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**WILLIAM  
PATERSON  
UNIVERSITY**

# University Honors College

## First Year Convocation 2013

This year, Convocation for first year students was held on Thursday, September 13th. This event is a special ceremony that brings together the University's incoming class, President, Provost, administration, faculty, and staff, and is an important marker of the new academic year. Incoming students are welcomed and addressed, and presented with a challenge to make the most of their university experience by rising to the expectations of the institution of higher education.

At this year's ceremony, students had an opportunity to hear from Michael Blizzard, a University Alum, who took the call of Convocation seriously and rose to the challenges and standards in pursuing his education during his time at William Paterson. Michael

graduated in 2007 with degrees in Psychology and English and completed the Honors Biopsychology track. While at the University, he was president of the Honors Club and an Honors ambassador, hosted the first ever Honors talent show, instituted the Honors Coat Drive, made the Dean's List seven times, and won several awards and scholarships including the African American Caribbean Alumni Scholarship.

After graduating from William Paterson, Michael went on to pursue a master's degree in Research Ethics at Mount Sinai and Union Graduate College. He is also pursuing a second master's degree in Public Health at Montclair State University. Along with these distinguished accomplishments,

Michael is currently the director of Research Operations at the Urology Center in Englewood, a member of the Institutional Review Board at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Paterson, a member of the Board of Directors for ARC of Union County, a member of the Health Professions Steering Committee at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York, and a member of William Paterson University Alumni Executive Council.

As the ceremony reminded us, we are all encouraged to make the most of our college experience and make use of all the resources available to us, as Michael has done with his experience.



Honors Alum, Michael Blizzard, speaking at Convocation



Honors First Year Seminar Class gathering before Convocation

## Time for Honors Alumni

Nursing major, Christopher Klobus, completed the Honors Nursing Track and graduated from William Paterson University last May. He presented his Honors thesis entitled *The Effectiveness of Electronic Medical Record System and Its Correlation with the Quality of Nursing Care*, during Honors Week last spring. Christopher may have left campus, but he certainly has not abandoned the work he began as an undergraduate in the Honors College.

While in the process of submitting his research for publication, Christopher was invited to attend the ninth annual Meridian Evidence Based Practice Research Conference held in West Long Branch, New Jersey. Christopher accepted the

invitation and attended the conference with his thesis supervisor and director of the Honors Nursing Track, Dr. Christina McSherry.

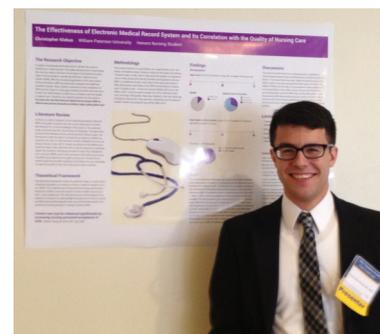
The Meridian E.B.P. and Research Conference is associated with a variety of healthcare organizations, hospitals, and universities, and aims to present current and relevant evidence-based studies to those in attendance. At the conference, Christopher entered his research into a poster contest, competing with graduate students and experienced R.N.s. The judges were impressed with his articulacy and knowledge of the subject, and presented him with a Nursing Research Poster Award and the opportunity to attend another

Meridian Conference.

In the meantime, Christopher plans to continue to expand his pilot study as well as gain nursing experience in the field. He admits that working to complete an Honors thesis wasn't easy, but it certainly was a life-changing experience that was worth the effort. Congratulations to Christopher on his wonderful accomplishments!



Dr. Christina McSherry with Christopher Klobus



Honors Alum, Christopher Klobus, with his research poster

## Stories from Students



If you are looking to broaden your college experience, why not consider study abroad and internship opportunities? When you take the chance to

think about it, you'll quickly realize that there are plenty of programs and opportunities open to students who want more than a seat in a classroom.

Gordon Kessler is an example of an Honors student whose initiative and persistence guided him in creating a memorable and educational experience this past summer. He is currently a senior

majoring in Political Science and has chosen to complete his honors thesis in the Social Sciences Track.

