

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY



HONORS COLLEGE NEWS

October 2017

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Honors Intern, Samantha Koprowski, publishes the Honors College Newsletter. To submit news items or story ideas, please contact her at honors@wpunj.edu.

Upcoming Events

- 10/10– Honors Hangout with free pizza and study abroad information— UC 211 during common hour.
- 11/3—Priority Registration! Watch for more details.
- The annual Honors Coat Drive will be underway soon! Watch for more details.

Important Dates

- 12/15/17 – Deadline for seniors to submit Honors Week 2018 forms to the Honors Office

Barbara Andrew named Honors College Executive Director

Following a nation-wide search, Dr. Barbara Andrew, a veteran Philosophy professor at William Paterson was named Executive Director of the William Paterson University Honors College effective July 1, 2017. After serving as the part-time Interim Honors Director for the past two years and having the opportunity to work with nearly 400 Honors students on campus, Dr. Andrew is excited to move into this new, full-time position where she plans to continue to increase student research and student publication rates.



Dr. Barbara Andrew

As Interim Director, Dr. Andrew led a successful effort to implement changes to the four-year Honors College curriculum in response to recommendations from a consultant affiliated with the National Collegiate Honors Council and a working group of William Paterson faculty and staff. In addition, Dr. Andrew doubled the number of Honors students participating in national and regional conferences and has maintained and increased retention and graduation rates for William Paterson Honors students.

One of Dr. Andrew's priorities as the newly named Executive Director of Honors is to continue increasing opportunities for student research. "I'm very excited to serve William Paterson and our students in this new role as the full-time director of Honors," she said. "The University is committed to student research and I hope to accelerate growth in this area."

Dr. Andrew joined William Paterson University in 2002 as an assistant professor in the Philosophy Department, after having served as an assistant professor at the University of Oregon and the University of Montana. She was promoted to associate professor in 2008, and earned the rank of full professor in 2013.

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Honors College hosts annual Fall Welcome Reception

The Honors College welcomed students to the Fall 2017 semester at the annual Fall Welcome Reception. Students enjoyed ice cream while chatting with fellow Honors students, Honors faculty, and President Waldron.

We invited students to submit their best photos of the day and we randomly selected a few photos to be featured in the Honors newsletter. Thank you to everyone who participated!



Students took their best selfies with President Waldron. Pictured (from left): President Waldron with Sheila Noonan, Benjamin Berth, and Brittany Moore.

Andrew named Director...

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Active in the Philosophy Department, Dr. Andrew served as department chairperson from 2011 – 2015 and has made significant contributions to the William Paterson community through her previous terms chairing the Humanities and Social Sciences curriculum and assessment committees, the University Core Curriculum Diversity and Justice Panel, and the university Internal Review Board, as well as serving on committees to increase civic engagement on campus and to revise the Pioneer Success Seminar.

Dr. Andrew earned a Ph.D in Philosophy from Stony Brook University, where she had previously earned an MA in Philosophy as well as a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies. She earned an undergraduate degree in Philosophy from Vassar College. Dr. Andrew has also taken part in the American Association of State Colleges and Universities Emerging Leaders Program, the Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) Bryn Mawr Summer Leadership Training Institute, and the Council of Colleges of Arts and Science Department Chair Seminar. An accomplished scholar, Dr. Andrew co-edited the book *Feminist Interventions in Ethics and Politics*, and is the author of numerous articles, book chapters, and book reviews.



Pictured with President Waldron (top from left) Peter Pawlowski and Tabitha Bloodsaw, and (bottom left) Nicholas Signorello. Pictured (bottom right) are Keira White and Christina Sakelakos.

Pursuing dreams behind the big screen

Ryan Barckley, a 2013 William Paterson graduate with a B.A. in Communication (Broadcast Journalism) and a graduate of the Honors Performing and Literary Arts Track, produced a documentary film for his Honors thesis and has gone on to pursue a career as a freelance videographer. We recently asked him to share his insight about the Honors College and life after graduation.



Ryan Barckley

What have you been working on since graduation?

