



The Honorific

From the Desk of the Director

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Editors-in-Chief: Logan Gee, Catherine Groh, and Cassidy Weese

Contributors: Megan Alper, Gillian D'Ambrosia, Schuyler Malak, Kelsey Oliveira, Krissy Roberts, Michelle Rush, Kendell Sokolow, Emma Torrey, and Briana Van Dorpe

The Honors year 2016-17 began with Honors Orientation, as we greeted 27 new Honors students at the Honors House on a sweltering Saturday afternoon. The new students—a slightly smaller group than usual—seemed to be even more enthusiastic than usual—and the new groups, led by advanced Honors students, got together to begin formulating ideas and plans for the academic year.

This fall has been a very active one for the Honors Program. We've already had (1) Death by Chocolate, (2) Honors Farm Day at the Living Acres Farm, led by the Servitors, (3) Board Games Night at the Honors House, (4) Two Dream-a-Thons where students from the Dreams, Dreams, Dreams class helped to interpret students' dreams, (5) Our annual Thesis-Writing Workshop, and (6) Our annual fall trip to the theatre, to see the play, "Finding Neverland." Record turnouts occurred at all of the events!

Once again, I can safely report that there were no major casualties at Death by Chocolate this year. We were treated to visits from Honors professors Lou Lichtman, Andy Eklund, and Provost Rick Stephens. The House Residents did a fabulous job of preparing the house and also contributing some delectable delights, themselves. Big Brothers/Sisters were introduced to their 'littles' and a very 'chill' party ensued. Of course, I don't know what that means but some of the chocolate cakes were cold so maybe I can say that with confidence. Thanks go out to all the Big Brothers and Big Sisters who volunteered to mentor the new first year students!

The fall field trip featured a journey to Rochester to the Auditorium Theatre to see a production of the play "Finding Neverland". Twenty two (students and faculty) folks boarded the bus and we were off!

It was a delightful musical that all of us seemed to enjoy quite a bit. This is not a version of Peter Pan—but the story of how Peter Pan was written. It was excellent! We had a great meal at the Thai restaurant, The King and I—and a terrific time seeing the play.

Our Dream-A-Thons have, apparently, moved into the category of ‘classic’ or maybe even ‘epic’. This event allows anyone from campus (but mostly Honors students) to come to the Terra Cotta, describe a dream to the students from the Dreams class, and get some thoughts/interpretations/insights into the meaning of their dreams. It’s not therapy but it is thought provoking and often quite enlightening. Approximately 100 dreams were analyzed in two marathon sessions!

Of course, the cornerstone of our program is still the Honors Seminars. It’s exciting that we have four brand new seminars being offered this spring: True Crime (Juliana Gray), Fashion and Print (Myles Calvert), Spirituality and Art (Karen Donnelan), and Wonder Woman (Laurie McFadden). Two classics—our Puzzles class (Andy Eklund and Garrett McGowan) and The Psychology and Science of Harry Potter (David DeGraff and Danielle Gagne) will also be offered. There were students on line to preregister for the Harry Potter class at 4:30 AM on sign-up day!

If you have any thoughts, ideas, or questions about the Honors Program, please feel free to contact me at: Atlas@Alfred.Edu. I love to hear from Honors Alums and find out what you’re up to. If you have any suggestions for the Honors Program, I’d love to hear them!

Also, as you may or may not know--the AU Honors Program now has a Facebook page! In addition to this, Siggie the Walrus is now on twitter, keeping everyone updated on what's happening in the Honors calendar. Be sure to like and follow both pages to keep on track!

Here is the information you need to get connected!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Alfred-University-Honors-Program-1502958470027588/timeline/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SiggieTheWalrus>

Use the hashtag #AlfredHonors when tweeting about us!



