Spring 2010

The Promethean: Spring 2010

Justin Jackson
*The College at Brockport*

Danielle Barthel
*The College at Brockport, debarthel@gmail.com*

Jessica Geraci
*The College at Brockport, jgeraci11@gmail.com*

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/promethean

Repository Citation
https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/promethean/11

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Honors College at The College at Brockport at Digital Commons @Brockport. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Promethean Honors newsletter by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @Brockport. For more information, please contact kmyers@brockport.edu.
My name is Kelly Sabetta, and I am the Founder and President of Betta Book Publishing, a local company that helps authors self-publish their work. By gaining a thorough understanding of their project, progress, and intended goals for their audience, we help writers achieve their dream of being published.

Since 2008, I’ve watched my business grow as I prepared the foundation for its success, which I may not have been able to achieve if I had not pursued my chosen path. In 2005, I transferred to The College at Brockport from MCC, as I felt Brockport was the perfect fit for me in continuing my college education. Similar to my experience at MCC, I also delved right into the campus, getting involved in as many activities as I possibly could.

As a journalism major, I became involved in every campus publication, interned at the Marketing Communications Office, became Public Relations Coordinator—and later President of Lambda Pi Eta—and became active in Alpha Chi. In addition to all of this, I even created a position for myself as the Honors Program Newsletter Editor. It was during my very first class on campus that I was offered an opportunity to jumpstart the Honors publication, and I quickly accepted the task!

The hours of precious time that I spent forming the Newsletter, content, campus participation, etc., was just the experience I needed, as I also felt a need in the campus community for such a publication. Similar to the Newsletter, after graduating from college I quickly identified a need in the community to help publish the work of others. I didn’t know it at the time of starting the Honors Newsletter, but publishing others grew to be a passion of mine, a path that was meant for me as I embarked on my new journey after graduating.

My experiences of being involved in the Honors Program and the Newsletter helped pave the way for future students to continue the founded tradition, but also for me as I created my own career, a path that was not yet taken by anyone else in our region.  

(Continued on page 3)
With the 2009-10 academic year quickly coming to a close, many Honors students are looking forward to summer break activities—whether it’s studying abroad, working with faculty on research projects, gaining professional experience in internships, making progress on the Honors thesis, vacationing with family and friends, or simply making some money in a summer job. However, for graduating seniors, the close of the academic year is especially exciting because it signals the completion of their baccalaureate degree. On Friday, May 14 at 4:00 pm in the New York room of Cooper Hall, graduating seniors who have completed the College Honors Program curriculum will participate in a special ceremony that recognizes their academic success.

The Honors Graduation Ceremony is held each May on the day before the college-wide Commencement Ceremony. During the ceremony, graduating Honors students are formally presented the ‘Prometheus Medal’ by their Thesis Director. The senior thesis is considered the capstone experience of an Honors education not only because it is a major scholarly or creative project, but because it is a unique expression of each student’s intellectual or artistic curiosity and involves working closely with a faculty member who shares that same curiosity. Therefore, it is most fitting that Honors students are ‘hooded’ with the Prometheus Medal by their Thesis Director.

The ‘Prometheus Medal’ was specially designed for our program by Robert Marx, Emeritus Professor of Art. Cast in bronze, the medal weighs over one pound and depicts the face of Prometheus surrounded by beams of light. Inspiration for the medal design came from the Prometheus sculpture featured in front of the Allen Administration Building on New Campus Drive. According to Greek mythology, Prometheus symbolizes the characteristics of intelligence, creativity, and inventiveness—and this symbolism is further captured in the new Honors Lounge mural. (By the way, if you haven’t seen it yet, it’s worth making a special trip to the lounge in 219 Holmes!)

Honors students are among The College at Brockport’s most talented and accomplished—not only in academics but through community service contributions on campus and in the surrounding area. And, whether they continue on to graduate school, embark on a professional career, build a family, or engage themselves in civic life, Brockport Honors students are equipped to make a difference in the world. In each issue of The Promethean, readers will get a snapshot of how Honors students have taken advantage of a diverse set of opportunities and learning experiences; and hopefully this will inspire each one of us—students and faculty alike—to strive continually “to learn, to search, and to serve.”

