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## Highlights

Honors Week Photos	2
Student Spotlight	3
Track Spotlight	3
Convocation	4
Lunch in the Lounge	4
Medieval Times Trip	4
Carnival	4
Fall 2010 Classes	4

The University Honors College newsletter is published several times per semester. Honors student, Christina Freer, editor.



**WILLIAM  
PATERSON  
UNIVERSITY**

## Students Sample Foods and Learn About History and Culture

The Honors Club sponsored a trip funded by the Student Government Association on Sunday, April 11. Students took a shuttle into New York City where they participated in "The Original Multi-Ethnic Eating Tour." They learned about the Jewish East Side, Little Italy, and Chinatown while sampling some traditional foods of the Dominican Republic, Eastern Europe, China, and Italy.



*Cannoli was one of the favorite foods on the trip.*



*The tour guide provided interesting information.*



*The group enjoying cultural foods.*



*Tired, full, and happy!*

## Students Relieve Stress Through Painting

A "Color Me Mine" event was hosted by Honors student, Rachael Mierzwa, who reported that it was a great success. The event, sponsored by the Honors Club and funded by the Student Government Association, gave students the opportunity to paint their own ceramic mugs.



*Students enjoyed painting mugs.*



*Students paused for a group picture.*

After the students design their mugs, Mierzwa takes them back to the Ceramic Studio where they are glazed and fired. After a few days, the finished pieces cool down and they are returned to the students. As a result of the glazing process, the colors on the mugs become vibrant and the mugs are ready for coffee, tea, hot

Honors students presented their thesis research to the campus community during Honors Week, April 13-17. Honors Week concluded with a banquet. Olga Chomicova, a 2008 graduate of William Paterson University and the Biopsychology track, spoke about how her experience with the Honors College helped advance her career, and honors students Campbell Charshee and Leo Sherman provided music for the evening. Congratulations to the 2010 graduates!



**Dr. Cioffari and Pamela Imhof**  
(Performing and Literary Arts Track)



**Dr. DeYoung, Michelle Cilibrasi, Kristina Kosztyo, and Dr. Benno**  
(Biopsychology Track)



**Lauren Lewandoski, Elysa Vreeland, and Dr. Peterman**  
(Humanities Track)



**Jessica Pepe and Dr. Peterman**  
(Humanities Track)



**Dr. Benno, John Urban, and Dr. Patnaik**  
(Independent Track)



**Campbell Charshee**  
(Music Track)



**Daniel Rufolo**  
(Music Track)



**Alex Chilowicz**  
(Music Track)



**Christopher Bobbins**  
(Music Track)



**Nicholas Mattera, Leah Riza Viray, Dr. Kressel, Jesenia Ponce, and Jennifer Bauer**  
(Social Sciences Track)



**Dr. Peterman and Tatiana Guerrero**  
(Humanities Track)



**Marina Jovanovska**  
(Management Track)



**Robert Langslet**  
(Music Track)



**Kevin Weston**  
(Humanities Track)



**Kevin McKernan**  
(Humanities Track)



**Jessica Pepe (left) and Kristina Kosztyo (right)** display the awards they received at the banquet for serving as Honors Club presidents. Honors student, Michelle Cilibrasi, is pictured at center.



**Provost Edward Weil**



**Leo Sherman (left) and Campbell Charshee** performed at the Honors banquet.



**Former student Olga Chomicova**, was guest speaker at the banquet.

## Student Spotlight: Studying Abroad with Brian Messenger



**A view of a cathedral in Mallorca, Spain.**

Brian Messenger, a sophomore Honors student, spent the spring 2010 semester, studying at the Leeds Metropolitan University in Leeds, England. Honors student Christina Freer recently interviewed Messenger to find out more about his study-abroad experience.

### **Why did you want to study abroad? What led you to choose Leeds, England?**

**BM:** I wanted to study abroad, basically, just to be abroad! There was no language barrier in England, so that narrowed my choices too. I chose to study in Leeds because it's fairly centrally located in England, has a large student population, and is very cost effective. All of the shops are always in competition to offer better deals. It's a nice city with good resources with cheap and easy access to public transportation. I can hop on a bus or train and get anywhere in England easily.

### **Was the application process difficult?**

**BM:** The application process itself wasn't too painful. I needed to have letters of recommendation, write an essay, get a copy of my transcript, and fill out certain forms. The most tedious part was the preparation. I needed to apply for a passport, find accommodations, apply for loans and scholarships, make a detailed budget, get international health insurance, get an international phone, and pack, among other things. I also had to communicate a lot with faculty and administrators to make sure my affairs were in order. I did get stressed before leaving, but all of that disappeared once I got on the plane!

