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The Torch: Suffolk University College of Arts & Sciences Honors Program Newsletter, no. 8, Winter 2020

College of Arts & Sciences Honors Program

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College of Arts & Sciences Honors Program, "The Torch: Suffolk University College of Arts & Sciences Honors Program Newsletter, no. 8, Winter 2020" (2020). *College of Arts & Sciences Torch Newsletter*. 2. <https://dc.suffolk.edu/torch/2>

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SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

THE TORCH



CAS HONORS PROGRAM
WINTER 2020

Letter from the Director

WE'RE A LITTLE later than usual with our winter newsletter with the events of the past couple of weeks as faculty and students transition to online learning and many staff begin to work remotely.

In this current Covid-19 health epidemic, our highest priority is the health and safety of our students and community. We are also doing what we can to further our honors love of learning and to provide a supportive community to our students. We are transitioning to a virtual symposium for spring (stay tuned!), the Honors Council is holding some events via Instagram and CAS Honors Blackboard, and we are still offering workshops (albeit virtual) on scholarships and poster-making. We are building community with our new "Professor Profiles" feature on Instagram, and will undoubtedly come up with other ideas for staying connected and offering support to members of our honors community.

This message from me has certainly changed from its original plan to draw attention to the achievements of our students and our program. But I still want to spend a little time doing that as we've had such a stellar year. In the past year we've had a Gilman scholarship winner (Anna Pravdica, History and Literature '19), a SMART scholarship winner (Molly McDonough, Physics '20), and a second-place winner of the American Association for Paralegal Education Essay Competition (Brianna D'Amelio, Undergraduate Law '19). At last year's National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Conference, a Suffolk poster won first place in the diversity category (Chryssabella Jones-Craig, Undergraduate Law, '22), and our newsletter, designed and edited by Sara Miranda, tied for first place in the electronic newsletter category. You've probably noticed how Sara has increased our publication's visual appeal and diversity of perspectives. She has put together a student newsletter committee, and has included more student writing and photography in the publication. Most recently, Hunter Berube (featured in this issue on page 18) successfully competed on the national level for an editorial position at UReCA, NCHC's journal! He'll join students from universities across the country to design and publish next year's issue.

Not enough of our students apply for these national awards and opportunities. I'm on a campaign to increase interest and awareness, and we've had our first ever applicant for a Summer Fulbright



Dean Celovsky at the Fall Honors Symposium.

Fellowship and another applicant for a Gilman. It's a good start. If you don't apply, you definitely won't get the award. So put yourself out there, current students! When CAS honors students try, they are successful! We are here to help and support you along the way.

I hope this newsletter provides an optimistic diversion in the current climate, and I close with sincere wishes for your well-being and that of your families, friends, and communities. Take good care.

Lisa Celovsky

Associate Dean, CAS

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Sara Miranda

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Cover photo courtesy of Maya Dube.
Honors CI-H185 "City of Stories" class
goes on a walking tour of Boston.

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Welcome to The Torch

For years the College of Arts & Sciences Honors Program has connected with its students, faculty, and alumni through our newsletter. This publication began as a simple weekly email called *The Torch* filled with deadlines and don't-forgets for our students.

The original *Torch* ceased its weekly publication in spring 2016. What replaced it was a new biannual newsletter created to share the honors program's improvements and achievements as well as some of the honors activities and events that our students were enjoying at the moment. Now more of the honors community – students, faculty, administrators, and alumni – could see what the program was up to. But somewhere along the way, the name was lost.

So why are we going back to *The Torch*?

The torch symbol has a long history with the University. In fact, it can be seen on the seal since the founding of the College of Arts & Sciences, then called the College of Liberal Arts, in 1934. The College's seal was created by Suffolk founder Gleason Archer himself and displayed the torch alongside the motto "Omnibus Lux Scientiae" meaning "the light of knowledge to all." While the College seal was later discontinued with the University charter in 1937, the message of the torch remains a guiding principle of the university and is featured in today's seal and logo.

Our return to *The Torch* ultimately celebrates our students' pursuit of knowledge as they progress through the honors program. Each semester, we get to see how honors educational and professional opportunities can transform student confidence and deepen their commitment to learning. This issue of our newsletter showcases just that, and we are proud to share it with you.

Welcome (back) to *The Torch*.

Sara Miranda

Editor





Honors Symposium Fall 2019

FOR MANY Suffolk honors students, the biannual Honors Symposium is a culmination of their research and creative work from over the course of the semester. On December 12th, the Honors Program held the Honors Symposium in Sargent Hall where about 140 students shared their hard work with their classmates, professors, and the rest of the university community.

This fall, four graduating senior students delivered their senior capstone projects on an impressive array of topics. Computer Science major Thao Phuong's presented her project titled "Course Management," where she built a web-based application of the same name for online teaching, class community building,

and knowledge sharing. Politics, Philosophy, and Economics major Noor Alibrahim explored the outcomes of North Korea's options to develop their nuclear capability or negotiate for security guarantees using a game theory method in his project titled "North Korea vs. the United States from Aspect of Game Theory." For a full list of senior projects, go to page 11.