Dr. Donna Kowal, Honors Program Director

Congratulations Honor Student Award Recipients!

Honors Program Scholar Award Recipients:
Amanda Dix    Thomas Happell    Natalie Pilakouta

Honors Program Outstanding Senior Award Recipient:
Claire Gravelin

Honors Program Recipients of the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence:
Thomas Happell    Natalie Pilakouta    Tsvetsomira Radeva
I’m very proud to see the progress that both projects have taken on, as well as their futures, as we know that much success lies ahead!

Now, with my company, I help authors publish their books, which range from fiction, non-fiction, and children’s, to business and beyond! I assist authors through services such as book registration, manuscript development, editing, layout, illustrations, graphic design, publicity, marketing, and printing.

Throughout the past two years, my company has continued to grow, as we are offering even more amazing opportunities for those in the Greater Rochester Area. Our most recent endeavor is Betta Book Publishing’s Annual Writing Contest. It’s open exclusively for those in our community, and rewards the first, second, and third place winners with extensive prizes including cash, gift packages, and an array of services!

For more information about Betta Book Publishing and our Annual Writing Contest, please visit our Web site, www.bettabookpublishing.com or contact us at publisher@bettabookpublishing.com.

---

The following students were inducted in The College at Brockport Omicron NY Chapter of Alpha Chi:

Michael Adams
Jessica D. Alawi-Dugovic
Melissa Allen
Henry Andrew Anderson
Erin Barone
James A. Battaglia
Christopher M. Berardini
Ketan Bhalala
Bryan Matthew Blumlein
Rael Brown
Ryan I. Burke
Heather N. Carroll
Seamus P. Clarkin II
John Colapietro
Erin Corey
Eric Cruz
Joseph D’Ambrosia
Timothy Dorsheimer
Katrina Marie Durnberg
Monica Eichner
Christopher S. Frate
Alexandra Ann Genter
Martin Georgiev
Jessica Geraci

Jessica Lateer
John Slade Lellock
Adrian R. Milroy
Katrina S. Parker
Tarran C. Phelan
Holly Lynn Redman
Daniel Rider
Nicholas J. Sampson
Frank V. Schoeneman
Carl T. Schrader
Jennifer Shalke
Robert Shaw
Priscilla LeeAnn Shroud
Krysta Smith
Gregory C. Swan Jr
Jessica R. Sweger
Devon Leigh Thomas
Melody Louise Vanacore
Robert F. Voigt
Richard B. Ward
Elissa Webster
Lisa Williams
Andrea M. Wilson
Megan S. Wilson
Stephanie M. Zalyski

Daniel F. Grashof
Matthew S. Haintz
Katrina M. Haude
Nicole C. Jablonski
Kelsey L. James
Scott A. James
Angela A. Johanning
Corey A. Jones
William Klein
Heather M. Kleinschmidt
Olga A. Kravets
Jillian M. Kreppel
The Honors Senior Thesis is the capstone project for the Honors Program and is the culmination of semesters of hard work and dedication. Below are some thesis topics from the Honors senior class of 2010:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>She Matters: The Process of Writing a Novel</td>
<td>International Convergence of Accounting Standards: IFRS or GAAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear Solutions for Obesity</td>
<td>Terror Alert Level: Red- The Modern Day &quot;Red Scare&quot;; Islamaphobia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nature of Texting</td>
<td>Population Cycling and Ecology of Botfly Parasitism in White-Footed Mice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isolation in the Human Experience</td>
<td>The Causes of Opinions on Gun Control: The Electorate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletes in Civil Rights Movement</td>
<td>The Art of Film Criticism: To see or not to see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exxon Mobil 2060</td>
<td>Students Guide to the Brockport Adolescent Inclusive Education Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repetition in the Math Classroom</td>
<td>Effects of the Influence Pandemic of 1918</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AN IRISH EXPERIENCE: STUDYING ABROAD IN DUBLIN**

BY CHRIS WELLS, JOURNALISM MAJOR

When I reminisce about my time studying at Griffith College in Dublin, three people come to mind. They are each from a different country, have different interests, and associate with different people. But it’s this diversity that made my experience overseas a memorable one.

