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# *The Honors Connection*

Winter  
 2015-16

## Honors Reimagined

By Shannon Mahoney

The 2015 fall semester not only brought new students, classes and activities for the Honors Concentration, it also kick started the move toward a fresh look for the Concentration as a whole. Collaboration between a bright, creative student, a professional graphic designer and the Concentration's own Director and Coordinator, Dr. Talley and Dr. diNovi, resulted in a clean, unique design that perfectly showcases the message and goal of Honors.

Three diamonds featuring a light bulb, fern and an open hand accent the title of the Concentration. The symbols shown in Rowan's signature golden color stand for a simple phrase that sums up what the Honors Concentration is all about. "Think. Thrive. Share." now stands as the face of the program. This simple phrase embodies what the Concentration is all about: offering active learning opportunities for its students in a community that is equally dedicated to the importance of service

*There is much to look forward to in the future from the Honors Concentration. It's only just the beginning!*

and understandings of what it means to thrive as an undergraduate.

The process began with a student focus group held by Dr. Talley and Dr. diNovi that involved a handful of volunteers from the Honors Concentration. Casey Shea, one of the students responsible for brainstorming the new design, started the process by sketching her ideas out and sharing them with the group. After receiving an enthusiastic response from the Concentration's Director, the designs were brought to a professional graphic designer through Dr. diNovi. She acted as liaison between the designer and the Concentration, bringing the design even closer to completion. Thus, the new look was born!

The new Honors look bookmarked the first step toward a new era for the Concentration. With additional honors-only classes, plus new service and activity opportunities happening nearly every week, the Concentration plans to continue its expansion of learning so its students can think, thrive, and share. There is much to look forward to in the future from the Honors Concentration. It's only just the beginning!

## The Honors First Year Reception

By Emily Yanchuck and Shannon Mahoney

Out from the coziness and familiarity of high school, came this year's freshman class: eager yet a bit nervous to encounter the world of college that was new to them. The first few weeks of college were filled with events focused on finding a home within the Concentration. In early October, students got the opportunity to go beyond Honors and meet administrators from every college on campus. The Annual Honors First Year Reception is a well-attended event, since students love to dress up and eat a dinner far better than the normal dining hall fare.

After filling their plates and finding a seat at one of the many tables around the room, the event moved forward with words of wisdom from the HSO President, Rebecca Crowther, followed by a rousing speech of encouragement from the Provost, Dr. James Newell.

There were deans from

each college who attended the event and gave the students an opportunity to approach them and ask questions.

When asked about the event and reaching out to the Deans, one student recalled, "For such important people [of Rowan] the mood was really casual, it felt like there was no real pressure, just conversation." Before the event was over, students took advantage of this chance and reached out to some of the most distinguished faculty on campus.

The reception provides a chance for students and faculty to interact with one another outside of the typical classroom setting. Events that promote these connections and build these relationships early on the college career are a central part of the Bantivoglio Honors Concentration. When ambition has the chance to meet opportunity, the roots of success can take hold.

# National Collegiate Honors Council Conference

## Honors Student Organization Executive Board members attended the Chicago event to network and exchange ideas

By Emily Yanchuck

This past November, Dr. Talley, Dr. diNovi, and four Honors Student Organization Executive Board members traveled to Chicago to attend the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference. This three-day conference was devoted to networking, learning, and sharing ideas about everything Honors.

For Rebecca Crowther, Rebecca Murray, Hannah Waxman, and Emily Yanchuck, the first day of the conference was dedicated to going out into Chicago through the conference's 'City as Text' program. They visited the Magnificent Mile, the Chicago Riverwalk, and the Gold Coast. This city 'orientation' allowed them to explore the different areas of Chicago alongside students and professors from across the country, all of whom they had never met before.

The second day began with a poster fair. Students from Honors programs across the country presented research

they conducted. Crowther proudly presented a poster, noting that she benefited from the "great opportunity to hone [her] presenting skills, while getting feedback and ideas from other researchers."