Once again the symposium showcased the work of many first-year honors courses. The classes in attendance were Professor Barbara Abrams's SF-H116 "Enlightened Insanity," Professor Wyatt Bonikowski's SF-H182 "Heroes, Antiheroes, and Outsiders," Professor Evgenia Cherkasova's SF-H1134 "The Meaning of Life," Professor Nicholas Frangipane's SF-H1176 "What is a

Honors Symposium

Fact?”, Professor Eric Dewar’s SF-H1182 “Honors Collections and Exhibits,” and Professor Amy Agigian’s SOC-H113 “Introduction to Sociology.”

Professor Hannah Hudson’s class SF-H1167 “Fantasy Fiction: From *Beowulf* to *Uprooted*” displayed their original fantasy-themed board games and played these games with their classmates and symposium attendees. Many students were crowded around a Harry Potter-themed game “Hogwarts: Journey to the House Cup” to try their luck at winning the top prize.

Three students who attended and presented their research at the National Collegiate Honors Council conference in November reprised their presentations at the symposium as well. Anthony Cutaia presented his project titled “What Happens

When You are Released from Prison,” and Hunter Berube and Geraldine Galvis presented their project titled “Judging Our Books by their Cover,” a study on the influences of Instagram.

The symposium was attended and enjoyed by many university administrators, faculty members, and students. All members of the Suffolk community and alumni are welcome to join the honors program at the spring symposium on April 28th which will be held virtually.

Thank you to all of the student presenters for their exceptional work and to the faculty and mentors who supported them. A special thank you to Laura Crabbe in the CAS Dean’s Office for her work on organizing this large event. ■



Nicole Kingdon (Government, '23) sharing her poster with classmates.

Honors Symposium

SENIOR THESES AND PROJECTS

Congratulations to the following graduating seniors who presented their honors capstone projects at the symposium!

Noor Alibrahim, Politics, Philosophy, & Economics, “North Korea vs. the United States from Aspect of Game Theory,” Project Supervisor: Professor David Tuerck

Aline Bellangero, Applied Legal Studies, “American Contract v German Contract,” Project Supervisor: Professor Mary Flaherty

Adrianne Cormier, Undergraduate Law, “The Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA): A Legal Review,” Project Supervisor: Professor Mary Flaherty

Thao Phuong, Computer Science, “Course Management,” Project Supervisor: Professor Zhiyong Xu



John Keeler (Law, '23) presenting his work from SF-H1176.



Thao Phuong (Computer Science, '20) presenting her senior capstone project.



National Collegiate Honors Council Conference 2019

FROM EXCITING city excursions to sessions on honors pedagogy, there was something for everyone at the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) 2019 Conference, held in New Orleans, Louisiana last November. This year, the honors

program funded thirteen students who were accepted to attend and present their ideas and research with the global honors community. The students were accompanied by Dean Lisa Celovsky, Dean Sharon Lenzie, and honors program administrator Sara Miranda.

NCHC Conference 2019

The conference explored the theme of “Disrupting Education: Creativity and Innovation in Honors” throughout its four days of programming. President of Dillard University Dr. Walter Kimbrough gave the opening keynote speech that grappled with the complexity of free speech on university campuses and the educational opportunities that controversial speakers can offer students. He has invited guests to his university’s campus who did not share the predominant view of the University and its student body in order to challenge students to develop their own opinions and debate prowess. Dr. Kimbrough encouraged the conference attendees to “disrupt education” by facilitating conversations from which students can learn.

After a day of conference talks and sessions, the Suffolk honors students were eager to present their research in the student poster session. Each research project was driven by their intellectual curiosity and in some cases, by their own personal experiences. Chryssabella Jones-Craig (Undergraduate Law, '22) completed a project on Deafness and the differences between Deaf culture and deafness as a disability. Her poster titled, “Deafness: A Disability or A Culture?” was awarded first place for the Sloane Prize for Undergraduate Research in the Diversity category. In a reflection on her research process and presentation experience, Chryssabella said,

“I spent months submitting paperwork, conducting research, and designing a well-organized poster



Chryssabella Jones-Craig at NCHC.

for this presentation; that morning I was beyond excited to see my effort to reward itself. I filled my two hours educating those who approached me about what I knew and what I learned about the Deaf community, a subject close to home as my parents are both Deaf. Passionate about what I had accomplished, I don't think anything could have been more rewarding than the responses I received from my audiences as I presented. Honors students and faculty from all over the country commended me on my work and expressed how they felt that my presentation allowed them a greater understanding of diversity past appearances, extending to abilities.”

Other thought-provoking poster presentations from the Suffolk students included Anthony Cutaia’s (Undergraduate Law, '20) poster titled “What Happens When You are Released from Prison” and Brooke Bonar’s (Chemistry, '21) poster titled “Fighting Words: Free Speech Policy on University

NCHC Conference 2019

Campuses.” For a full list of student poster titles, go to page 17. In addition, Professor and Chair of the Theatre Department Marilyn Plotkins spoke in a plenary session and facilitated a workshop during the conference, “Developing in Honors” and “Six Ways to Teach Creativity in Honors.”

For most students, this year’s conference was their very first NCHC experience. However, it was the third NCHC conference in three years for Isis Garcia-Rodriguez (Psychology, '19). Isis was awarded the NCHC Portz Scholar Award for her honors thesis titled “Legal Status Effects on Parent-Child Relationships and Parent Well-

Being.” She returned to the conference to give a session about her research project and receive the award. Isis is currently pursuing a PhD in counseling psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University where she continues to study legal status and families.