Paul Mullally, despite being born and raised in Ireland, was intentionally given an English name. You see, he was born during a recession. Assuming he would have to emigrate in typical Irish fashion to find work, his mother named him Paul. However, Paul has stayed in the country. He found work with the international office at Griffith College, and helped make my transition to Griffith as painless as possible. I was also fortunate enough in Dublin to have a Parisian roommate, Damien. During my time in Dublin, Damien and I developed a close friendship. Through conversation with him I was able to learn a lot about French culture, brush up on my once-impressive French language skills and add to his knowledge of American culture. My constant desire for American-style hamburgers was fascinating to him, and his interest in comic magazines was intriguing to me. The third person that comes to mind is someone with whom I only had brief contact. During a trip to Belfast in Northern Ireland, I stayed at a hostel where I met a German student who worked there. While socializing with the other residents and staff members, I began to ask her questions about what it was like to grow up in Germany. She was eager to respond, but confused as to why I was so intrigued. When she asked me why I was so interested, I told her it was simply because her childhood was different from my own. It is these kinds of experiences that I will cherish forever. Ireland had a lot to offer. It has a rich history, a thriving culture and plenty of opportunities for young people to enjoy themselves. The majestic landscapes of places like Wicklow and the Cliffs of Moher captured my imagination, and the laughs I had at the historic pubs and restaurants in Dublin and Galway were an important part of my experience.

However, these experiences are not the defining feature of my time in Ireland. For me, it is the people that made the difference. I have made friends from many different backgrounds, been exposed to new ideas, and found new ways to look at the world. It is these interactions that made my experience in Ireland unforgettable, and it is these interactions that I will remember forever. Like the rolling hills of the Irish countryside, these memories will always be there, making my experience in Ireland truly timeless.
Ever since I can remember, I have wanted to go to England. So, when I created a four year plan in my freshman year, I made sure to leave my Spring 2010 term free to study abroad. I stuck to my plan, and my research and determination brought me to the gorgeous city of York, England this year.

I arrived in mid-January, which is not the most beautiful time of year for the U.K. It was cold and there was a bit of snow, but most of all, a light and incredibly annoying sheet of rain would fall almost every day. And of course I left my umbrella on a bus in London on my very first weekend there!

But I didn’t mind the rain much after the first few weeks, because I loved everything else about York. The city itself is walled, and is one of the last of its kind in Europe. The streets are small and winding, and lead to a gothic cathedral called the York Minster. It was fun to get to know the city and eventually be able to walk around and lose myself in my surroundings, without actually getting lost.

The university was equally enchanting. York is a fairly young school compared to its counterparts at Oxford and Cambridge. Established in the 1960s, it houses a massive, sprawling campus many times larger than Brockport, which made learning my way around pretty difficult at first. But like anything, it became second nature to walk around before long.

Taking classes at York was to be quite different than home. In England, I took one class which made up the entirety of my course load, and was only expected in class for six hours… per week! When I found this out, I was stunned. Most people expect anywhere from 12-17 hours in class each week at Brockport. The English course abroad is much more focused on independent study; we were given a general reading list, as well as criticism about each week’s assignment. There were two types of classes as well: lectures and seminars. Lectures were fairly self-explanatory, and seminars were small, interactive classes where we got to know our teachers and fellow students quite well. I enjoyed that version of learning the best.

But besides the beautiful town and fantastic university, the best part of my experience centered around the people I met. I was lucky enough to be housed with kind, outgoing, inviting people who quickly accepted me as a member of the house, and showed me around the university and town. I also met other international students who were going through the same things as me, which was really helpful when I needed to talk to someone. Having people to share your experiences and explore new places with is both priceless and the most valuable aspect of traveling.

I’ve been home for a few weeks now and I already miss England. While I saw many interesting places, my favorite was absolutely York, and I plan to return as soon as I can. I recommend studying abroad to anyone interested in meeting new people, expanding your horizons, and having a once in a lifetime experience.
Someday we’ll look back on this…and run into a parked car. Don’t think it won’t happen. It’s about that time, you know. The time to reflect on things that have passed, and look to the future, and hopefully you’ll be able to do it with pride and some amusement. While it’s not quite a mantra for how to live your life, its more or less how I look back on my college years, especially my time spent working with the Honors Program. Even though I wasn’t able to graduate from the Program, the Honors Program left me with the direction I needed to become successful.