Last year, Gordon applied for an internship through the University and was accepted to work alongside Congressman Bill Pascrell as a part of his campaign team. Enjoying his work and eager to experience the legislative side of politics, Gordon decided to apply for a second program at the completion of his first.

The second internship brought Gordon to Washington D.C. where he was housed at American University. He spent nine weeks working in Congressman Pascrell's office

and absorbing the rich cultural and historical heritage of the area. Gordon enjoyed giving tours of the Capital Complex, preparing material for Congressman Pascrell, standing on the floor of the House and Senate Chambers, watching a Congressional baseball game, and bumping into politicians on a daily basis among all of the opportunities the program facilitated.

Most important, however, is what Gordon was able to take away from his experience. He walked away from the internship with a greater understanding and appreciation for the passion and persistence of our policy makers in Washington, as well as University credits for all of his

hard work. He is thankful for all he has learned in the process and urges all students considering an internship program to go for it without question. Gordon says that opportunities like internships give practical experience that can provide insight and direction when planning for the future.

## Track Time

The Nursing Track is specifically designed for those pursuing degrees in nursing. It provides students with hands-on and in-depth opportunities to learn about nursing research and evidence-based practices while working closely with faculty.

Those enrolled in the track are required to take honors sections of core science classes and upper level nursing classes as specified by the curriculum guide. These upper level classes prepare students to take an Independent Research Seminar the last semester of

their senior year during which they will complete a thesis project. At the completion of their thesis, all students will present their research to the William Paterson Community during Honors week in April.

For more information about the Nursing Honors Track, contact the track direction, Dr. Christina McSherry, at [mcsherryc@wpunj.edu](mailto:mcsherryc@wpunj.edu) or visit the Honors College website at <http://www.wpunj.edu/honors-program/tracks/nursing.dot>.



Nursing students with their mascot, Otto

## Lunch in the Lounge

The first Lunch in the Lounge of the fall semester was held on Thursday, September 26th. Students were welcomed to the Honors Club and introduced to one another as well as the executive board of the club. Honors club announcements were made and students had the opportunity to voice their suggestions as pizza was served.



Honors students at Lunch in the Lounge

## Club Corner

The Honors Club has begun its Fall Apparel Sale. T-shirt and hoody options are available. Order forms can be located on the Honors Website and Facebook page. All forms are due to the Honors Office, Raubinger 154, by November 1st. Please contact the Honors Club President, Rebecca Wance, at [wancer1@student.wpunj.edu](mailto:wancer1@student.wpunj.edu) to place your order or for additional information.



## We All Scream for Ice Cream!

The annual Honors Ice Cream Social was held on Thursday, September 19th. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni gathered on the terrace of Hobart Manor to enjoy an afternoon of sundaes and conversation. Guests also enjoyed the opportunity to participate in a photo scavenger hunt. Thank you to all who visited and participated. Please be sure to visit the Honors Website for scavenger hunt photos.

*Photos courtesy of Rachael Segal and Josh Morovan*



Honors students with President Kathleen Waldron



Dr. Kenneth Wolf, Dean of the College of Science and Health and Dr. Glen Sherman, Associate Vice President and Dean of Student Development



Dr. Susan Dinan and Jan Pinkston with Honors Alum, Michael Blizzard

# Freshman Move-In Day

This Fall, about one hundred new Honors students were welcomed into the University. Resident students enjoyed the privilege of early move-in on Monday, September 2nd. With the help of family and friends, as well as the staff of Residence Life and other University volunteers, including those from the Honors College, students were able to settle into their rooms in High Mountain East.

*Photos courtesy of Rachael Segal*



Honors College and Honors Club:

# COAT DRIVE

*Now through November 15th, 2013*

Gently worn coats of all sizes and other winter accessories (scarves, hats, gloves, etc.) are being accepted. Please bring items to the Honors College office (Raubinger 154), or send an email message to [honors@wpunj.edu](mailto:honors@wpunj.edu) to make arrangements to have items picked up from your office or other campus location. For more information, please call

**973-720-3657**

*Thank you for your support!*

The items will be delivered to the Passaic County Headstart later this semester.