On top of the awards the Suffolk students received, there was even more to celebrate at the conference. The *CAS Honors Program Newsletter* tied for first place in the 2019 NCHC Publications Board Newsletter Contest in the Faculty/Administrator electronically-published category. The publication was praised for its



Isis Garcia-Rodriguez (left) with other 2019 Portz Scholars Max Nakamoto, University of Hawaii at Manoa (middle) and Kennedy Dickson, University of Mississippi (right). Photo credit: NCHC.

NCHC Conference 2019



Dean Celovsky (middle) and Sara Miranda (second from left) accepting the Newsletter Award from NCHC leadership. Photo credit: NCHC.

attractiveness and information about the honors program. Dean Celovsky and newsletter editor Sara Miranda accepted the award for the program at the NCHC Award Ceremony.

By far one of the highlights of the conference was the plenary session from Lynda Barry. Barry is a multifaceted artist and academic who is well known from her cartoon work and graphic novels like *One! Hundred! Demons!* and *Cruddy*. She is currently an Associate Professor in Interdisciplinary Creativity, Director of the Image Lab at the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery, and the Chazen Family Distinguished Chair in Art at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In her plenary session, Barry offered an interesting assessment on the link between one's perceived and actual talent and asked if there is such a thing

as a “bad” drawing? She discussed her work with her preschool-aged “co-researchers” where she examines how children use drawing and other arts to play and discover. In a reflection on Barry's plenary session, Lyndsay Kramer (Interior Design, '21) said,

“What struck me the most was her theory on how there was no such thing as a bad drawing, and to prove her point she showed the audience various drawings by young children. Each drawing had its own distinct story behind it, each with a hilarious meaning, and it reminded everyone that the joy of education and the arts must not be forgotten.”

After the long days of attending conference sessions and eating beignets, the Suffolk group

NCHC Conference 2019



Plenary Speaker Lynda Barry addresses the conference attendees. Photo credit: NCHC

packed their bags and returned to Boston tired and happy. There was a unanimous feeling of gratification from attending the conference among the group. Aaron Rondon's (Government, '22) reflection on his NCHC conference experience said it best:

"The National Collegiate Honors Conference provided me with a slew of new ideas and concepts that I hope to incorporate into my experience in higher education. The ideas that I was presented with were new and promising, and I believe that I have been forever changed by this experience."

For more information on NCHC, please visit www.nchchonors.org.

The students who attended this conference were featured in a Suffolk University News article, "Personal Experiences Drive Projects," which can be read at www.suffolk.edu/news-features/news/2019/12/20/16/48/personal-experience-drives-projects ■

NCHC Conference 2019

STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Hunter Berube, Journalism, and **Geraldine Galvis**, Undergraduate Law, “Judging Our Books by Their Covers”

Brooke Bonar, Chemistry, “Fighting Words: Free Speech Policy on University Campuses”

Anthony Cutaia, Undergraduate Law, “What Happens When You are Released from Prison?”

Bailey Herrera, Undergraduate Law, “Digital Privacy, a Fourth Amendment Right?”

Leticia Gomes, Chemistry, “Importance of pKa on Aspirin Absorption”

Chryssabella Jones-Craig, Undergraduate Law, “Deafness: A Disability or A Culture?”

Lyndsay Kramer, Interior Design, and **Sophie Mailhot**, Interior Design, “Gender in Design – How Relationships Influence Creativity”

Janele Kulla, Mathematics, and **Sharon Rajadurai**, Government, “The Honors TA Experience in Suffolk’s Honors First-Year Experience Course”

Aaron Rondon, Government, “Can Social Hierarchy Ever Be Justified?”



Janele Kulla and Sharon Rajadurai presenting at the Idea Exchange Breakfast. Photo credit: NCHC.



Aaron Rondon at the student poster session. Photo credit: NCHC.

Being Fluent in the Language of Writing and Drawing

By Hunter Berube, Journalism '22

LYNDA BARRY'S words really stuck with me. It felt like she was speaking directly to me as she gave her plenary speech at the 2019 National Collegiate Honors Conference in New Orleans. Luckily for me, I did have the chance to speak with her personally on more than one occasion.

NCHC hosted a workshop with Professor Barry on exercises to promote the use of writing and drawing simultaneously. I not only kept my phone on silent for the two hour period I was there, but I also stayed an extra hour for the opportunity to share what we had made with her.

Now usually when you meet a well-known artist, you're the one who tends to be a little awe-struck. However, when I met Lynda Barry, she was excited to meet me!

"You!" she said, "Your work was so detailed, so descriptive! I loved what you created." To have

someone I admire so much in a field I am so passionate about appreciate my art, well, I'm still at a loss for words. I'm sure she does not know, nor you reading this now, what that meant to me.

Let me offer some backstory:

In high school I lacked the desire to draw or do anything artistic because of the way in which I poorly adapted to the environment. Emphasis on "I poorly adapted." I don't blame the toxicity I was surrounded by, but blame myself for inhaling it. Art was not seen as "cool."

That three-hour workshop made up for four years of untapped potential. Professor Barry's face read to me excitement and pride in her short-term student. I realized in order to be an artist, I had to be 100% myself, not someone who slacked or cared about others' opinions.

I don't regret the things I did in high school. After all, it's the hard work and dedication that I put into studying that got me into the honors program, which allowed me this opportunity to go to the conference and meet Lynda Barry. I now see a future of artistic exploration that can be incorporated directly into my coursework.