Since graduation, I've been working on freelance television production full time. Almost every week I'm working on a different show in a different place and I've been afforded some amazing opportunities. I've worked on The Sound of Music Live, Times Square New Years Eve, The Tony Awards, Showtime! at The Apollo, The Democratic National Convention, Miss America, The VMAs, The Victoria's Secret Fashion Show, Jazz at The White House and plenty more. My job allows me to be in places most people don't ever get to go, and meet some people most people won't ever get to meet. It's crazy rough hours (12-20 hours per day depending on the show), but worth every second of it.

What was your Honors thesis about?

My Honors thesis was a project that went along with my hometown celebrating its bicentennial. Livingston NJ was incorporated in 1813, and in that 200 year time span has a varied history and culture. Several notable people have also called Livingston their home including Nobel prize winners, billionaires, politicians and assorted TV, movie, and Broadway actors. The most interesting and real stories, however, come from real people who are a part of that history and whose ancestors lived in and built the town. Many of the people we interviewed had been around for quite a long time and we really wanted to document their stories while we were still able to do so. The stories they had to share were more than you could ever find in a textbook, and as we went through each interview, I found myself more and more interested in how our town changed from a small farm community to a bustling New York City suburb.

What was the process of creating the film?

The process of making the film started as the town began preparations for the bicentennial celebration. Livingston had a long list of events and activities planned throughout the year. A committee was formed by the town for these celebrations, and that committee

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Pursuing dreams...

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expressed interest in having some sort of a documentary about the town's history. They approached the local access television channel about the idea, and along with several other members of that group, we embarked on a mission to document as much as we could. As soon as we started taking input for interview ideas from residents, we had a slate of interviews we needed to accomplish. We scheduled as often as we could and interviewed residents who were 90+ years old and lived in Livingston their entire lives, former Governors, Tony award winning Broadway actresses and local politicians. The stories we heard weaved a strong and varied history of the town and were fascinating to watch. My Honors thesis was a small ten minute portion of the hours and hours of interviews we had. We created a sort of preview of the bigger project to come that was also later shown at an event during the bicentennial with several former (and the current) NJ Governors and township residents.

Can you comment on your Honors College experience?

I look back fondly on my Honors College experience. Having the extra support from the Honors professors and administrators really helped in what is always a crazy time in anyone's life. I will say that Jan Pinkston, the Assistant Director of Honors in particular, was more than helpful on several occasions, helping with registration issues and graduation requirements numerous times. Having that help was HUGE for what is normally an incredibly frustrating process for most students. The professors I had were always enjoyable, and I even went out of my way to take them outside of my honors classes. When it was time to take my language course, I decided to take the intensive one semester, four-day-per-week Honors Spanish. I normally dread language classes, but I actually found myself enjoying the course and having a great time with the professor. I can honestly say that I think I would have actually had a much more difficult time completing school if it wasn't for being a part of the Honors College.

What advice would you give to students in the PLA Track?

For those students also in the PLA track (and I suppose other tracks as well, but particularly the creative group): I was incredibly nervous approaching my thesis, and wasn't sure I would properly handle a project the size and scope required for the thesis. My advice is to find something that you're actually interested in, and once you do that it's so easy to do the work and do it well. With every interview I was a part of, I found myself wanting to know more and more about the history of Livingston. Once that happened, the weeks and weeks of work from when I started until I was at my thesis presentation flew by in the blink of an eye, and I was incredibly proud to play my video that night. It's so much easier to be creative and create great work when it's something you are genuinely interested in pursuing.



Jan Pinkston

Jan's tips for student success

Following is some practical advice that can help make your life at college more productive and a lot less stressful..

Do not let small problems become BIG problems. If you are having difficulty with a class, talk to the professor. Check the syllabus for the professor's office hours, or send an email message to request an appointment. In addition, be sure to take advantage of all the support services that are available to you (Academic Success Center, Writing Center, Science Enrichment Center, etc.), and consider joining or forming a study group with others in your class or major. Remember, you are always welcome (and encouraged) to stop by the Honors Office for assistance. Even if you have questions or issues that are not related to Honors just ask, and we will help find someone who can best assist you.