# Priority Registration

Priority Registration for Honors students IN GOOD STANDING in the Honors College is coming up soon. Please monitor your e-mail for an exact date. In order to be considered in good standing in Honors, students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA, and must be enrolled in at least one Honors UCC course each semester, or be enrolled in an Honors Track.

If you haven't already, be sure to make an appointment to see your advisor now. Dr. Dinan serves as the advisor for first year Honors students with the exception of Music, Art, and Nursing majors. To schedule an appointment with her, please stop by the Honors Office (Raubinger

154), and sign up on the advising sign-up sheet. Music, Art, Nursing, and upper division students can verify the name of their advisor by logging into WP Connect and clicking on the Self-Service tab. A link called "My Advisor and WPnotes" is located under the "Student Records" heading. When you e-mail or call your advisor to set up an appointment, be sure to let him or her know you have priority registration.

A list of the Honors courses and Honors Track courses that will be offered during the Spring 2014 semester will be available on the Honors College Website. Enrollment in these honors sections is by permit only. Permits

are available on a first-come, first-served basis. 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 or classes you would like to enroll in for the spring. Please be sure to monitor your William Paterson e-mail for additional registration information and important notifications.

**\*NOTE:** If you have not seen your advisor, you will not receive your registration PIN and you will lose the privilege of priority registration.

## Tips for Stress-free Registration

1. Set up a meeting with your advisor to discuss your class schedule and obtain your six digit pin number. The pin number should begin with 000. If this is not the case, your pin number is incorrect and you should contact Jan Pinkston at (973)720-3776.
2. Request necessary permits by emailing Honors at [honors@wpunj.edu](mailto:honors@wpunj.edu).
3. Always check your self-service tab in WPConnect for important information about registration and messages regarding holds that may prevent you from registering.
4. Do not panic if you are not able to immediately log in to access the registration page. If there is a system-wide problem, you will receive an email from Honors. If the problem is unique and you

cannot access the system after numerous attempts over a one hour period, send an email to [honors@wpunj.edu](mailto:honors@wpunj.edu) with your name, 855 number, contact information and a description of the problem.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Time	Place	Event
10/15/2013	12:30pm	4th Floor High Mountain East	Lunch in the Lounge
10/29/2013	12:30pm	University Commons room 171	Mandatory Meeting for First Year Students
11/6/2013	12:30pm	WPCConnect	Last Day to Withdraw from classes
11/14/2013	12:30pm	4th Floor High Mountain East	Lunch in the Lounge

## Study Abroad Opportunities

Interested in studying abroad? Here are some exciting opportunities to consider!

- The Centers for Latin American Studies at the University of Arizona and Mesoamerican Research are offering summer, fall, and spring study abroad sessions in Antigua, Guatemala. The program is specifically and carefully designed to provide students with a transformational educational experience. It aims to incorporate themes such as human rights, development, and climate change with reflections on current events. Program highlights include

independent travel, internships, field trips, and language study opportunities. Most courses in the program can be taken for honors credit and some may also be taken for graduate level credit.

- UNC Wilmington is accepting applications for the annual Honors Semester Study Abroad Program at Swansea University offered through UNCW. We invite students to apply for the UNCW semester in Wales (Swansea) for the spring 2014 term. The program is accepting applications for students interested in taking the Swansea Pre-Semester cultural

immersion course (3 credits), completing a regular semester of course work from the Swansea University Catalog (12 credit hour equivalent), and a two-hour honors seminar for credit.

- For more information on these and other programs please visit the Honors College website at <http://www.wpunj.edu/honors-program/>.

*The Honors College  
Newsletter is published  
several times per semester  
and is written by honors  
student, Kelly Ginart.*

## Did you know?

William Paterson Honors is on the web! The Honors College website is updated on a weekly basis. Be sure to visit it and our Facebook page regularly for important dates and Honors Club project updates at <http://www.wpunj.edu/honors-program/>.