Though I left my NCHC workshop artwork in New Orleans by accident, the exercises Lynda Barry taught me will live on through snow days and week nights full of painting, drawing, and a newfound appreciation for art. Fortunately, not all hope was lost. I managed to save the Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal box I had her autograph. Because what better way to make a memorable first impression than by having her sign my favorite breakfast cereal?

Thank you, Suffolk University Honors Program, for offering me the opportunity to experience a moment of artistic clarity through NCHC and a trip to New Orleans to meet Lynda Barry. Thank you especially for giving me an environment where I may grow with my art and never against it.

And thank you, Professor Lynda Barry, for being yet another light to help me draw in the dark. ■



Hunter Berube posing with Lynda Barry and his artwork.



Walking Through History

By Maya Dube,
Global Cultural Studies
'23



ON OCTOBER 14, 2019, students in Professor Kathryn Lasdow's Honors Creativity and Innovation "City of Stories" class gathered around the Tony Demarco statue at the edge of the North End. The class was set to go on a walking tour with a guide named Steve Kluskens to discover the history of global immigration in the Boston neighborhood.

Steve makes a living programming computers, but his real passion resides in his love of history. He represented a company called Boston By Foot, a non-profit educational organization that provides a variety of walking tours in Boston. Steve was not there out of obligation, but out of a true love of storytelling.

Steve told stories with contagious enthusiasm and passion, starting with maritime immigration stories. He planted images in students' minds about sailors seeking refuge in the North End, the gateway to Boston. As the tour continued, Steve brought English, Irish, Italian, Jewish, Azorean, and African narratives to life. He talked about the better-known stories of Italian immigration alongside the lesser-known histories of the Eastern-European Jewish community. Through the act of walking, anonymous space was turned into a meaningful place.

"City of Stories" students entered a new historical era at each stop, bringing to life the events of these immigrants' lives. With vivid narration that turned unassuming exteriors of buildings into homes, places of worship, and gathering points, the tour taught its audience to view history in



an innovative way. This creative approach to historical storytelling is exactly what Professor Lasdow asked of her students.

The class was tasked to collaboratively build their own walking tours of the North End. Working with representatives from the Maritime Mile Project, a community-driven effort that seeks to tell Boston's North End and East Boston waterfront history, we spent the semester developing tours from the ground up. Some tour themes included "Criminal North End," a tour built around the neighborhood's history of scofflaws; "Out of the Rubble," a tour built around the history of Jewish immigration; and "African American North End," a tour built around places significant to the black community.

At the end of the semester, the class gave our walking tours to our classmates and gave pitch presentations to Maritime Mile representatives. Professor Lasdow's class taught students to become historical detectives while learning valuable teamwork skills. The results were five well-developed walking tours that allowed students to view history as an ever-changing narrative. We understand that history demands of us ongoing retelling, continuous revising, and willingness to widen the scope of our historical inclusivity. ■

Fall Event Highlights

A WICKED SMART WELCOME

EVERY FALL the honors program hosts programming to welcome the new class of honors scholars to the program and the University. Throughout the months of September and October, new honors students had the opportunity to get to know their new city and classmates during events and outings on and off campus. From a theatre night to go see *The Crucible* at Central Square Theatre to visiting the historical Georges Island, there was plenty to enjoy.



Students tie-dyeing their honors t-shirts.

Professor Rachael Cobb (Political Science & Legal Studies) hosted a workshop discussing how to participate in your community and make a difference. This was the same workshop Professor Cobb gave to students from honors programs from hundreds of universities at the 2018 National Collegiate Honors Council conference.

Professor Da Zheng (English) gave a group of students a tour of Chinatown, sharing the history of the neighborhood. The students got to have an authentic dim sum lunch at Hei La Moon.

Professor Sushil Bhatia (Management and Entrepreneurship) helped the students relax when midterms started in October by presenting on the “Management of Mind” and “Think Neutral” techniques that are used to improve focus and productivity.

To wrap up the fall welcome events, a large group visited Salem at the end of October just in time for Halloween. The students got to explore the spooky city all day, enjoy the holiday festivities, and learn about the history of Salem.

Thank you to all of the faculty and staff that contributed to this year’s honors fall welcome. We were pleased that the new honors students had an enjoyable first few weeks at Suffolk! ■

LIGHT THE NIGHT 2019

THE HONORS program was once again happy to be involved in the fall Light the Night fundraising and memorial walk for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). For the past six plus years, honors students have helped organize Suffolk's team and participated in the walk to remember and support those affected by leukemia and lymphoma cancers.

Suffolk's team "Love for Lara" was founded by Professor Melanie Berkmen (Chemistry and Biochemistry) in memory of her niece Lara. Since the team's establishment, Love for Lara has raised over \$30,000 for LLS. This year, the team raised \$2,820.00 and placed second in the Boston-area school competition!

Honors senior student Alexia Baugniet (Oncology Management, '20) returned as the team's captain for the second year in a row. Alexia recruited many new students this year and has dramatically increased the size of the team during her time as captain.

Thank you to all of the students and faculty that joined the Love for Lara team this year, as well as everyone that donated.

To read more about Light the Night, see the team's featured article in the *Suffolk Journal*:

www.thesuffolkjournal.com/27635/news/lighting-the-night-for-a-cause/ ■



The Suffolk Love for Lara Team with their lanterns.

