration. Students were given first-hand access to a variety of artistic works, helping to reinforce the concepts discussed in photography courses. Honors students can look forward to more incredible trips and opportunities through their honors courses and events. Students are encouraged to reach out to Jamie Cattell at cattell17@students.rowan.edu with future trip suggestions. to Long Island to visit MOMA's PS1, an art institution affiliated with the museum. Others stayed around Manhattan, checking out the marathon, New York Public Library, etc.



Two art exhibits featured at the MoMA. At the MoMA, photography students had the chance to perfect their own artistic talent. (Photo By: Alex Marino). Marie Totzke and Sam Trembly pose in front of a piece of art. On Honors trips, students get to meet each other outside an academic setting! (Photo By: Joe Gramigna)

Two Honors Students Selected for the Stanford University Innovation Fellowship

By: Rachel Moskowitz, Freshman, Bioinformatics

Bantivoglio Honors students Antonia Nuzzolo, Marketing and Entrepreneurship major and Melody Tashjian, Mechanical Engineering major, were selected in June to represent Rowan University in Stanford University's Innovation Fellowship. The fellowship's objective is to inspire students at universities around the country engage in entrepreneurship and innovation by identifying problem on campus and working to implement solutions.

Prior to receiving the fellowship, Nuzzolo and Tashjian underwent a rigorous and fast-paced interview process in the spring with Rowan faculty and Stanford representatives. Once they passed the interview phase, they had to successfully complete a month and a half long online training course marked by weekly objectives.

When reflecting on her experiences, Tashjian said, "My professor first publicized the program to the entire class, but he approached me individually after class to persuade me to apply." Tashjian and Nuzzolo co-founded the Rowan chapter of Women in Engineering Professional Society. The Rowan chapter of Women in Engineering Professional Society is the only professional chapter in the Philadelphia area. Tashjian is also on the executive board for Engineers Without Borders, acting as both the Communications Lead and the Alumni Coordinator for the club. Outside of her engineering pursuits, she dances with Rowan's AOM, which stands for Art of Madness.

Nuzzolo's resume is equally as impressive. She is the vice president of not one but three business clubs on campus as well as the founder of the Rowan Honors Book Group. Nuzzolo is also a BLAST (Bantivoglio Leadership and Training) mentor to incoming freshmen in the Honors program. Through the BLAST program, Nuzzolo aids incoming freshmen in their acclimation to university life and explores with them some of the many ways to get involved on campus.

Nuzzolo and Tashjian's positive demeanor lit up the room as they happily shared their plans to improve upon the culture and set up of Rowan University. Initially they contemplated many ideas, but decided to focus instead on developing just two change projects. They recognized that it's important to start on a smaller scale before expanding to even bigger initiatives, especially since the Stanford University Innovation Fellowship is relatively new to the Rowan campus.

Their self-described "smaller scale" initiatives will impact a large portion of the Rowan University campus. After much discussion, Nuzzolo and Tashjian decided to focus on the general lack of collaboration between different departments and students' lack of awareness of entrepreneurial resources on campus. No plans are completely solidified yet, but they are far into the



Melody Tashjian (left) and Antonia Nuzzolo (right) were chosen to participate in the Stanford University Innovation Fellowship.

development process. To improve collaboration on campus, Nuzzolo and Tashjian proposed the implementation of a bylaw with the Student Government Association that requires unrelated clubs to collaborate with one another through event planning and volunteer projects. While discussing the change project proposal, Nuzzolo said, "When you go to college, sometimes there's not much branching out, especially when you're already concentrated in one major. This bylaw would help build great relationships between members of the executive boards and members of clubs."

With all their extracurricular activities plus the responsibilities of the fellowship hanging on their shoulders, both Nuzzolo and Tashjian were surprised when asked about remaining free time. Laughing, Tashjian shook her head and promised that both she and Nuzzolo have little to no free time. When asked how she deals with so little free time, Nuzzolo summed up both her and Tashjian's feelings by stating, "If you are passionate about what you do, you can make time for it."

Honors Students Take Learning Outside the Classroom

By: Amanda Tursi, Senior, Bioinformatics

Sylvia Hanna:

Sylvia Hanna is a senior Chemistry major concentrating in Materials Science. This past March, she was awarded an Honorable Mention for the prestigious Barry Goldwater Scholarship. The Barry Goldwater Scholarship was established in 1986 by the United States Congress, and is the most prestigious undergraduate award in the sciences. Hanna received the honor by proposing a grant about a potential research project that she had interest in pursuing. After extensive research, she proposed plans for a catalytic system mechanically designed to recycle CO₂ emissions into gasoline. This project's focuses on inorganic and materials chemistry led Hanna to develop an increased interest in the subject area. She is currently in the process of applying to graduate schools to continue pursuing her goals for a career in research.

