The 2011-2012 academic year got off to an exciting start as the Honors College settled into a new office suite in Raubinger Hall 154. The suite includes two offices, a student lounge, and a seminar room. The official grand opening was held on October 3, and the event was well attended by faculty and students.

Approximately ninety first-year students and ten new transfer students joined the Honors College in the fall of 2011. Nearly fifty of those students lived in the Learning Community in High Mountain East, and many benefited from the successful mentoring program that has been established to help first year students adjust to life as college students.

In October we hosted a reunion for students who completed the Humanities Track. About twenty five former students returned to campus for the event.

During the fall semester, the Honors College and Honors Club sponsored the annual coat drive that benefits families at the Passaic County Headstart. A total of 131 coats were collected, as well as dozens of winter accessories. The student-led Honors Club continued to expand and the members were very busy organizing events such as fundraisers for Path of Hope and Alzheimer’s Awareness, as well as blood drives. The Honors Club also planned many social activities and events, including trips to several Broadway shows, a group trip to visit the Bodies Exhibition in New York City and a weekend trip to Washington, D.C.

In April, Honors Week showcased the outstanding work of our graduating Honors students, as well as the faculty members and staff who contributed to their success. This year, a record fifty-six students presented their thesis projects during Honors Week. At the Honors Banquet, Provost Weil announced that Nathan Giroux and Julie Minicozzi had been selected as valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, at the 2012 Commencement.

Congratulations to our most recent graduates and thanks to everyone who contributed to another very successful year at the Honors College!
Several Honors students presented their thesis research at professional conferences during the spring semester. (Top from left) Thomas Alger (Marketing Track), Dr. Susan Dinan, and Laura Jo Rieske (Cognitive Science Track) at the Northeast Regional Honors Council conference in Baltimore. (Bottom from left) Dr. Tom Heinzen with Krystal Langford (left) and Aura-Maria Garcia (both from the Cognitive Science Track) at the American Psychological Association Conference in Boston.

Honors Nursing students were recently inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International-STTI Nursing Honors Society (from left) Catherine Paul, Amanda Paul, Dr. Christina McSherry, and Caressa Valdveza.

Former Humanities Track students return to campus

The Honors College hosted a reunion for students who completed the Humanities Honors Program on Saturday, October 15, 2011. The event was held in conjunction with the 35th anniversary of Humanities Honors, which was established in 1976 by Dr. Richard Atnally. Dr. Atnally and his wife, Mary, who reside in Colorado were special guests at the event. They, along with the current Track Director, Dr. John Peterman, welcomed back about 25 former Humanities students.

The event included a poster session featuring posters by senior Humanities student, Isabel Anreus, as well as several recent track graduates, Matthew Catania, Tyler Peckio, Kevin Weston, Bruce Spadaccini, and Renvie May Tacayon.

Following the poster session, the former students enjoyed a campus tour led by Honors student, Devin Pendergast.

During dinner, members of an alumni panel discussed the many ways their education at William Paterson has influenced their career and life, and many former students shared their personal experiences in the Humanities Program.

Honors Lunch in the Lounge

The Honors Lunch in the Lounge is held several times each year. At these events, Honors students gather in the 4th floor lounge of High Mountain East for lunch and conversations with guest speakers. A few of the highlights of this year’s events are pictured below.

Robbie Powers gave a very informative presentation about LGBTQA resources on campus.

In the news...

Several Honors students presented their thesis research at professional conferences during the spring semester. (Top from left) Thomas Alger (Marketing Track), Dr. Susan Dinan, and Laura Jo Rieske (Cognitive Science Track) at the Northeast Regional Honors Council conference in Baltimore. (Bottom from left) Dr. Tom Heinzen with Krystal Langford (left) and Aura-Maria Garcia (both from the Cognitive Science Track) at the American Psychological Association Conference in Boston.

Honors Nursing students were recently inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International-STTI Nursing Honors Society (from left) Catherine Paul, Amanda Paul, Dr. Christina McSherry, and Caressa Valdveza.

Honors Club Executive Board members (from left) Michael Starrett, Miranda Van Dunk, Cynthia Antunes, and Honors Assistant Director, Jan Pinkston, deliver the Coat Drive proceeds to children at the Passaic County Head Start.
HONORS COLLEGE GRADUATES

THOMAS J. ALGER
Honors Track: Marketing
Majors: Marketing and Professional Sales
Thesis Title: From Links to Leads: Exploring Social Media As a Sales Tool
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Raj Agnihotri
Future Plans: Secure a position in a Fortune 500 company and be involved in the company’s social networking area.