Fall Event Highlights

ANNUAL HONORS FRIENDSGIVING + SUFFOLK CARES DONATION DRIVE

BY THE END of November, students are feeling the stress of their classes as final exam period approaches. For this reason, the honors program hosted its second Honors Friendsgiving lunch for the honors community. The event gives a chance for students to sit down for a minute or two and enjoy lunch with their honors peers. This year we diverged from the traditional thanksgiving foods and served a make-your-own-burrito bar.

In the spirit of giving thanks, the program collected donations for the Suffolk CARES Pantry donation drive. Twelve other departments and organizations at Suffolk participated in the drive including the Office of Advancement, the Interfaith Center, and Student Leadership & Involvement. Thank you to everyone in the honors community who attended the Friendsgiving and contributed to the CARES donation drive. ■



Honors students making DIY snowglobes at the Relaxation Night before the winter break.

GETTING CRAFTY BEFORE FINALS

FINALS WEEK is a stressful time of the semester for honors students. Before the final exam period started, the Honors Council put on the Relaxation Night event for their fellow honors peers. This semester, students got to make different winter-themed crafts from snow globes and ornaments to cookie decorating.

The crafting continued at the make-your-own pretzel and ice cream bars. There was a fun and casual ambience as students snacked and chatted with friends before they resumed their finals studying. ■

Honors Council Report

The Honors Council's activities from the fall semester

THE HONORS COUNCIL'S mission is to act as a voice for all members of the CAS honors program and to work to ensure an intellectually invigorating and inclusive environment. At the start of the fall 2019 semester, the students of the Honors Council worked to fulfill their mission by planning social and professional development events for the honors community.

The Council began the semester with a tradition started last spring: Advice & Donuts. This event was created for honors students to grab coffee and snacks before heading off to class and to foster community among honors students. Students had the opportunity to talk with the members of the Honors Council and ask any questions about the program. Many students attended and a great deal of valuable feedback came from the morning get-together.

The Council hosted a Halloween-themed networking event before the holiday called "Trick or Treat Networking" where current students met Suffolk alumni and learned about different careers. They asked many questions about searching for internships and jobs. The alumni in attendance came from a variety of career fields such as media and event-planning to medical communications and provided beneficial advice for the students.

To wrap-up the year, the Council hosted the honors relaxation event before final exams. Honors students stopped by to create winter-themed crafts and unwind from the finals-related stress. Creativity was in the air!

Thank you to the Honors Council for all of their hard work over the semester! ■



An ornament created at the Relaxation event.

Honors Council Report

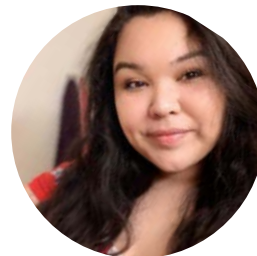
MEET THE HONORS COUNCIL 2019 - 2020



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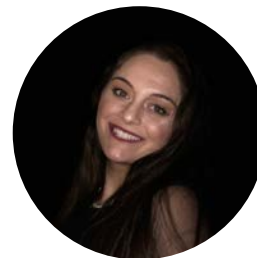
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Law
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Isabel Baynum
Government
First-Year Representative



Katie Winans
Government
First-Year Representative

Class Notes

Honors in the News

Honors Class Tests the Waters for Signs of Climate Change

Suffolk Professor Hayley Schiebel (Center for Urban Ecology and Sustainability) led a group of her students to Neponset River Watershed to perform field work for her class last spring UES-H270 “Understanding Wetlands Through Citizen Science.” The class worked to develop scientific data collection protocols that will be used by the Watershed’s Citizen Water Monitoring Network program.

Honors student Christian Morris (Environmental Studies, '20) said, “Citizen science is a great opportunity to do some field work without a major commitment. It brings you closer to the environment and strengthens your bond with nature.”

To read more, go to: www.suffolk.edu/news-features/news/2019/07/03/17/33/wading-into-citizen-science ■

Nick Nunez Tells the Stories from Southern Plantation

Last summer, honors student Nick Nunez (History, '20) interned at Middleton Place, a former rice plantation outside of Charleston, South Carolina. As a black studies minor he focused on updating



Christian Morris at the field site. Photo credit: Suffolk News.

an exhibit on rice cultivation, the site’s main crop. Nunez stated,

“Having a Black Studies and History education means I have a complex perspective on Charleston. When I visited urban plantations we would walk into marvelous rooms decorated with Chinese porcelain and European fabrics and furniture and hear about elaborate dinners and social events. It’s easy to get lost in those romantic details, but I am always aware that the wealth on display wasn’t made under moral standard.”

To read more about Nick’s internship, go to: www.suffolk.edu/news-features/news/2019/09/03/15/24/reinterpreting-life-on-a-southern-plantation ■

Class Notes



Anastasia Moawde with donated textbooks for the Suffolk Textbook Exchange. Photo Credit: Suffolk News.

Anastasia Moawde Gives Back to Suffolk Students

Textbooks are expensive, and Honors student Anastasia Moawde (Sociology, '21) was determined to help her fellow students avoid the cost. Moawde stated “I was holding on to so many textbooks I’ll never read again. Why not take the financial burden off of another student instead of tossing or selling them?”