### **How are the classes and the workload?**

**BM:** My workload wasn't nearly as bad as I expected. I didn't receive much information about classes before I arrived, so I didn't know what to expect at first. I was only allowed a maximum of 4 classes, and I registered for 3: 2 music classes, and 1 history class. I chose to take only 3 because I arranged with some of my professors at WPU to do an independent study while abroad. I was surprised by the work load. At Leeds Met, the grade only consisted of 2 or 3 assignments. This was almost too much pressure for me! This made me enjoy how the American system is run with more work to disperse the grade evenly. The system over here seems to put a lot more responsibility on the student, whereas America's system seems to be much more guided by the professor. But, it was interesting, and I learned a lot.



**Messenger at a beach in Spain.**

### **How has your experience been besides the academic aspect?**

**BM:** I've had tons of great experiences! Class schedules are a little different outside of America, and students have a lot of liberty within their weekly schedule, so I was easily able to travel. Europe is very easy to travel around. Airlines are in constant competition, so I was able to find great bargains on flights for Easter break. In the two weeks I had break, I visited Ireland and Spain. I've also taken site-seeing bus tours around England. I visited London, [the original] York, Wales, Bath, Stonehenge and I may visit Scotland, depending on my budget. I didn't do too much travel because it is quite expensive with the currency ratio, but I made sure to include some funds for travel when I was planning my budget. Leeds attracts quite a large international crowd. I've met people from tons of countries, and I've also met awesome musicians. I'm glad I met those people so I could keep playing music while abroad.



**Messenger in front of Buckingham Palace in London.**



**Messenger (circled) in a castle tower in Wales.**

## Track Spotlight: Dr. Peterman and the Humanities Track



**Dr. John Peterman**

The Honors Humanities Track explores the connections between history, literature, and philosophy. According to the Track Director Dr. John Peterman, the track is ideal for students who like to think, read, and discuss ideas. It is open to students of majors who desire to broaden their views on the humanities. In addition, the track also draws students from majors that do not necessarily get to learn in that style often, such as business majors.

Dr. Peterman has conducted most of his research on ancient philosophers like Plato and Aristotle, and has written two books on these subjects. Recently his research has increasingly been on Buddhism. Some of his interests lie in Zen and

Buddhist meditation, as well as on outdoor activities such as hiking, cross country skiing, and long distance running.

He is currently overseeing about ten student projects that include a variety of topics such as the early struggles in Christianity over the influences of Judaism, magical realism, gender issues in *100 Years of Solitude* by Garcia Marquez, and an oral history of the WPU radio station, just to name a few. The diverse and unlimited number of areas of interest to explore through the Humanities Track is very appealing to students.

Dr. Peterman invites students who might be interested in joining the Humanities track to visit one of the classes, or to contact him for more information. His office is located in the Philosophy Department, Atrium 269, or he can be reached at 973-720-3030 or petermanj@wpunj.edu.

### **Lunches in the Lounge held in April**

On April 1, a Lunch in the Lounge was held about participating in the Honors Mentorship by becoming a Mentor to the incoming Honors first-year students this fall 2010 semester. Current honors students interested in becoming a mentor are encouraged to e-mail us at [honors@wpunj.edu](mailto:honors@wpunj.edu) to find out more information.

At the final Lunch in the Lounge for the spring 2010 semester students reflected on the semester while enjoying pizza. They were able to voice their opinions about what they enjoyed and give constructive criticism about what they would like to see changed. Also, valuable ideas were given for events, trips, and topics to be discussed for next semester.

### **Knitting Projects in Progress for Fall 2010 Coat Drive**

Throughout the semester, students have been working on projects at "Knitting Nights" led by Honors student Rachael Mierzwa. The last gathering was held for the semester, but students are encouraged to knit throughout the summer so that completed scarves can be donated to the Annual Honors College Coat drive during the fall semester.



*Pictured to the left and right are WPU students knitting scarves.*



### **Honors Club Sponsors "Medieval Times" Trip**

On April 23, the Honors Club sponsored a field trip to Medieval Times funded by the SGA. Students took a bus from campus to the Lyndhurst Castle where they watched an exciting medieval jousting tournament and enjoyed an eleventh century-style dinner.



### **Honors Club Sponsors Henna Table at Campus-Wide Carnival**

On Friday, April 30, the Peer Health Advocates held a carnival to celebrate another successful semester. The Honors Club sponsored a Henna tattoo booth. Each booth at the carnival provided students with a tip about maintaining their health. The Honors Club focused on stress management.

### **Fall 2010 Honors Sections of General Education Courses**

There are still a few seats available in the Honors sections of General Education courses that are being offered during the fall 2010 semester. Enrollment is by permit only. To obtain a permit for an Honors course, please send an email to [honors@wpunj.edu](mailto:honors@wpunj.edu), and include your name, 855 number, and the name of the Honors class(es) you would like to enroll in. If you have questions or concerns, please call Jan at 973.720.3657. For a complete list of courses, please visit <http://ww3.wpunj.edu/icip/honors/curriculum.htm>.