ISABEL ANREUS
Honors Track: Humanities
Major: English
Thesis Title: Every Man Drowns Differently
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Martha Witt
Future Plans: Currently assisting Professor David Horton from the William Paterson Art Department with a book editing project. She is also seeking internships in publishing and will be applying to MFA programs for the upcoming fall.

BRENDA BELOHOUBEK
Honors Track: Music
Major: Music
Thesis Title: Ned Rorem and Paul Goodman: Exploring the genius of a lifelong friendship: An analysis of ‘3 Poems of Paul Goodman
Thesis Advisor: Professor Warren Helms

CORNELL CARR
Honors Track: Performing & Literary Arts
Major: Art (BFA)
Thesis Title: Dune
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari
Future Plans: Seeking a position at a publishing company as an illustrator.

MICHELA CLOVIS
Honors Track: Humanities
Majors: Political Science and Communication
Minors: French and Legal Studies
Thesis Title: Reconciled Identity: living with a multicultural background in America
Thesis Advisor: Dr. John Peterman
Future Plans: Pursue a law degree and practice law as a prosecutor.

LAUREN CUCCI
Honors Track: Performing & Literary Arts
Major: Communication (Theater & Comedy)
Minor: Anthropology
Thesis Title: Group
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari

ELISA DI BIANCO
Honors Track: Nursing
Major: Nursing
Thesis Title: HIV/AIDS Knowledge and Perceived Risk and its Impact on HIV/AIDS Testing
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Christina McSherry
Future Plans: Begin working as an RN and gain experience in the operating room.

VINCENT D’ANTONIO, JR.
Honors Track: Cognitive Science
Major: Psychology
Thesis Title: What Factors and Influences Affect the Decision a Person Makes in Vehicle Purchasing
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Amy Learmonth
Future Plans: Obtain master’s degree in Psychology.

JANELLE V. DOWNES
Honors Track: Marketing
Major: Business Administration
Minor: French
Thesis Title: The Impact of Foreign Language Skills on Marketing Expatriates
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Susan Godar
Future Plans: Pursue a master’s degree in Business Administration.

STEVEN DELAOSA
Honors Track: Cognitive Science
Major: Psychology
Minor: Philosophy
Thesis Title: Is Morality Universal? A cross cultural examination of moral attitudes
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Amy Learmonth

NALANI DEMARCO-CLISSET
Honors Track: Independent Track
Major: Jazz Studies (Vocal Performance)
Thesis Title: Exploring the Creative Process
Thesis Advisor: Dr. David Weisberg
Future Plans: Use music and art to connect and help people, and make a difference in peoples’ lives.

KIMBERLY DEN HEYER
Honors Track: Humanities
Majors: Elementary Education (K-5,5-8) and History
Thesis Title: Coming to the United States
Thesis Advisor: Dr. John Peterman
Future Plans: Seeking employment as an elementary school teacher.

AMANDA GAETANO
Honors Track: Nursing
Major: Nursing
Thesis Title: In college students, what is the relationship between alcohol use and religiosity?
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Christina McSherry
Future Plans: Pursue a career as a nurse practitioner.

AURA-MARIA GARCIA
Honors Track: Cognitive Science
Major: Psychology
Minor: Women’s and Gender Studies
Thesis Title: Effects of television on children’s food preferences
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Amy Learmonth

Future Plans: Enrolled in a Marriage and Family Therapy masters program at Seton Hall University beginning in Fall 2012.
HONORS COLLEGE GRADUATES

JENNETTA GEORGE
Honors Track: Independent Track
Majors: Mathematics and Music
Thesis Title: Knot Theory and its application
Thesis Advisor: Dr. David Miller
Future Plans: Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in mathematics at Denver University.

MORGAN LAWSON
Honors Track: Performing & Literary Arts
Major: Art (BFA)
Thesis Title: Hellbent
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari
Future Plans: Pursue a master’s degree in arts and teach private music lessons.

NATHAN GIROUX
Honors Track: Performing & Literary Arts
Major: Jazz Studies
Thesis Title: Relationship between musical and literary composition
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari
Future Plans: Enrolled in M.M. Jazz Studies Program at New England Conservatory in Boston beginning in the fall 2012.

MICHELLE ANNE PALMIERI
Honors Track: Social Sciences
Major: Psychology
Thesis Title: An appeal to have a revised scale to test teachers attitudes towards ASD
Thesis Advisors: Dr. Thomas E. Heinzen and Dr. Neil Kressel
Future Plans: Pursue a masters degree in psychology.