Her idea sparked action, and the honors program began collecting donations. Students

donated over 100 undergraduate course books that are available to check out and use for the whole semester at no cost.

To read more about the Suffolk Textbook Exchange, go to: www.suffolk.edu/news-features/news/2019/09/19/16/09/does-this-textbook-spark-joy ■

Honors Students Olivia Dulong and Oba Oseghali Open for Popular Artist

Royale Nightclub was packed with over a thousand Suffolk students who came to see SGA's Fall 2019 concert that included a few familiar faces. Honors student Olivia Dulong (Journalism, '21), aka DJ Liv, and Oba Oseghali, (Biochemistry, '22) aka Ishan The Rapper opened for headliner Tory Lanez.

To read more, go to:

www.suffolk.edu/launch-point-boston/our-campus/rapper-surfs-his-way-through-suffolk ■

Physics Students Present at the 2019 Physics Congress

Through a partnership with the Suffolk Physics Department and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Suffolk students have had the opportunity to perform monthly experiments at the hospital. Using the radiation therapy equipment, the group studies the effectiveness of different materials in providing protection from radiation, which can be applied to future space missions.

Honors student Phuc Mach (Physics, '21) said, "this project is really important. What we're doing could impact the future of space travel."



Oba Oseghali performing at the Fall Concert. Photo credit: Suffolk News.

The students got to present their research at the 2019 Physics Congress in Providence, RI where they received the Outstanding Chapter honor and a \$2,000 research award.

To read more on their project, go to: www.suffolk.edu/news-features/news/2020/02/07/17/54/research-award-gives-mars-project-a-lift ■



Suffolk Madrid students rowing boats in Retiro Park.

Madrid Campus Offers Unique Honors Opportunities

By Kaitlyn M Piltzecker, Journalism '22

BEING AN HONORS student while abroad can be a daunting task. There are many reasons why students miss out on the opportunity to study abroad from meeting requirements to fulfilling necessary courses to graduate.

However, Suffolk University's Madrid Campus (SUMC) in Spain is changing the way honors students are able to engage in rigorous academics while being able to live in a different country. Understanding the culture of Spain while studying is incredibly important to the campus. All

SUMC students are required to engage in cultural orientation trips to surrounding territories, like Barcelona and Seville, to learn more about life in Spain. The campus also invites students to learn about the Madrid lifestyle from visiting the Spanish Royal Palace to Flamenco dance lessons.

Honors students are invited to extend their knowledge and cultural awareness past the general requirements through honors class contracts. Class contracts serve as a perfect opportunity for honors students at SUMC to further immerse themselves in the city and its culture. For some that means participating in an off-campus learning opportunity.

Inna Abalyan, a sophomore honors student who spent her first year in Madrid, spoke about her experience as an honors student in Spain:

"I decided, after discussing with my professor about possible honors projects, that I wanted to contract my Spanish class. [My professor] allowed me to choose something that I was passionate about while maintaining relevance to the course," says Abalyan. "I ended up volunteering at an after-school program with elementary students once a week where I assisted teachers in lessons and helped students with their homework."

Abalyan reflected that she did not feel chained down by the idea of the "typical" class contract of writing an essay and doing a presentation. Rather, she was able to engage in the community, while



Kaitlyn Piltzecker and other SUMC students in traditional dresses during Flamenco dance lessons.

improving her Spanish vocabulary and speaking skills. Abalyan stated that "[Contracting] a course should not be stressful, but enjoyable while challenging students to extend past their comfort zones."

Students who are looking at studying abroad at SUMC should talk about the opportunity with their academic advisor and discuss completion of honors contracts at Madrid with Dean Lenzie.

To learn more about SUMC, go to www.suffolk.edu/madrid-campus ■

Faculty Honor Roll

The Honors Program thanks the following faculty members who allowed students to fulfill an honors contract in their course during the Fall 2019 semester!