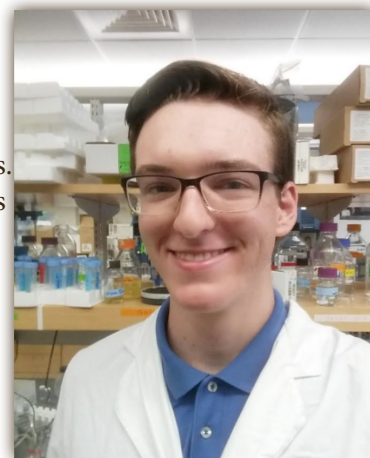


Tyler Jiang:

Tyler, an International Studies and History junior, is a recipient of the prestigious Boren Scholarship. These highly competitive scholarships are given by the National Security Education Program to American undergraduate students to study critical languages that are commonly not taught in the United States. Selected students are given significant funding to study abroad in order to learn such a language. In exchange, they agree to work for a year in a federal agency in an area related to national security. Tyler began studying Mandarin in Beijing for eight months at Tsinghua University in January 2017. He will expand upon his current Mandarin knowledge in the hopes of gaining fluency. Tyler is particularly excited about the chance to live in China and become totally immersed in the culture.

Eric Kohn:

Eric Kohn is a sophomore triple majoring in Biochemistry, Bioinformatics, and Biology. He was one of twelve students across the state accepted into this year's class of New Jersey Governor's STEM Scholars. Through this program, Eric had several fantastic opportunities to engage with scientists in the field, hear from prestigious guest speakers, and tour cutting-edge STEM facilities. The program also gave Eric the opportunity to serve as a research adviser to high school students in pursuit of a final project that has the potential to be presented at the annual Thomas Edison Patent Awards. Eric is particularly excited for the mentorship opportunity as he greatly enjoys working with young people.



Olivia Grasso:

Olivia Grasso is a sophomore striving for both a History and Foreign Language and Linguistics major with a German Minor. This past August she was selected for a virtual internship with the United States government. She is currently in the year-long internship under the Department of State in the Office of the Historian. Her main duty is to look through the department's primary sources and tweet facts through the Office of the Historian's Twitter account (@historyatstat). This internship meshes with her larger career goal of eventually working in a museum. So far she has enjoyed the experience and recommends that her fellow Honors students look into similar internships, as they are available in a number of diverse disciplines.

Maria Rivero:

As a junior Communication Studies major, Spanish minor with an International Studies concentration, Maria Rivero was a strong applicant for the competitive Fulbright Summer Program. This award included a month long research project in Bristol, England studying Slavery and the Atlantic Heritage. She was able to be involved in the unique experience of participating in an archaeological dig, reading original archival documents, and completing a final research project. The experience taught her not only about the major role Bristol played in the slave trade, but also of the importance of studying archeology and history to better understand the world. Her time in Bristol was immensely enjoyable and she has been inspired to travel again in the future and learn more about other areas of the world.



Message from the Honors Student Organization



By: John Schneider

Beginning college is a huge transition for students. Many students live on their own for the first time, meet new friends, and face obstacles that challenge them to greater heights as an individual. As a freshman, having mentorships through the BLAST (Bantivoglio Leadership and Service Training) program helped bridge these difficult transitions. Living in Honors was the best thing I could do as a freshman. Mullica Hall was the place I began to call home with its small community with individuals of all backgrounds and majors. Many of these students I had classes with (both Honors and non-Honors) and we would work on homework and projects together.

BLAST helped me meet new friends that I still maintain close ties with. The meeting I remember becoming close with my group members was on based on diversity. My one mentor, an RA in Mimosa, held an event on what diversity really meant, and did interactive activities that helped us understand one another better.

Finally, I know it is because of BLAST that I have developed strong leadership skills to overcome obstacles. As a freshman, I received advice from mentors that was priceless and through their actions I saw what I should model or how I could improve. I became a mentor for two years to share my experiences and help others. When mentoring, I learned time management and ways to help others. Becoming BLAST Coordinator has been an incredible accomplishment for me. I learned the importance of communication throughout an organization (I often had to communicate with the mentors, as well as my fellow HSO members and Dr. Talley and Dr. diNovi). I also learned an appreciation for the time and skills that go into event planning through all the events BLAST would have me to organize and facilitate.

I credit my ability to be a leader to my roots and development through BLAST as a mentee, mentor, and Coordinator. It is from the meetings and mentorship I had during my first few weeks and semester at Rowan I have been able to achieve and accomplish my goals. I will be graduating from Rowan and Honors and am proud to be a part of the Honors program's first BLAST class.

Fall Highlights



Students took a trip to a local pumpkin patch.



The winners of the Halloween Party costume contest.



Members of the Honors Student Organization pose at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Seattle.



Thomas N. Bantivoglio Honors Concentration
Whitney Center
201 Mullica Hill Road
Glassboro, NJ 08028



THE HONORS CONNECTION

Dr. Lee Talley, Dean
Dr. Kristen diNovi, Assistant Dean
Emily Yanchuck, Student Public Relations Coordinator
Mollie Rubinstein, Copy Editor
Caio Arruda, Design Editor

CONTACT US

Tel: 856-256-4775

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Send comments and suggestions to: yanchucke0@students.rowan.edu

