

**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

**FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT
FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2006-2007**

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STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Asian Studies

Kevin Donovan, a Minor in Asian Studies, was President of the Go Japan club this spring. Donovan was accepted by the highly competitive JET program. He will be spending one year of challenging but exciting work ahead in Japan, where he will work with Japanese teachers of English to better educate Japanese children in our language.

Geography and Urban Studies

The Geography and Urban Studies Department established student internships in New Jersey's Environmental Protection Agency. Student interns presented their work before an audience of more than 200 persons from the community and the state and local government.

History

The History Department offers an internship, taught by librarian **Robert Wolk**, which combines structured class work and meetings with placement in a variety of museums and historical societies. According to Professor Wolk, over the years the interns have made an impact on the organizations where they have worked. Several museum and historical society directors have asked the interns to stay on as volunteers, or, where possible, have hired them. The following is a summary of the students and their projects this year.

Michael Mezejewski and Tim Rohan researched and installed an exhibit at the Paterson Museum documenting the airplane engine produced by Wright Aeronautics in Paterson and used by Lindberg in his solo flight across the Atlantic in 1927. They researched the history of the company and gathered materials from aviation museums in New Jersey celebrating the 1927 flight. Mike and Tim agreed to continue at the Paterson Museum to assist with the installation when it opened in May. Their Power Point presentation was used in the literature about the exhibit. **Natalia DeHoyos** conducted an extensive interview with Lenore Miller, the first woman to serve as President on the Executive Committee of the AFL-CIO, for the Botto House National Labor Museum. She subsequently transcribed and edited the interview to identify individuals and terms discussed by Ms. Miller. A copy of the transcript was accepted by the Curator of NYU's Tamiment Library and Robert F. Wagner Labor Archive, one of the leading research centers for American labor history.

Amanda Piekart researched the life and art of Billy Traylor, a one-time slave and folk artist, at the Newark Museum. Amanda's work in developing the bibliography helped the museum document its collection of Traylor's works, owned by only a few museums in the country. Amanda's internship at the Newark Museum will be invaluable to her future training at the Pratt Institute's special Museum-Library Training Program. **Arta Tosca** developed special programs for K-6 children at the Meadowlands Museum in Rutherford. As a pre-service elementary education teacher, Arta's work at the museum

was her first introduction to working with children in this age group. Her project used the museum's clothing collection to document the changing styles in women's clothing in of the early 20th century.

Robin Burgos internship at the MacCulloch Hall House Museum in Morristown was artifact-oriented. As a curatorial assistant, she helped research, organize and write the catalog for the new exhibit on the museum's historic silver collections that included the social history of how silver was fashioned and turned into serving and display objects. The artifacts were "re-discovered" in the museum's collection, and would today be considered highly valuable antiques. **Tara Wisniewski** and **Jennielee Toro** scripted tours and researched the life-style of colonial women at Dey Mansion in Wayne. Their research focused on women's daily activities in managing a 600 acre estate (Dey Mansion) and caring for families. The students assisted the Director and staff with all operations of the museum including cataloging and tours.

Mike Reeg did the research and script for the current exhibit, "Down the Shore: The Coastal Heritage of New Jersey" at the Cornelius Low House—Middlesex County Historical Society. He collected artifacts at other institutions and created the signage and the installations that house the exhibit. **Stephen Sapperstein** served as chief researcher for a forthcoming exhibit on the history of churches in Paterson at the Paterson Museum. He interviewed and worked with Father Kupke to collect information from the diocesan archives. Steve reviewed microfilmed newspapers and the museum's acquisitions for church-related photos and artifacts. **Rumena Ahmed** worked on a program for local school groups and scouts demonstrating how museums contribute to learning as an education intern at the Van Riper-Hoppe House in Wayne and the Montclair Historical Society. The programs showed students how artifacts are preserved and displayed in museums. Rumena helped script the program where students acted as museum interpreters, demonstrating colonial cooking, spinning techniques and other household activities. **Omar Choudhury** conducted oral interviews and transcriptions with Latino healthcare professionals from the HPAE (AFL-CIO) in Palisades Hospital for the Botto House-American Labor Museum. Omar's interviews and research helps the Museum's project of documenting Latino workers in New Jersey.