Miriam Arbeit, Psychology

Eric Bellone, Political Science & Legal Studies

Peter Bianco, Art & Design

Alicia Blaisdell-Bannon,
Advertising, Public Relations, &
Social Media

Wyatt Bonikowski, English

Richard Chambers, Theatre

Darlene Chisholm, Economics

Karen Clarke, Art & Design

Kenneth Cosgrove, Political
Science & Legal Studies

Lucius Couloute, Sociology

Oktay Demir, Physics

Eric De Waal, Biology

Eric Dewar, Biology

Leslie Eckel, English

Lourdes Fernandez Bencosme,
World Languages & Cultural
Studies

Mary Flaherty, Political Science &
Legal Studies

Anthony Gentilucci, Math &
Computer Science

Emilija Georgievska-Nanevska,
Psychology

Donna Giancola, Philosophy

Eugenia Gold, Biology

Nancy Hackett, Art & Design

Jonathan Houghton, Economics

Kara Hayes, Sociology

Keri Iyall Smith, Sociology

Jeffrey Johnson, Philosophy

George Kalogeris, English

Graham Kelder, Political Science
& Legal Studies

Brian Kiniry, Philosophy

Cristina Kulich-Vamvakas, Political
Science & Legal Studies

Micky Lee, Communication &
Journalism

Montgomery Link, Philosophy

Scott Lussier, Center for Urban
Ecology and Sustainability

Shoshana Madmoni-Gerber,
Communication & Journalism

Thomas McGrath, World
Languages & Cultural Studies

Stephen McJohn, Law

Doreen Metzner, Communication
& Journalism

Richard Miller, English

Shahruz Mohtadi, Economics

Iani Moreno, World Languages &
Cultural Studies

Maghnus O'Seaghdha, Biology

Faculty Honor Roll

Inès Ouedraogo, World Languages
& Cultural Studies

Tara Pastina, Art & Design

Margaret Pavlac, Chemistry

Azlin Perdomo, World Languages
& Cultural Studies

Marilyn Plotkins, Theatre

Richard Preiss, Communication &
Journalism

Nicolle Renick, Advertising, Public
Relations, & Social Media

Bob Rosenthal, Advertising, Public
Relations, & Social Media

Carolyn Salvi, History

Wesley Savick, Theatre

Sheila Scheuerman, Political
Science & Legal Studies

Maria Serraino, Advertising, Public
Relations, & Social Media

Ann Shafer, World Languages &
Cultural Studies

Jennifer Sheehan, Chemistry

Charles St. Amand,
Communication & Journalism

Deanna Stanford, English

Kelsey Stocker, Chemistry

Rebecca Stone, Sociology

Lance Swenson, Psychology

Bryan Trabold, English

Steven Ultrino, Political Science &
Legal Studies

Alan Waters, Philosophy

Yvonne Wells, Psychology

Felicia Wiltz, Sociology

Jason Xidias, Political Science &
Legal Studies

Xiaqing Xu, Chemistry



Professor Cherkasova (left, Philosophy), Charles Gobert (middle, Undergraduate Law, '22), and Professor Johnson (right, Philosophy) at the Honors Symposium.

In Memoriam: Dr. Agnes Bain

IN DECEMBER 2019, the honors program's founding director Dr. Agnes Bain passed away. Dr. Bain had a long career at Suffolk University starting when she joined the College of Arts & Sciences in 1974. During her time here, she served as the chair of the Political Sciences and Legal Studies Department (then called the Government Department) for 19 years and was the chair of the original committee that created the College of Arts & Sciences Honors Program. She most recently retired as a Professor Emeritus in 2017.



Dr. Bain. Photo courtesy of the Moakley Archive.

Dr. Bain directed the honors program since its inaugural class in 2005. For years, she set a high standard of academic achievement for each honors scholar which helped attract highly motivated students to the University. With the assistance of the CAS Honors Program Committee (now called the Honors Faculty Advisory Committee), Dr. Bain cultivated an intimate community of learners and friends of the program.

The program has come a long way since its beginnings. Its first class had only 18 students. Today the program is home to around 700 honors students! Though the program may look a little different since its inception, the mission and heart of the program still remains the same: to foster a supportive environment that allows honors students to excel as scholars and leaders and to create opportunities for students to learn, research, and create.

Thank you, Dr. Bain, for your commitment to Suffolk University and its honors community. ■

SPRING 2020 HONORS COURSES

Art & Design

ADFA-HS372 | Fine Arts Seminar II | Goldstein, Audrey and Thurston, Randal

The final Seminar semester is focused on the studio practices of its members. All work is channeled into the development of the final senior thesis exhibition.

ADG-HS345 | Graphic Design IV | Kitz, Keith

A continuation of the concepts and skills developed in Graphic Design III and their application to more complex, multi-pieced, in-depth projects including a final capstone project.

ADI-HS401 | Senior Studio | Carella, Sandro and Chung, Stephen

Students will develop a comprehensive design solution for their individual studio problem through schematics, design development, presentation drawings and specifications.

Biology

BIO-H105 | Humans & Evolutionary Perspective | Dewar, Eric

Major topics include the scientific basis of evolution, the fossil history of vertebrates, evidence of evolution in the human body, and applying an evolutionary perspective to the social interactions and possible futures of humanity.

BIO-H409 | Honors Biology Senior Seminar | Nolfo-Clements, Lauren

The purpose of this class is to provide senior biology majors with the skills to

land a job in the biological sciences, including locating open positions, preparing an application, and performing well in an interview.

Chemistry

CHEM-H112 | General Chemistry II | Enyedy, Edith

This course is a continuation of General Chemistry I. Fundamental principles of chemistry are discussed. Introduces thermochemistry, gases, solution chemistry, chemical kinetics, chemical equilibrium, acid-base systems, and thermodynamics.

Creativity and Innovation

CI-H112 | Solutions for Sustainability | Moker, George

Presented with case studies of urban efforts to gain a sustainability foothold, students will utilize ideation, critical thinking, and strategic decision making to both identify root problems and to present solutions.

CI-H119 | SL-Honors Theatre at Work | Plotkins, Marilyn

Students will create a performance piece in response to an issue they have uncovered in collaboration with select groups of students in a host Boston Public School.

CI-H139 | Literary Citizenship | Monticello, Amy

This course will immerse students in the world of literary culture and its many branches: writing, editing, reviewing, and publicity.

Communication and Journalism

CJN-H381 | Business of Media | Lee, Micky

Students will hone interdisciplinary thinking to learn about Big Data analytics and the media industry.

CJN-H506 | Honors Seminar | Carragee, Kevin

Senior CJN majors meeting requirements for Departmental Honors are invited to participate in this seminar, which entails research and presentation of an approved topic.

