

THE HONORA

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FALL 2011

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2011 Freshman Colloquium

On August 12, the first incoming freshman class of the new Honors College

gathered for the annual Honors Colloquium. This select group of

students enjoyed a delicious meal supplied by VSU Catering while celebrating the start of their own Honors experience at VSU. Dr. Nikolova

made some inspiring opening remarks, encouraging students to participate in conferences and study abroad opportunities. After she

divined their futures by “gazing into her crystal water glass,” Dr. Mike Orenduff presented the keynote address. Dr. Orenduff performed a few magic tricks before delving into the philosophical realm as he briefly spoke about the students’ summer reading, *Sophie’s World*. Dr. Orenduff, a celebrated mystery

writer, crafted several original examples that got quite a laugh from the students! At the conclusion of his speech, Emily Rogers, a reference librarian at Odum Library, informed students of the services available at the library and

revealed that a special library study room has been allotted for Honors students. HSA President Jennifer Stakich and Vice

President Chelsie Norton distributed the door prizes, items generously donated from Greek Row, Las Banderas, Body

Bronzer Tanning & Beachwear, and the VSU TechShop. Students then separated into groups for a rousing discussion of their summer reading; sessions were led by Dr. Dennis Bogyo, Dr. Michael Davey, Dr. Christine James, and Dr.

Mike Orenduff. After the deep philosophical debates concluded, members from CORE engaged the students in icebreaking activities. The 2011 Colloquium was a great success, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Nikolova, Mrs. Robinson, and the entire HSA Executive Board.



VSU HONORS COLLEGE

Dr. Ofelia Nikolova

Honors College Director

Mrs. Jane Robinson

Honors College Secretary

Amanda Semetko

Graduate Assistant

Jennifer Stakich

Student Assistant

Dorrian Baber

Student Office Assistant

Honors Fall Convocation

Practically every chair was filled for the Honors College Fall Opening Convocation on August 30. To kick off the new year, Dr. Nikolova listed some of the Honors accomplishments of the last year, including the establishment of the new Honors College, before looking at the future of Honors and all that it will bring. Interim President Dr. Louis Levy welcomed all the students and recognized Dr. Hill for creating the original Honors Program at VSU; he also encouraged students to be “lifelong learners” and to strive for excellence. Dr. Phil Gunter, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, spoke about the exciting new additions at VSU, including



new academic buildings and extensions to existing facilities. Once the preliminaries had concluded, Dr.

Connie Richards, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, introduced the evening’s keynote speaker. Dr. Jam Jenkins, a new faculty member from the Department of

Mathematics & Computer Science, instructed students how to maximize their college career during his lecture titled “Level Up: How to avoid being Leeroy Jenkins.”

Using the popular *World of Warcraft* game as an example, Dr. Jenkins encouraged students to study together and become involved in campus organizations. Dressed in

his tailored Indian attire, Dr. Jenkins made quite an impression on our students and chatted with them at the conclusion of the lecture. Students were slow to leave, indicating their interest and dedication to Honors and signifying the start of a great year!



Honors Brings You Pizza with a Professor

Honors and Reade Hall opened the new year with a great Honors tradition: Pizza with a Professor. Designed to acquaint students with Honors faculty and Honors upperclassmen, Pizza with a Professor is a great time of informal discussion between faculty and students. This year, Honors and Reade collaborated for two separate events: the first, held on September 15, featured Dr. Jen Breneiser and Dr. Dennis Bogyo; the second featured Dr. Brian Ring on September 22.

Both meetings allowed students to ask questions about Honors classes offered in the spring semester. Dr. Breneiser will be teaching Psych 2500H, while Dr. Bogyo will be teaching PERS 2170H as well as HONS 1990. Dr. Ring will be teaching a section of BIO 1951H.



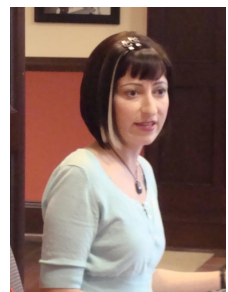
Honors students enjoyed the lively discussions!



Dr. Dennis Bogyo



Dr. Brian Ring



Dr. Jennifer Breneiser

National Accolades for Honors Students

Honors alumnus Timothy Hilgert won the Robert Marsteller Trombone Competition during the world's largest International Trombone Festival June 22-25 in Nashville, Tenn.