CATHARINE PAUL
Honors Track: Nursing
Major: Nursing
Thesis Title: Diabetes perception and lifestyle
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Christina McSherry

JULIE MINICOZZI
Honors Track: Performing & Literary Arts
Major: English (Writing)
Thesis Title: The Benefit for Closure
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari
Future Plans: Pursue an advanced degree in literature and eventually teach writing at the college level.

DAN JANOTS
Honors Track: Social Sciences
Thesis Title: Bullying and Bystander Intervention
Thesis Advisors: Dr. Neil Kressel and Dr. Tom Heinzen

DAVID AARON IACOVIELLO
Honors Track: Music
Major: Music Education
Minor: Philosophy
Thesis Title: […]
Thesis Advisors: Dr. Jeffrey Kresky and Dr. John Link
Future Plans: Teach in a public school and/or go to graduate school.

KRISTEN PETTET
Honors Track: Performing & Literary Arts
Major: Communication
Thesis Title: The Missing Piece
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari
Future Plans: To be a human rights advocate through the arts by producing documentary films, live shows, etc.

ANTHONY GOBEILLE
Honors Track: Performing & Literary Arts
Major: Art (BFA)
Thesis Title: Snoah
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari

CHRISTINA NIOTIS
Honors Track: Nursing
Major: Nursing
Thesis Title: Among college students, what is the relationship among sleep quality and the factors GPA, age, and gender
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Christina McSherry

DAVID AARON IACOVIELLO
Honors Track: Music
Major: Music Education
Minor: Philosophy
Thesis Title: […]
Thesis Advisors: Dr. Jeffrey Kresky and Dr. John Link
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Future Plans: Pursue a masters degree in psychology.

MORGAN LAWSON
Honors Track: Performing & Literary Arts
Major: Art (BFA)
Thesis Title: Hellbent
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari
Future Plans: Pursue a master’s degree in arts and teach private music lessons.

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Honors Track: Performing & Literary Arts
Major: Jazz Studies
Thesis Title: Relationship between musical and literary composition
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari
Future Plans: Enrolled in M.M. Jazz Studies Program at New England Conservatory in Boston beginning in the fall 2012.

JULIE MINICOZZI
Honors Track: Performing & Literary Arts
Major: English (Writing)
Thesis Title: The Benefit for Closure
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari
Future Plans: Pursue an advanced degree in literature and eventually teach writing at the college level.

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JENNETTA GEORGE
Honors Track: Independent Track
Majors: Mathematics and Music
Thesis Title: Knot Theory and its application
Thesis Advisor: Dr. David Miller
Future Plans: Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in mathematics at Denver University.
Honors Track: Performing & Literary Arts  
Major: Art (BFA)  
Minor: Art Studio  
Thesis Title: Things from Strings  
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari  
Future Plans: Seeking a career in graphics and web design.

JORDAN C. STORMS

Honors Track: Independent Track  
Major: Biology  
Minor: Math  
Thesis Title: Identifying and Determining Patterns Within Populations and Communities of Fungi  
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Kendall Martin  
Future Plans: Enrolled in the computational neuroscience Ph.D. program at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

JOSEPH G. WHITAKER

Honors Track: Social Sciences  
Major: Philosophy  
Minors: Political Science and Legal Studies  
Thesis Title: Are relationships using new modes of technology as satisfying as face to face interactions?  
Thesis/Project Advisor: Dr. Neil Kressel  
Future Plans: Attend law school.

HEIDI ROGERS

Honors Track: Biopsychology  
Major: Biology  
Thesis Title: CD38 Levels in the Hypothalamus and Cortex of BTBR and C57BL/6J Mice  
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Eileen Gardner  
Future Plans: Work in healthcare for a year and then apply to medical school in fall 2013.

JACQUELINE SEGAL

Honors Track: Performing & Literary Arts  
Major: Elementary Education (K-5, 6-8), Teacher of Students with Disabilities and English (Writing)  
Thesis Title: Kiera’s Big Move  
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari  
Future Plans: Currently seeking employment as an elementary school teacher, with plans to return to William Paterson to pursue a masters degree in Communication Disorders and eventually become a speech pathologist.

JENNIFER A. VAN WYCK

Honors Track: Humanities  
Major: History and Elementary Education  
Thesis Title: The Puritan Family: Religion Lived  
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Suzanne Bowles  
Future Plans: Accepted a position at a local private middle school where she will be teaching middle school social studies and language arts.