Gordon Atlas

(aka, The Walrus)

Fall 2016 Seminars

Monsters: From Folklore to Reality

In Dr. Eklund's Monsters class, students not only learn about Monsters, they experience them, too. Every week, groups of students present on different types of monsters such as monsters in nature, in politics, and in pop-culture. Between these presentations, students are given time to work on our "Build-Your-Own-Monster" projects and write our journal responses to the question of the week, which, of course, has to do with monsters. Dr. Eklund also arranges for several out of the classroom activities. These include Sunday scary movie nights, haunted hayrides, haunted house tours and even a trip to The Rolling Hills Asylum—a favorite for all honors students! A special addition to this year's out of class activities was a collaboration with the AU Equestrian Center's Haunted Hayride. Students from the class volunteered to help with promoting, setting up, and acting in the hayride to raise money for the AU Water for Haiti project.

- Logan Gee

Wanderlust

If you take this course, be prepared to wander around and learn your way around campus with this course! From Randolph Road to Otto's Walk, even Horse to Harvest, this class is a lot of walking, but also a lot of fun! It will be like nothing you have done before; you will enter into meditative walking, partner walks, and make both internal and external observations. Chase is an amazing professor who wants to keep you moving with new ideas, guest speakers, and slide shows with gorgeous images. This class has opened up my eyes to the world of walking!

- Megan Alper

Star Wars: Myth, Magic, & Mania

The class, Star Wars: Myth, Magic & Mania, is not just a group of fans discussing the plot of the movies; it is so much more! With the help of the book, Star Wars Psychology: Dark Side of the Mind by Travis Langley, students are able to learn and see a different side of the movies no fan has seen before. Topics from the book contribute to the in-class discussions about family ties, gender, prejudice, values, villainy, and heroism, and those are only from a few of the amazing chapters the book has to offer. Students also discuss important questions like what truly makes a hero and can Jedi be classified as a real religion—to provoke deeper thought. All in all, each student walks out of the two-hour session with their minds racing and in true awe. If you are in the Honor's program at Alfred University and are thinking about taking a seminar that is not only fun, but gets you involved in intellectual discussions about today's issues in society, then this one you will most definitely enjoy.

- Kendell Sokolow

Dreams, Dreams, Dreams

How many times have you woken up thinking, "wow, I just had the weirdest dream..?" Before taking the Honors course, "Dreams, Dreams, Dreams," I had no idea how many messages dreams could carry. Throughout this course, we each kept a dream journal to record, interpret, and analyze our dreams. This was a really interesting task because there were so many dreams I didn't think I'd remember, but after some focus I was able to recall so many things: people, sensations, places, events, and more! Looking back at my dream journal, I mostly had dreams that reflected my emotions, personal conflicts, and other stressors. My dreams were reflecting these things to highlight the importance of those events at that period in time. Some dreams contain hidden messages, and it can be really hard to wrap your head around some of the events that take place in dreams. But after sharing my dreams with my fellow classmates, I was able to gain new insight about some things that I was facing in my waking life. Being able to analyze your dreams is not only incredibly interesting, but it can be a useful skill to help you get through conflict; you just need to see what your dreams are trying to show you!

- Briana Van Dorpe

Fall 2016 Seminars Continued

Culture and Cuisine, Film and Food

This course will take you on a journey around the world, exploring the vast worldly trends of food and how they relate to the cultures from which they come. With hit movies like *Chocolat*, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, and *Pieces of April*, it is impossible to not have your tastes satisfied. As part of this course, students are able to cook new, unique foods and share them with the class! It is interesting to find out where food comes from, how it is made, and the science behind how humans continue to evolve food. All of this—plus the chance to openly debate with classmates are what makes “Culture and Cuisine, Film and Food” a melting pot of different interests for all to enjoy!

- Krissy Roberts

Drinking Up: The Science and History of Alcohol

I was initially unsure of what of a class that seemed entirely devoted to the study of alcohol would be like; however, it did not take long to catch the vibe of this seminar taught by Professor McGowan. It is exactly what it sounds like—a class about drinking. The seminar covers beer, wine, and distillates. The history of alcohol is delved into as we learn about why we have alcohol, where it came from, its medicinal purposes, use as social lubrication, place in religion and culture, and development in characterization. Students are expected to spend some time in the lab, where they brew beers and make wines. We also took some trips to local microbreweries and local farms or wineries. Research projects are also required (one for beer, one for wine, and one for distillates). A few times over the course of the semester, guest speakers came in to address lectures on one of the different alcohols and why their respective histories are significant. Overall, I have found this class to have the capabilities of being laid back while keeping the class intrigued, excited, and focused.