Tim graduated in May 2011 with a Bachelor of Music with a major in Music Performance; he will be pursuing a Master in Music Performance at Yale University this fall, hoping eventually to secure an orchestral job or earn his doctorate. Competing against hundreds of performers from over 66 nations, Tim

won the competition and received a trombone crafted by French manufacturer Courtois Trombone. He will travel to the company's North American headquarters in Jacksonville, Fla., to create custom schematics of his name that Parisian craftsmen will incorporate onto the slide of his one-of-a-kind instrument.

Honors student Jennifer Stakich was recently chosen as a recipient of

the national Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society's Jo Anne J. Trow Undergraduate Scholarship, the first person in the history of Alpha Lambda Delta at VSU to win this prestigious award. As one of the top ten applicants selected, Jennifer

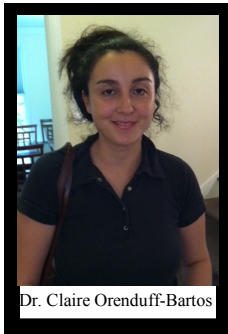
received a \$3,000 scholarship after completing an exhaustive application process that included securing a letter of support from the VSU chapter. Richard Lee, advisor for VSU's chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta, also revealed that Jennifer was one of the top five students selected nationally.



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Spotlight on New Honors Faculty Member

Teaching at VSU is a family affair for Dr. Claire Orenduff-Bartos—her father, Dr. Mike Orenduff, is a veteran Honors professor; her mother, Dr. Lai Orenduff, teaches in the Art department; and her husband, Dr. Sebastian Bartos, is a History professor. Dr. Orenduff-Bartos is thrilled to be a



Dr. Claire Orenduff-Bartos

member of the Honors community on campus this year; she teaches a section of the Honors Introductory Seminar entitled "The Visual Arts in Contemporary Society." The class concentrates on how people are influenced by and react to the vis-

ual arts. Dr. Orenduff-Bartos enjoys the in-class discussions generated in her Honors class, and she loves the class size: "The small class sizes allow me to really get to know individual students, so I feel lucky." An interesting fact about her: she lived in Bulgaria for a year, giving her a special connection to our Honors Director!

The Freshman Voice

Our first freshman class of the new Honors College are enjoying the Honors experience so far! Here's what they had to say about their first weeks on campus:

"Honors professors work tirelessly to ensure students succeed while my fellow Honors students are always willing to give a helping hand or a word of encouragement. It was great to enter college with a foundation of support and friends from the very first day."

—Kristina Oliver, psychology major



HSA Corner

Benefits of joining HSA include numerous opportunities to be involved in community service and social events. For more information look for VSU's Honor Student Association on Facebook and check out their website.

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=2200950440>

2011-2012 HSA Officers

- President: Jennifer Stakich
- Vice President: Chelsie Norton
- Secretary: Shakeria Bonaparte
- Treasurer: Adam Uelmen
- Community Service Coordinator: Amy Dandron
- Freshman Board Advisor: Kiana Lively
- Undergraduate Research Coordinator: Erica Garcia
- Public Relations Officer: Jessica Bartek



Most photos in this issue are courtesy of Jessica Bartek.

Focus On...HSA Treasurer ADAM UELMEN

It's the start of a new year for Honors and HSA, and that means Adam Uelmen's life will be very busy! Adam is our new HSA Treasurer, so he is responsible for collecting fall dues from all members. Money and numbers aren't new to Adam, though—he is a sophomore mathematics major. He is actively involved on campus, specifically in ROTC and Up 'til Dawn, a fund-

raising group for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Adam also enjoys volunteering at Tiger Stripes (and petting the tigers, of course). If you still need to pay your dues for the 2011-2012 year, bring your check or cash to any HSA meeting!



Social Night with Reade Hall a Big Success!

On September 23rd, HSA and Reade Hall collaborated to bring Honors students a night of fun, food, and laughter at the "Kickin' It Old School" social night! Students enjoyed classic PB&J, chocolate milk, and snacks in Reade Hall before playing some old-fashioned, elementary school games in the Student Union. Hot Potato and Telephone were just a few of the crowd-pleasing favorites of the night! Special thanks to all the

Reade RAs for the pre-planning stage, Reade RA Katie Tucker for coordination on the night of the event, and Chelsie Norton for reserving our game space.



Katie Tucker makes PB&J



Hot Potato



Telephone, anyone?