SHANNON TAROLLI

Honors Track: Humanities  
Major: Psychology  
Thesis Title: Diagnosing Psychological Disorders: Cultural Considerations and the Effects of Globalization  
Thesis Advisors: Dr. John Peterman and Dr. Kathleen Torsney  
Future Plans: Attend graduate school this fall to pursue a doctorate in clinical psychology.

CARLA RAINEY

Honors Track: Cognitive Science  
Major: Philosophy  
Minor: Psychology  
Thesis Title: In support of determinism  
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Amy Learmonth  
Future Plans: To become a teacher for a self contained or resource classroom in an elementary school.

GREGORY JOSEPH SCHMIDT

Honors Track: Humanities  
Major: History  
Thesis Title: Emerging Cryptozoology and Social Necessity  
Thesis Advisor: Dr. John Peterman  
Future Plans: Mediating Stress Responses to pursue a masters degree in Communication Disorders and eventually become a speech pathologist.

AMANDA RUPPEL

Honors Track: Cognitive Science  
Thesis Title: Applications of Math Curriculum to Field Hockey  
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Amy Learmonth  
Future Plans: Apply to medical school.

LAURA JO RIESKE

Honors Track: Cognitive Science  
Major: Art (BFA)  
Minor: Art Studio  
Thesis Title: Sex Differences in Mathematics  
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Amy Learmonth  
Future Plans: Enrolled at Indiana University of Pennsylvania’s masters in Student Affairs in Higher Education program.

JENNYSEMERARO

Honors Track: Performing & Literary Arts  
Major: Elementary Education (K-5, 6-8), Teacher of Students with Disabilities and English (Writing)  
Thesis Title: Kiera’s Big Move  
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari  
Future Plans: To become a teacher for a self contained or resource classroom in an elementary school.

JOSEPH G. WHITAKER

Honors Track: Social Sciences  
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Future Plans: Enrolled in the computational neuroscience Ph.D. program at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

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Major: Philosophy  
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Thesis Title: Are relationships using new modes of technology as satisfying as face to face interactions?  
Thesis/Project Advisor: Dr. Neil Kressel  
Future Plans: Attend law school.

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Honors Track: Humanities  
Major: Psychology  
Thesis Title: Diagnosing Psychological Disorders: Cultural Considerations and the Effects of Globalization  
Thesis Advisors: Dr. John Peterman and Dr. Kathleen Torsney  
Future Plans: Attend graduate school this fall to pursue a doctorate in clinical psychology.

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Honors Track: Cognitive Science  
Major: Philosophy  
Minor: Psychology  
Thesis Title: In support of determinism  
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Amy Learmonth  
Future Plans: To become a teacher for a self contained or resource classroom in an elementary school.

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Honors Track: Performing & Literary Arts  
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Honors Track: Independent Track  
Major: Biology  
Minor: Math  
Thesis Title: Identifying and Determining Patterns Within Populations and Communities of Fungi  
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Kendall Martin  
Future Plans: Enrolled in the computational neuroscience Ph.D. program at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.
Latin Honors Recipients

The following Honors students were recognized at the Honors Convocation by President Kathleen Waldron for receiving Latin Honors:

- Thomas Alger
- Isabel Arneus
- Brenda Belohoubek
- Michela Clovis
- Rebecca Cooper
- Lauren Cucci
- Vincent D’Antonio
- Stephanie DelaOsa
- Nalani DeMarco-Clisset
- Laura Foreman
- Amanda Gaetano
- Aura-Maria Garcia
- Jennetta George
- Nathan Giroux
- Anthony Goebel
- David Iacoviello
- Crystal Lawson
- Morgan Lawson
- Melissa Mayer
- Brian Messenger
- Julie Minicozzi
- Terenz Nieling
- Christina Niefs
- Michelle Palmieri
- Catherine Paul
- Tyler Peckko
- Kristen Pettet
- Carla Rainey
- Tomiko Rendon
- Laura Jo Rieske
- Heidi Rogers
- Gregory Schmidt
- Jacqueline Segal
- Jenna Semeraro
- Revin May Tacayon
- Shannon Tarolli
- Helaine Terhune
- Rebecca Van Vugt
- Jennifer Van Wyck
- Joseph Whitaker

Two Honors students earn special recognition

Nathan Giroux and Julie Minicozzi, valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, were recognized during Commencement. Nate earned a bachelor of music degree, summa cum laude, and Julie earned a bachelor of English degree, summa cum laude.

