

THE HONORA

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Fall Fun at the Freshman Colloquium!

“Students,

I want to challenge you to do a dangerous thing—think!” Dr. Charles Johnson’s keynote speech at this year’s Freshman Colloquium provided a perfect transition from the lazy days of summer to the new fall semester for the Honors Program. While enjoying a full lunch catered by VSU Catering, over one hundred new Honors Program freshmen listened to the Professor of History’s appeal for critical thinking, one of the cornerstones of the Honors Program. After initial welcoming speeches by Dr. Ofélia Nikolova and Dean Richards of Arts & Sciences, HSA President Matt Schmidt and Vice President Chris Nish revved up the excite-

ment by throwing out some incredible door prizes. Many other HSA



members spent the morning registering students and inviting them to join HSA. With his engaging personality, Dr. Johnson easily impressed his audience during his keynote speech and got a few laughs, too. At the conclusion of his speech, Dr. Nikolova dismissed the students to their breakout groups for an intense discussion of their summer reading, “Slaughterhouse Five” by Kurt Vonnegut. The discussion leaders represented many different departments at VSU and were comprised of Dr. Nikolova, Dr. Johnson, Dr.

Christine James of Philosophy, Dr. Napoleon Bamfo, Dr. Michael Davey, Dr. Yakov Woldman, and Dr. Mihály Mózes, a visiting scholar from Hungary! Employees from CORE finished the afternoon with a variety of team-building exercises designed to help the students get to know one another in a fun and informal way. The 2010 Colloquium was an amazing success and a wonderful kick-off to the fall semester!

VSU HONORS PROGRAM

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Our World Traveller—Fearatious Hogan

Honors Program student Fearatious Hogan is on an adventure in Karlsruhe, Germany! The senior art major is currently studying abroad in Germany.

“Coming here from a place like Valdosta is different, yet it's the same. In Valdosta, I had to drive everywhere! Everything here is within walking distance, and that's really cool. What isn't convenient is that there are separate stores for food, toiletries, and things for the house, so I miss Wal-Mart a lot! I miss buying in bulk, which is impossible to do here since the food has no preservatives.

More and more people here are



educated enough to know a decent amount of English. I'm one of two people in my group of internationals who have only had 1 year of German studies while the rest have had at least 3 so I certainly want to improve, but I find that the Germans that I meet and hang out

with prefer to speak in English. And also in the stores if I'm struggling to say something or the person hears my "American accent," they will start speaking English to me. But I am determined to speak better German by the time I come home!

So far I'm realizing that there is SO MUCH life experience to be gained from this! I really appreciate the chance to do this; however, it's also made me realize how much I love being American, and that's something I more than likely would have never questioned had I never left to come here.”

Honors Fall Convocation



Dr. Schloss chats with Honors students before the start of the Convocation.

Over 150 students and faculty gathered on August 24 for the Honors Program Fall Opening Convocation. A record number of new freshmen attended, eager to immerse themselves in the Honors Program and begin their academic careers in earnest. This year's Convocation was held in the University Center's Magnolia Room for the first time. After giving an overview of the Honors Program's achievements from last year, Dr. Nikolova issued a challenge for this year's students: keep the Honors Program spirit alive through projects, community service, and undergraduate re-

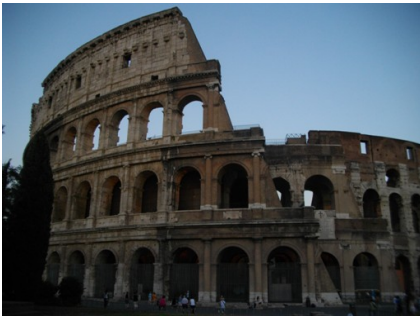
search! Dr. Schloss, President of VSU, gave a brief welcome to all those present and turned the floor over to Dr. Karla Hull, Interim Assistant Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, for some opening remarks. Dr. Connie Richards, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, encouraged the students to think about undergraduate research and national scholarships. She then introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. John Dunn of the History Department. Dr. Dunn was not a typical keynote speaker; in fact, he represented the individuality and creativity that the Honors Program encourages and nurtures. Various students referred to him as a “modern-day Indiana Jones” on