- Schuyler Malak

Soundtrack to Rebellion

The soundtrack to rebellion has by far been one of my favorite classes that I've taken here at AU. This course was heavily based on discussion and analysis of different sub genres of metal music along with how this music impacts its listeners. Coming to this class every week was refreshing and really allowed the students to form connections and learn more about each other and Dr. Byrne. One of my favorite parts of this class was being able to come in and just talk about the playlist we listened to that week and our own personal experiences and thoughts. The highlight of the course, though, was when we travelled to Buffalo in October to see a Hatebreed concert. It was fun to get ‘hands on experience’ from going to a concert and observing how different a metal show may be from other shows we had been to. Listening to music brings people together, and finding others with musical taste similar to my own made me feel more connected to the students here!

- Michelle Rush

Soft Core: Intro Textile Arts

Have you ever wanted to make your own silk scarf, create a hand-woven wall hanging, or enhance your clothes with embroidery? Get ready to give your fingers a workout. In this course we work with batik and other silk painting techniques, construct hand looms for weaving experiments, explore basic embroidery stitches for artworks and wearables, and look at historical and contemporary fiber artists for reference and inspiration. A student project is required. There is a fee to cover the costs of materials.

- Course Description

Honors Events

Death By Chocolate

Victoria Pellegrino

Sweet smells filled the air as veteran and rookie Honors students alike entered the Honors House. The Death by Chocolate reception is an Honors program tradition and an excellent opportunity to make friends with other dedicated, hardworking students. The awkward atmosphere quickly dissipated as big brothers and sisters welcomed incoming students with open arms, warm conversation, and, of course, dessert! It was a pleasure for everyone to finally meet their email pen pals in person while indulging in cupcakes, cakes, brownies and many other mouth-watering treats. Once everyone settled in with full stomachs, returning students were helpful in answering questions about the Honors Program, classes in general, and life here at Alfred University. Everyone left the reception abuzz about the seminars being offered this semester and eagerly chatting with new friends. There is absolutely no better way to kick off a new semester and a new school year than to celebrate with friends, classmates, and professors.



Dream-A-Thon

Kelsey Oliveira

Hosting its annual Dream-A-Thons, the Honors seminar “Dreams, Dreams, Dreams” was back in action this fall semester. A unique experience for both the interpreter and the dreamer, Dream-A-Thon is a collaborative event which can lead people closer to an understanding of their own dreams. Dreamers rolled into Terra Cotta café and began to divulge what goes on during their sleep. Some dreams were elaborate with vivid details; others were simple. Students from the Dreams class offered various interpretations, and also had help from others outside of the class to better understand the dreams. The class held two Dream-A-Thons this semester, as they usually do, and each one had the Terra Cotta packed with dreamers. Though the nights seemed to end too soon, the Dream-A-Thons were successfully concluded, and everyone went home to dream some more.



Spring 2017 Seminars

Alfred E. Nigmas

Throughout history, societies have used puzzles for relaxation and encrypting information. More recently, it has been shown that puzzles are an excellent means to flex your brain, to build cognitive ability and maintain mental health as we age. In this course, we study, develop, and solve puzzles of many forms - numerical, alphabetical (words), and mechanical. In addition to focusing on the history and importance of cryptography, ciphers ranging from simple substitution to technologically advanced systems are discussed.

Muggles, Magic, and Mischief: The Science and Psychology of Harry Potter

Attention Muggles! Educational Decree #1836 mandates a course be offered entitled "Muggles, Magic, and Mischief." Rowling's world of witchcraft and wizardry provides a window into the human psyche and the mysteries of science. Students and their housemates will examine the human and wizarding world through weekly quizzes and one final presentation on topics related to: the universal appeal of magic; Quidditch as a sport; invisibility, travel through time and by floo; the unnatural biology of magical creatures; teenage angst, friendships, and romance; the nature of evil; and potions. (NOTE: All seven books should be read before start of term).