Both students completed the Honors Literary and Performing Arts Track under the direction of Dr. Philip Cioffi.

Carla Rainey (right) was one of the fifty Honors students who was recognized by Dr. Susan Dinan during the 2012 Honors Convocation.

Thank you and farewell!

Laura Jo Rieske was recognized for her years of service to the University Honors College during the annual Honors Banquet in April. She graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in mathematics, a bachelor of arts in secondary education, and she completed the Cognitive Science Track of the University Honors College.

During her career at William Paterson, Laura Jo was named a recipient of the Honors College scholarship, as well as the Honors Rubin and Rummel scholarships.

She served as an Honors mentor and was the resident assistant for the Honors community in High Mountain East. She did an outstanding job of representing Honors and the University at events such as the annual Admissions Scholarship Brunch, Open House, and the Legacy Awards Dinner. Laura Jo presented the conclusions of her Honors thesis, “Sex differences in Mathematics,” at the Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference in Baltimore in April.

Laura Jo worked as a student assistant in the Honors office during her four years at William Paterson. She will be missed as she begins graduate school this summer at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, majoring in Student Affairs in Higher Education.

Spring 2012 Honors Convocation

The Spring 2012 Honors Convocation was held Tuesday, May 15 in Shea Auditorium. Awards were presented to the top students from each department and college in the University, as well as to the students completing the Honors College tracks. In addition, all graduating students receiving the Latin Honors distinction from the University were recognized at the event.

Music during the ceremony was performed by senior Honors students, Nalani DeMarco-Clisset, Nathan Giroux, and Brian Messenger. The trio performed “Pleasantville,” an original composition by Nathan Giroux. Senior Laura Jo Rieske spoke about her experiences in the Honors College and at William Paterson.

In addition to being recognized for completing one the Honors Tracks, several Honors students received departmental awards during the ceremony: Lauren Cucci received the Excellence in Media (Radio, TV, Film, or Theater) Award from the Department of Music; Nathan Giroux received the Music Scholar Award from the Department of Music and the Dean’s Award for Creative Excellence from the College of the Arts and Communication; Julie Minicozzi received the Helen and Philip Manno Award from the Department of Human and Social Sciences; Carla Rainey received the Outstanding Academic Achievement Award from the Department of Philosophy; Michela Clovis received the Academic Excellence and Service Award from the Department of Political Science; Aura-Maria Garcia received the Outstanding Academic Achievement and Research Award from the Department of Psychology; Michelle Palmieri received the Outstanding Academic Achievement and Research Award from the Department of Psychology and the Dean’s Award from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences; Laura Jo Rieske received the Academic Excellence in Mathematics Award from the Department of Mathematics; Jennetta George received the Academic Excellence and Service Award in Mathematics from the Department of Mathematics and the Dean’s Award from the College of Science and Health; Caressa Valduex received the Nursing Excellence Award from the Department of Nursing.

Members of the Honors Convocation planning committee included Ife-Oluwapo Olade, Martin Gritsch, Rajiv Kashyap, Dorothy Feola, Thomas Gundling, Jean Fuller-Stanley, Susan Dinan, and Jan Pinkston. Honors students Eric Dolan, Emily Ehrlich, Greg Farkas, Kelly Girt, Kara Peterson, Laura Jo Rieske, Becky Wance, and Melissa Zolla, assisted with the ceremony.

This annual event is sponsored jointly by the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President and the University Honors College.
About the Honors College at William Paterson University...

The University Honors College is a place where academically gifted students explore new ideas and engage in intellectual and creative collaborations with experienced and dedicated members of the faculty. Honors students are offered a comprehensive educational experience that brings together academic, residential, social and cultural experiences. Approximately 350 students are actively participating in the Honors College in Honors sections of General Education courses and/or one of the eleven Honors Tracks. Each fall, about 100 new students enter the Honors College, and about half of those live in the Honors Learning Community in High Mountain East, one of the newest residence halls on campus.

Students in the Honors College pursue a disciplinary major and an Honors track. The track may parallel the major, relate to the major, or be very different from the major. Although the various tracks have different requirements, each track culminates in a thesis or significant research or creative project that the student presents to the University community. The two oldest tracks, Biopsychology and Humanities, were established in 1976. The Honors Program was established in 2000, and was expanded into the University Honors College in 2005. There are currently eleven Honors tracks: Biopsychology, Cognitive Science, Humanities, Independent, Life Science and Environmental Ethics, Management, Marketing, Music, Nursing, Performing and Literary Arts, and Social Sciences.