Be professional. Take the time to get to know your professors' names and the correct spelling of their names. Address your professors formally ("Dear Dr. *last name*" or "Dear Professor *last name*"). Write in complete sentences and avoid using text slang. When leaving a voicemail message, be sure to state your name and telephone number (office phones do not operate like cell phones). When conducting business related to the University, always use your official William Paterson email account. Be sure to check your account at least once a day, and allow a reasonable amount of time for a reply. Practice common courtesy when you are out and about on campus (be polite, hold the door for someone, keep phone conversations private, etc.).

Need information about anything at the University? Go to the main website (www.wpunj.edu), and type in the topic you are looking for in the search bar.

Wait, what? Did I hear something about spring registration?

Yes! Even though it's still early in the fall semester, it is time to begin thinking about registration for the SPRING 2018 semester. Since Honors students have priority registration on 11/3/17, you should locate the *Finish in Four* sheet and the curriculum sheet for your major on the University website. The University Core Curriculum page on the University website is another good resource. In preparation for your advisement appointment, make a draft of your proposed spring course schedule. Double-check the name of your advisor on WConnect, and contact him or her to make an appointment. Be sure to mention that you have priority registration. If you are in an Honors Track, be sure to make an appointment with your Track Director as well as your major advisor.

Be proactive and take responsibility for your education.

While professors and advisors are always here to assist students, you need to take responsibility for your own education and have a plan for the four years you will spend at William Paterson. Find out about the various requirements for your major, consult your degree evaluation to make sure you are on track, and take the time to become familiar with University policies and procedures. While it is fine to get advice from other students regarding academic matters, do not just take their word for it. Always check the official University policies to determine if the information you heard is accurate and that it applies to your specific situation.

Pioneer perspectives:

Community service opportunities benefit everyone involved

William Paterson is deeply committed to getting students involved with civic engagement projects. Honors students are especially devoted to community service and are the leaders of many clubs and organizations on campus. Pioneer Service Ventures is an annual event that gives students the option to choose a site they want to visit and spend the day with other William Paterson students giving back to our communities.

Sophia Candrilli is an Honors student who participated in Pioneer Service Ventures on September 9th. She volunteered with *Stop Hunger Now* to pack lunches for 10,000 people in need. Volunteers prepared packets of food such as rice, soy and vitamins in an assembly line. When asked why she chose to volunteer, she responded, "When I am assigned reading on this subject [poverty], I feel that I'm removed from it in a sense. When doing community service for a non-profit such as this, I feel that the problem becomes more urgent and inescapable. That's one of the reasons why I think community service is important. It's easy to watch the news and hear about yet another tragic event occurring-- I think most people are desensitized from it, at this point. But involvement, even within one's own community, doesn't really let you turn away."

After the day's activities ended, students reflected on the importance and impact of community service. Testimonies like Sophia's represent some of the many reasons why community service is fulfilling for both volunteers and the recipients.



Students help assemble food packages for Stop Hunger Now.



Assistant Director, Jan Pinkston and Honors students with guest speaker, Mr. Jeff Dess.



Honors students and Dr. Andrew visited Complete Care.

Honors Club officers elected

The Honors Club held its first general body meeting on September 19. Elections for the 2017-2018 Executive Board were held: **President:** Katrina Adap; **Vice President:** Emily Adia; **Secretary:** Jannat Begum; **Treasurer:** Chiara St. Amant; **Social Events Coordinators:** Melanie Afuang and Ron Mangulabnan; **Public Relations Officers:** Caroline Chambers and Lyra Flores; **Community Service Coordinators:** Gem Polius and Kristian Adap; **Freshman Class Representatives:** Gimelyn Yray, Jhamani Ashcraft, Kendra Chaiken; **Sophomore Class Representative:** Keira White.

Move-in day held September 3rd

The Honors Class of 2021 moved to High Mountain East on Sunday, September 3rd. Honors mentors and the Honors Club volunteers, assisted and move-in went very smoothly. Welcome new Pioneers!



Members of the Honors Club help carry in supplies.



Former Honors Club President, Gabriel Morton, and members of the 2016-2017 Executive Board outside of the residence halls.

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