True Crime

Jack the Ripper. Lizzie Borden. The Lindbergh baby. O.J. Simpson. These and other true crime stories gripped the public imagination and permanently changed popular culture-- but why? This seminar will examine some of history's most famous crimes, questioning how gender, class, race, and other factors affect how certain crimes impact our consciousness while others fade away. Students present on a famous true crime case, and in their final projects create a film, essay, or independent investigation on a true crime that isn't famous, but should be.

Fashion and Print: What Are They Wearing?

Explore recent history of printed clothing through social media and popular culture. Get a hands on approach in all aspects of designing, printing, and wearing your own screen printed creations. We discuss color theory, practical design elements, Photoshop, and of course all the current trends shaping what is commercially sold in stores. A final critique of your 'mini collections' in the form of a gallery opening will showcase your talents. A lab fee is required to cover some materials.

Spirituality and Art

The main objective of this course is to explore the topic of spirituality as part of a creative practice. We begin with an exploration of artists touching on spirituality in their practice. Readings on Mariko Mori, Yoko Ono and John Cage will launch the weekly class discussions. The direction of the course will be student led. Possible additions for the class could include meditations, an introduction to sound healing and energy work; or intuition development as a creative tool. Assignments include a journal and smaller interim visual or written projects, which will lead to a final project.

Wonder Woman: Window into Pop Culture, Women's Issues, & Child Psychology

Created in 1941, Wonder Woman is the oldest and most popular female comic book hero. While well-ingrained in society today, her character and comic books in general created national backlash and tension in their early years. Using the book "The Secret History of Wonder Woman" by Jill LePore, this class explores the interwoven topics of women's rights, pop culture, comic books, and child psychology during the mid-20th century. Discussion, guest lecturers, readings, films, and primary sources of the day additionally help illustrate and expand upon the issues.

Creative Expression

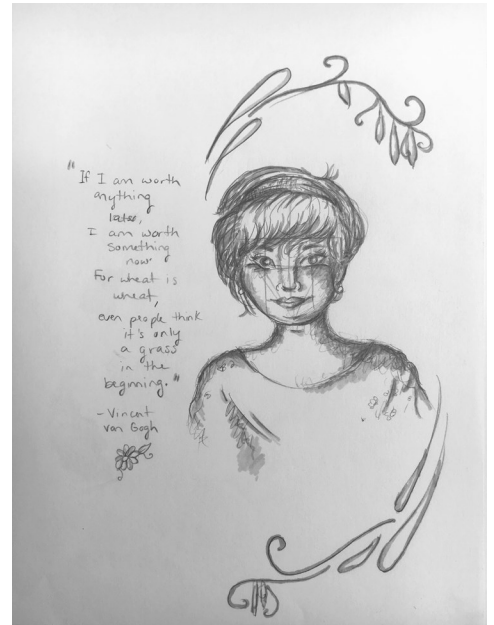
by AU Honors Students



Thank You

by Emma Torrey

Walking scared and lost,
I knew not what to do.
Light shined through a doorway,
calling me to you.
I did not know it then,
I barely know it now,
the things that you would teach me,
the things you'd show me how.
I walked in scared and new,
and walked out tough and strong.
The years of love and friendship,
the path you led me on.
I owe it all to you,
I owe you everything,
for this scared helpless girl,
you taught her how to sing.



Self-Portrait
by Gillian D'Ambroisa



"Mushroom Girl"
by Gillian D'Ambroisa





All hands on deck at Honors Orientation, August 2016.



A day of manual (muddy) labor at Living Acres Farm, Alfred Station



Reverend Timothy Hawk from Elmira Correctional Facility entertains some “Big Questions”



Students make their first big decision of the year: what color Honors shirt to choose???

The Alfred University Honors Program
Saxon Drive
Alfred, NY 14802-1296