The second and third days of the conference were committed to student- and faculty-led sessions concerning all aspects of Honors life. From classes to communications, there was something that interested everyone! Each attendee went to the sessions that they believed were in their best interests when it came to Honors. Drs. Talley and diNovi attended sessions regarding alumni involvement, faculty searches, and how to improve the honors program. The e-board members attended sessions about topics such as research, peer mentoring, and marketing honors programs.

The Concentration can expect to see the benefits of their representatives attending the program in the future. Waxman said, "I'm excited to be able to apply many of the ideas I learned at this conference to help fur-

ther advance our program at Rowan." Murray stated that she was eager to take an idea sparked by a conference session and "apply it to something in our program, or create something new to benefit our students." Though the conference was only three days long, the information gained while attending will continue to influence Honors and benefit its members for years to come.



Both subgroups perform at least once each semester. Typically, they perform jazz charts, but they also play music that fits with the theme of the events at which they perform. This semester, they performed at the Homecoming Float Parade and the Honors Holiday Party. In the future, the group plans to perform more regularly.

"This spring we hope to perform at the Honors Semi-Formal and host our first concert," said member Ben Muska. "Our performances are not only fun for our members, but they also help to get the word out about our group so we can continue to expand and perform."

The Jazz Band does more than just play music – they are involved in both the concentration and on campus.

"We are trying our best to increase

our presence on campus. For example, this year we competed in the Homecoming competition, where we placed third in the Battleship event," said group leader Harry Hawkins. "We love that we are able to provide an opportunity to all honors students who love playing music and that we are able to help everyone in the group get more involved on campus."

The Honors Jazz Band is always looking for new members. They do not hold tryouts and accept all Honors students looking for a great opportunity to play music with fellow members of the Honors Program.

Looking to join the Honors Jazz Band or attend a performance? Email Harry Hawkins at hawkinsh0@students.rowan.edu.



## Student Spotlight



*Honors engineers use their talents to create and collaborate*

By Amanda Tursi

Nicholas Calzaretto, a Sophomore Mechanical Engineering major, conducted an internship at NAVSEAS at the Naval Yard in Philadelphia this past summer. He worked on an automated cable tester project, a device that can instantly check the continuity of all the signals in a cable. During his research experience, he gained

valuable knowledge with designing and soldering circuit boards, using CAD software such as SolidWorks and AutoCAD, programming, and analog pass/fail continuity check using LabVIEW.

Senior Honors students Gabrielle Rochino, a Mechanical Engineering major, and Samantha Winterburn, a Chemical Engineering major, are a part of the engineering

clinic team for *Think Like A Girl: Engineering Kits*. The kits encourage girls ages 6-12+ to learn the basics of engineering in a fun manner through activities utilizing girls' interests. The idea won first place in the Rohrer College of Business 2015 Elevator Pitch Competition. Recently, the team also won first place in the regional InnovateHER competition hosted at Camden CoLab.

They were granted a Student Fellowship, giving the team free membership and office space. The team is currently working in collaboration with the Scientista Foundation, the New York Academy of Sciences, and Dassault Systèmes SOLIDWORKS. These achievements led to features in the Courier Post, SJ Magazine, and the Philadelphia Inquirer.

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## Professor Spotlight



*Deborah Woodell, Journalism Professor*

By Nicole Krosnowski

Are you looking for an interesting honors course that will challenge you to focus on important issues in the social sciences and current events that are often overlooked? Hone your writing skills, while uncovering important topics in rural news by taking Honors Rural Issues in the News with adjunct professor, Deborah Woodell.

For the past 16 years, Woodell has taught at Rowan University and this year marks her fourth year of teaching this class, which explores the topic of rural news and environments. Woodell enjoys teaching this class to honors students to bring attention to a topic that affects many of us, even though we tend to let it fall by the wayside.

In this class, students will pick a topic to research indepen-

dently as well as maintain a blog used to post updates, current events, and primary research they conduct. Woodell encourages students to pick a subject they have a personal interest in so they enjoy digging deeper into the issue. Issues that students have covered in the past include small businesses in rural towns, rural education systems, and the digital age in rural areas.