The thing is there’s a lot that goes unsaid about the Honors Program. Yes, it has a lot of the “nerdy” kids. Yes, you’re challenged academically. Yes, they even let people like me in who don’t like to proofread, and who will more than likely get reamed by the English professors here for poor grammar. And, regardless of all that, I loved Honors. Quite frankly, I owe a lot to the Program. Without it, I wouldn’t have been able to practice staying up all night, multi-tasking, or learning how to make e-mails sent to an entire program entertaining. These are life lessons that should be cherished and appreciated.

In all seriousness, I couldn’t have asked for a better way to start my life as a college student. The friendships I made are priceless, and the lessons I’ve learned are unparalleled. I still get emails from my first year mentors, and I still see some of my mentees. It’s very ‘Circle of Life’-esque. When I get to the bare bones though, I owe it to Honors for giving me the ability to do what I love. I came into this school looking to be a research biologist, but that passion was soon transferred when I discovered WBSU, 89.1 The Point. Very soon after I began school here, I joined the radio station, and began to figure out that that’s where my niche is. And I haven’t looked back since.

So how does Honors play into this? Well, I picked up a second major my junior year in Broadcast Communications, alongside my Biology major and to really elicit some sideways glances from people. Seriously, who else do you know who’s a Biology and Broadcast Communications major? Bill Nye, that’s who. But I digress. I wouldn’t have had the freedom to even consider a second major without the freedom the Honors program allowed me with making my schedule. If it hadn’t been for my mentors taking me through the campus on my first weekend in Brockport, I wouldn’t have even seen the recruitment poster for 89.1 The Point. It’s a bit convoluted, but take it home, chew on it, and it’ll all make sense to you.

As of right now, I’m still slaving away in the radio industry, and I couldn’t be happier. I currently work for Entercom Rochester doing any number of jobs including On-air, production, traffic reporter, and working as a promotions representative. I also work at two other independent production companies, helping to produce commercials for other markets located throughout the country. I go to work every day looking forward to seeing everyone again. I may not be living the dream, but it’s a work in progress.

I do miss college some days. And others I just appreciate knowing I experienced everything that I did when I was there. I’m not anywhere close to where I thought I’d be when I graduated high school. But that’s what I love about it. Cherish your precious life, and don’t get into any strange vans. Just saying.
Having transferred into The College at Brockport from a relatively small out-of-area school, one can only imagine how terrified it would have been to have to navigate an area one is not used to. Fortunately, I was prepared enough to remember to print out a map which made me almost as informed about locations as current students.

My orientation into the Brockport system was fabulous. I met with Dr Kowal during registration and we discussed what my options for classes were for the semester. That discussion has been one of the best decisions I have made so far! My Honors class is fantastic! I have never been involved in anything of that sort. It is the most engaging three-hour class I have ever taken. The professor is very knowledgeable and has a profound style of communicating ideas. My course mates are practically like friends. It suffices to say that the class is a pure balance of academia and the real world. I’m loving every minute of it (‘til the research papers are due).

The Honors Club hosted its second annual Improv Night on Wednesday, April 21st, featuring Honors Improv Professor Susan Hopkins. For the approximately 20 students who attended, Hopkins selected four games for the event: A circle name game kicked off the event, in which students had to name everyone before them in the circle before she could introduce herself. A rapid questions warm up followed, where each student traveled around the circle, answering questions that shed light on the student’s life and interests. Groups of students then entertained the remainder of the audience with the games Hitchhiker and Whose Line. Hitchhiker involved a driver and three hitchhikers. Each hitchhiker had to bring with them a personality to share with the driver and other passengers, and as the hitchhikers left, they had to revert back to the previous personality.

Honors student Justin Jackson stole the show with his Whose Line character, Mr. Force. Apart from being one with the force, Mr. Force also suffered from schizophrenia. The scene which he and his partner Erica played involved an interview for employment into a company. Erica, nor anyone in the crowd, could keep a straight face with Jackson’s responses and actions.