more than one occasion; with his fedora, he more than looked the part! Most importantly, however, Dr. Dunn presented a passionate view of his favorite subject and inspired students to research something they love. His address “Adventures in Research,” or, as he labeled it, “How Researching the Egyptian Army in the 1870s Leads to a Burlesque Show in New York City,” was both fascinating and amusing. Tracing his steps through London, England and Cairo, Egypt proved to students that research can be enjoyable and educational at the same time. Dr. Dunn emphasized the importance of undergraduate and graduate research to the Honors students, something Dr. Nikolova wholeheartedly agrees with! At the conclusion of his speech, Dr. Dunn offered this piece of advice to the students: “Get along with foreigners who conduct business differently, and you'll get some cake.” A tasty prospect indeed, Dr. Dunn!



HSA Students Study Abroad!

The Honors Program heavily emphasizes interdisciplinary education and studying in other countries; this summer, two Honors Student Association students represented the program in other parts of the world. Matt Schmidt, HSA President, spent his time in Italy. The International Research Education for Undergraduates



through the University of Florida allowed Matt the opportunity to travel to Trento, Italy to work on the Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA), a device to observe rotating neutron stars. Matt said, "All in all, this was a great experience in the country of Italy and a unique learning experience in the fields of gravitational and experimental physics."

HSA Treasurer Jennifer Stakich also caught the travelling bug, but she spent six weeks in London, England with the European Council study abroad program. She spent her time studying theatre and literature while taking field trips to locations that reinforced those studies, including



trips to Oxford, Stratford-upon-Avon, and Canterbury. As an English major, she thoroughly enjoyed her time studying Wordsworth, Keats, Shelley, and Shakespeare and visiting some locations that inspired them!

Honors Faculty—Dr. Ellen Lorraine Friedrich

The Honors Program is pleased to welcome Dr. Ellen Lorraine Friedrich to this year's Honors faculty. Dr. Friedrich is currently teaching one of the Honors Seminar 1990 classes; her class focuses on Arthurian legends and myths. Dr. Friedrich teaches for the Modern

and Classical Languages department.

*"Many of the students
actually ENJOY
reading!"*

On teaching an Honors class: "This is the beginning of my eighth year at VSU although it is also my 40th year teaching in total! Teaching an

Honors class is too new to me to have a favorite part in teaching it, but my first felicitous impressions are that many of the students actually enjoy reading, and moreover, some like to write! And I believe that all relish class discussions. All positive factors --a treat!"

The Freshman Voice

The Honors Program welcomed one of the largest freshman classes into the program this semester. Here's what our newest recruits are saying about their Honors experience thus far:

"I am extremely excited about the Honors Program. Everything I have experienced so far has been really exciting. The upperclassmen have all been very welcoming and nice. I look forward to everything the Honors Student Association has to offer this school year. "

--Ashley Land, Political Science major

"I like the interaction with the class and the professor and the ability to openly debate ideas."

--Tess Buis, Musical Theatre 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>

2010-2011 HSA Officers

President: Matt Schmidt

Vice President: Chris Nish

Secretary: Chelsie Norton

Treasurer: Jennifer Stakich

Community Service Coordinator: Amy Dandron

Freshman Board Advisor: Stephanie Byington

Undergraduate Research Coordinator: Kate Fix

Public Relations Officer: Courtney Terrell



Parents Weekend Academic Expo

The Honors Program was well represented at Parents Weekend on September 4th! Jay Prosser, Stephanie Byington, Adam Vaughn, Dawn Davenport, Marcel

Thanks to all the students who participated!

Smith, and Michael Collins all sacrificed their Saturday morning to talk about the Honors Program with parents and students. While

they did have a lot of fun, they also earned community service hours for participating and encouraging students to join the Honors Program.

Focus On...Our HSA Freshman Board Advisor STEPHANIE BYINGTON

If you ever have a question about VSU and the Honors Program, Stephanie Byington is the one to ask! Stephanie is the HSA Freshman Board Advisor. Translation=she is here to answer any freshman's questions or concerns! Stephanie is a sophomore and a newly-declared French and Spanish double major, and she says French is her favorite class

this semester. She is also involved in the Honors Haunted House, Up 'til Dawn, the VSU marching band, and the French Club.