History major, **Michael Halpin** was nominated for a statewide Paul Stellhorn Prize for the best undergraduate paper in New Jersey history. Michael Montalbano, MA alum, is preparing his MA thesis, "Quenching Newark's Thirst: A Case Study of Newark and its Watershed Communities" for publication. **David Gonnella** presented a paper on U.S. perceptions of Fidel Castro at the Regional Conference of Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society at West Point.

Philosophy

Philosophy alumnus, Dr. Robert Talisse (Professor of Philosophy and Political Science at Vanderbilt University), will be this year's keynote speaker during our own Opening (University) Day on September 4th.

Political Science

Cyril Mychalejko, a student in the Public Policy MA program, was featured in the *Hornell Evening Tribune* for his work as a community organizer with Americans against

Escalation in Iraq in Corning, NY. The national organization lobbies U.S. senators and representatives to vote for an end to the war in Iraq.

Psychology

Nelli El-Ghazal, a senior, won the New Jersey Psychology Association Undergraduate Researcher Award and presented her research on gender, parental status and perceptions of job competence at their fall conference. She was mentored by Professor **Elizabeth Haines**. Dr. Haines also worked with **Amy Moors** (stereotypes of male feminists) and **Bahar Mansur** (eating disorders), who presented at the **Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference**. **Amy Moors** presented, with Professor **Bruce Diamond**, at the annual meetings of the American Psychological Society and of the Eastern Psychological Association.

Sociology

Seven Sociology Honors students presented their research in poster sessions held at the annual meeting of the Eastern Sociology Society: They included:

Dilia Ballester, "Parental Involvement and Student Achievement: A Comparison of Suburban and Urban Public Schools;" **Creasha M. Bowman**, "Poverty and the Potential for Social Mobility in Newark, NJ;" **Dina Marie Camisa**, "Discipline and School Performance: A Comparison of Catholic, Private, and Public High Schools;" **Christina Marie Cullen**, "Teen Dating Violence: A Rising Epidemic;" **Kerry Noelle Kunert**, "Children of Divorce: Problems in Forming Intimate Relationships;" **Morgan Leigh Metzger**, "Formation of Masculinity among Competing Discourses and Its Relevance to the Study of Sexual Violence;" and, **Amy Catherine Moors**, "Probing the Perceptions of Feminist Men."

The students were mentored by Professor **Roseanne Martorella**, who is the faculty director of the WPUNJ chapter of the AKD, the Sociology Honors society.

Women's Studies

The **Women's Studies Colloquium**, an annual event attended by faculty, students, family members, and friends, featured presentations of student research. Presenters and their work included: **Stefanie Andino**, "Abortion in the U.S.: Laws, Restrictions, Myths, and Difficulties for Women;" **Judi Barbarito Cocilovo**, "From Invisibility to Sight: The Need for LGBT Inclusion in the Curriculum;" **Marie Bellantonio**, "Is Beauty Really in the Eye of the Beholder?;" **Jennifer Britting**, "Sexism in Video Games;" **Myrtella Brunson**, "Women and Heart Disease;" **Christina Cummings**, "To Shave or Not to Shave? That Is the Question;" **Yolanda Dye**, "Incest;" **Patricia Gencarelli**, "A Voiceless Vagina: Female Genital Mutilation;" **Debra Lisa-Madine**, "Women and the Wage Gap;" **Stefanie Lupo**, "The Teaching of Masculinity: Violent Male Behavior;" **Vanessa Madera**, "Sleeping with the Enemy: Wife Rape;" **Morgan Leigh Metzger** "Sexism in Popular Cartoons: A Content Analysis;" **Amy Moors**: "Bisexuality;" **Meg Neadel**, "Advertising and Its Negative Influence on Females;" **Daniela Russo**, "The Need for Perfection: When Will Societal Pressure End?;" **Harmony Sisti**, "Human Trafficking and the Maltreatment of Children;" and, **Sonia Vazquez**, "Intersex People."