This year’s Improv night was open to the entire campus, and many who attended were either Honors students who had taken or were currently enrolled in the Honors Improv section, or students from Hopkins’ regular Improv classes. Justin commented after the event that he would like to see an Improv night held once per semester. He also stated that an ‘Advanced’ Honors Improv course would be a terrific idea, one which Hopkins approved of as well. Overall, the event was a rousing and hilarious success.
HONORS CLUB PRESIDENTS: PAST AND FUTURE
BY CLAIRE GRAVELIN AND JENNIFER BRYANT

2009-2010 Honors Club President: Claire Gravelin

I was asked to write a formal “goodbye” letter to all of you – however, while I am saying goodbye, I would like to focus on my gratitude and appreciation for the program and for all of you allowing me to be involved in it. I’d like to thank you all for letting me be a part of your family for the past four years. The students and faculty that make up this program have truly inspired me and helped to make my undergraduate experience memorable and enjoyable. I met many of my closest friends through the Honors program, and am sad to think that I will not see many of these wonderful people I’ve met across the years once we graduate.

To all of the peer mentors, what you do really does make a difference in a student’s college experience – it was my experience being mentored as a freshman that made me want to get involved with the entire program. I have been an active member of the Honors club since my freshman year, working my way up the ranks. Every position was a wonderful experience and helped me grow as a person. I leave Brockport completely confident in my intelligence and independence, and the Honors Program is largely responsible for this. A “thank you” does not seem to completely express my gratitude for being welcomed by you all, so the best way I can give back to the program is by offering fellow students some advice—challenge yourself, make the most of your time, and make a difference.

To all my friends here in the Honors Program – whether you are graduating this year or not, thank you for making my experience at Brockport truly amazing. While next year I’ll be a thousand miles away, I hope you all will stay in touch. We all can get caught up in our hectic schedules and lose sight of the importance of returning a phone call or answering an email, but I will make an effort to take five minutes out of my day to check in with the people here that have done so much for me. I wish you all the best of luck with wherever you go from here. Thank you all for welcoming me into the Honors family. Take care and please keep in touch.

2010-2011 Honors Club President: Jennifer Bryant

First off, I would like to say congratulations to all the Seniors in the Honors Program who will be graduating this May. The challenges you have faced and the rewards you have reaped during your time at Brockport are commendable and will stay with you forever. I look forward to taking over the reins of the Honors Club this fall. I have big shoes to fill with the departure of our current President, Claire Gravelin. I make it my promise to you all that I will learn all I can from her about our distinguished program.

Next school year I will be continuing with many of the same programs that we participated in this year such as Improv Night, the Cassidy Ball, and Relay for Life. However, in the fall we will begin looking at guest speakers, one idea that I have is inviting one of the Lost Boys of the Sudan. My passion is the environment and I hope to be able to incorporate that into the Honors Club and the program. I would like to see us sponsor the Cool Kids Eco Fest, perhaps along with other green initiative clubs here at Brockport. I would also like to find a way to incorporate more involvement from our transfer students. My main goal for the new school year will be to get our program and its members more recognition on campus. This means that I would like to see us not only participate in more activities such as Make a Difference Day, but for us also to improve our relationship with other clubs and sponsor a wide array of events that can appeal to all our members. Most importantly I look forward to any ideas and suggestions from our members. After all, it is your efforts that make this program take flight!
The Creative Honors Student

*Reflections*, Charity Henderson

*Blackbeard*, Natalie Thompson

*Untitled*, Justin Jackson
The Creative Honors Student

Self Portrait, Elise Micale

Self Portrait, Laura Schmitt

Untitled, Katie Mertz
**CONTRIBUTE TO THE HONORS NEWSLETTER!**

The Honors Program Newsletter is a publication dedicated to the Honors Program faculty, students and alumni. Articles are written by Honors students and are designed to provide information to the Honors community. Content will include a variety of topics including research, Honors program news and events, student and professor spotlights, experiences, and creative work. For submissions or more information, please contact Justin Jackson at jjack4@brockport.edu.

**Honors Program Office:** Holmes 219; open 8am-4pm

Prometheus sculpture on cover created by Arno Breker.

**Phone:** (585) 395-5400