Woodell always keeps the class engaged by showing stimulating movies that open students' eyes to the issues rural communities still face today. She encourages class discussions that allow students to ask questions and uncover facts. She is a journalism scholar herself, as she received her BA in communications, with a specialization in journalism from Glassboro State College prior to working on the sports copydesk at the *Phila-*

*delphia Daily News*, a job she's held since 1989. Woodell has plenty of knowledge and wisdom that shines through in her passion for writing and covering news that she later shares with her students. Her favorite part about teaching this course is the variety of material covered, since all students pick different topics and present

them to the class. Everyone's proposals vary, so the amount of knowledge the students and professor learn is vast. If you are looking to immerse yourself in an intellectual, high-level journalism course while getting the opportunity to research a topic of your choosing, consider taking Woodell's class next spring semester!



## Jazz it up!

By Casey Shea

If you hear jazz music in the Whitney Center, it is most likely coming from a member of the Honors Jazz Band.

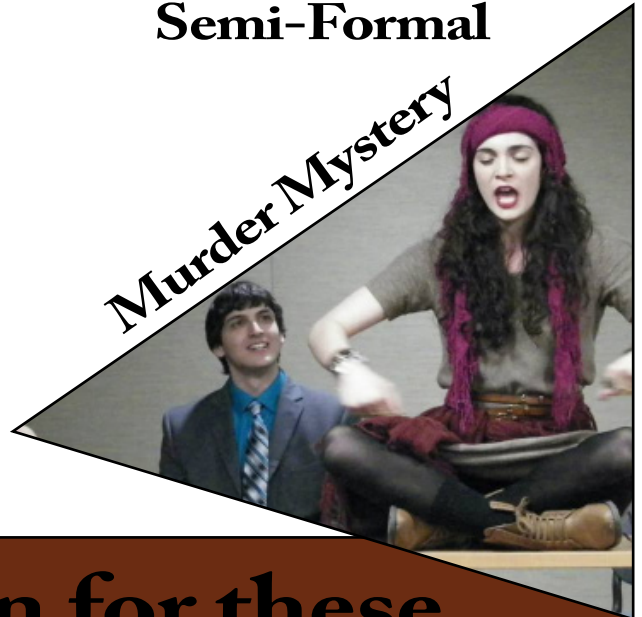
Founded in fall 2014, the group has now expanded to include 30 members. The mission of the organization is to provide music and non-music majors alike with the opportunity to play jazz in an ensemble setting. The group meets weekly for rehearsals and includes two subgroups: the jazz combo group and chamber group.

## Mütter Museum Trip



## Semi-Formal

## Murder Mystery



# Keep an eye open for these exciting spring events!

By Casey Shea

### Semi-Formal

This is the perfect opportunity to get dressed up and enjoy a fun night of dancing with all of your honors friends. You may even get the chance to hear from our very own Honors Jazz Band! The semi-formal will take place on Friday, February 26th at 7:00pm in the Ballroom.

### Cabaret

New this year! Our very own honors talent show. The event will take place in a Rowan performance hall and will feature acts from honors students with a variety of talents. Interested in performing? Start practicing your act and get ready for tryouts, which are March 4th! Take advantage of this great opportunity to come out and appreciate the talents of your fellow honors students. The Cabaret will be on April 1st in Boyd Recital Hall at 8:00pm.

### Murder Mystery Dinner

Free dinner and a front row seat to the drama await you at this annual sell-out Honors event, which will take place in the Ballroom on Sunday, March 6th at 6:30pm. Take your guess at "who-dun-it" while enjoying the incredible acting talents of our very own Honors students.

### Off-Campus Trips

Off-Campus honors trips are always exciting! Past trips include the Mütter Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, hikes, and more. This semester be on the lookout for more fun trips. These trips are a great way to get to know fellow students in the Concentration, earn Honors participation hours, and learn something new.

### Senior Send-Off

Seniors – the end is near! Get ready to enjoy one final event with your Honors friends and family to celebrate all of your successes from the past four years. It will be sad to see you leave, but we look forward to seeing what your future holds! The celebration will be held on April 26th in the Ballroom, at a time to be determined.

### Honors Groups

Honors has an diverse list of Honors activities. We currently have 16 groups— almost double the amount of groups from last year. From chess to cooking, there's always something to do in Honors!