Economics

EC-H102 | Honors Global Macroeconomics | Baek, Inmee

Students will study the measurement of economic growth; introduction to the theory of determination of national income and the price level; unemployment and inflation; theories on economic growth, and much more.

EC-H490 | Honors Senior Seminar in Economics | Haughton, Jonathan

Students are required to develop an economic thesis project in consultation with the professor for the course and to present it to the class.

English

ENG-H130 | Introduction to Literature | Miller, Quentin

Study of poetry, prose, and drama, with emphasis on close reading and literary analysis.

Spring 2020 Honors Courses

ENG-H170 | Narrative and Medicine | Monticello, Amy

This course will provide an introduction to the literature written about medicine and medical research. We will study the ways in which narrative complexly represents illness, disability, doctor-patient relationships, health insurance, and other medical issues, including the end of life.

ENG-H266 | Mad Men: Reading Visual Narratives | Jeffreys, Peter

This course will focus on the cultural phenomenon of the TV Series Mad Men, considered by many to be the foremost example of Quality TV produced during the so-called “golden age of television” and engage with it on visual, cultural, literary and filmic levels.

ENG-H526 | American Writers Abroad | Eckel, Leslie

Following three essential themes—consumption, liberation, and critique—this Honors seminar travels alongside writers from the 19th-century past to the 21st-century present as it investigates the extent to which American literature has benefited from their adventurous spirit and cosmopolitan outlook.

Government

GVT-H110 | Intro to American Politics | Kulich-Vamvakas, Christina & Cosgrove, Kenneth

An introduction to the American political system and constitutional framework.

GVT-H120 | Research Methods | Moyer, Jeffrey

Focus will be on the use of the scientific method for research on politics and government.

GVT-H309 | Transitional Justice | Ben-Josef Hirsch, Michal

This course introduces the concept and practices of transitional justice, which addresses current and past human rights violations.

GVT-H503 | Washington Academic Seminar | Kulich-Vamvakas, Christina

An intensive off-campus experience of two-week's duration arranged through The Washington Center in Washington, D.C. Topics vary.

GVT-H521 | Internship in Government | Kulich-Vamvakas, Christina

This course is designed to enhance the academic learning students achieve in a substantive government, politics, issue advocacy, public policy or public administration related, supervised, internship that is concurrent with the seminar.

GVT-H525 | Washington Internship Seminar | Kulich-Vamvakas, Christina

An internship seminar for students enrolled in a full-time, one-semester internship in Washington, D.C.

History

HST-H296 | Building Urban America | Lasdow, Kathryn

This course explores the design history of the buildings and landscapes of America's early cities, from the pre-contact period through the 1850s.

Legal Studies

LAWU-H201 | Introduction to Law | Bellone, Eric

This course provides an introductory

overview of the American legal system, legal reasoning, and the legal profession.

LAWU-H221 | Law of Contracts | Flaherty, Mary

Students will learn about formation through offer and acceptance, contract enforceability, the necessity of consideration, and breach of contract and will draft contract provisions as a paralegal might in a law office.

Philosophy

PHIL-H119 | Ethics | Kiniry, Brian

A systematic introduction to the major thinkers and their positions on the main issues of ethics.

PHIL-H120 | Honors Ethics and Civic Life | Johnson, Jeffrey

In this class you will be introduced to the perspectives and methods of politics, philosophy, and economics and see how these three disciplines present distinct but interconnected dimensions of current social and political issues.

PHIL-H316 | Existentialism | Cherkasova, Evgenia

This course's primary focus is on issues and problems arising from the existentialist reaction to classical philosophy.

Physics

PHYS-H152 | University Physics II | Johnson, Walter

This calculus based course begins with topics in kinetic theory and the laws of thermodynamics.

Spring 2020 Honors Courses

Politics, Philosophy, and Economics

PPE-H401 | A Political Economy | McKinney, Rachel

This interdisciplinary class for students in PPE and the Honors Program brings together the fields of politics, philosophy, and economics at a high academic level.

Psychology

PSYCH-H325 | Health Psychology | Swenson, Lance

Examines how biological, psychological and social factors interact with and affect physical health and well-being.

PSYCH-H336 | Honors Develop Psychopathology | Dibiase, Rosemary

Examines the etiology and symptoms of disorders of childhood and adolescence, as well as current therapeutic approaches.

PSYCH-H428 | Honors Senior Capstone | Swenson, Lance

Provides seniors the opportunity to reflect on, integrate, and showcase the knowledge and competencies they have acquired as psychology majors through the development of a portfolio and the exploration of a contemporary topic in psychology.

Science

SCI-H109 | SL- Honors Intro to Cancer Care | Mak, Jessica

This course introduces the top ten U.S. adult cancers, as well as the most common pediatric cancers. Students will engage in service-learning with an underserved community partner in regards to cancer by working directly with cancer patients or by assisting on a project that supports cancer patients.

SCI-H171 | The Built World | Acheampong, Michael

In this course, we will examine how technology-driven societies operate by

studying how cities are built and how they function.

Statistics

STATS-H250 | Honors Applied Statistics | Hawke, Alison

Application of statistical analysis to real-world business and economic problems.

Writing

WRI-H102 | Honors First Year Writing II | Frangipane, Nicholas

Study and practice of argumentative and research writing through further work with writing process and revision and the critical reading of a variety of texts.



Professor Marilyn Plotkins (Theatre) presenting at the NCHC conference. Photo credit: NCHC.

