

## Contact Information



### Director

Susan Dinan, Ph.D.  
dinans@wpunj.edu  
154B Raubinger Hall

### Assistant Director Jan Pinkston

pinkstonj@wpunj.edu  
154A Raubinger Hall

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UNIVERSITY  
HONORS  
COLLEGE

# University Honors College

MARCH 2013

## News in Student Research



I recently had the opportunity to speak with honors student, Richard Siegler. Richard is a senior set to graduate this May with an impressive Honors thesis and exceptional plans!

A deep interest in history, particularly Napoleonic History, encouraged Richard to

enroll in the Honors Humanities Track under the direction of Dr. John Peterman. Dr. Susan Dinan, Professor of History and Director of the Honors College, is his Thesis supervisor. His thesis project is a combination of historiography and history that aims at using a new approach to military history, and applying it to the Napoleonic Wars. Richard explains that much of the theorization of military history is Eurocentric, describes military capability through technological biases, focuses on leading powers, and favors a separation of land and sea conflict to name a few. As such, he was inspired to look at the Napoleonic Wars in a new context that incorporates these issues in a more comprehensive view than would normally be presented.

In his research, Richard calls the Napoleonic War the first modern global total war. He examines the new methods of fighting invoked, such as shifted interest in defeating enemy armies rather than merely acquiring territory and the development of the Corps System. Richard also touches on the idea of modern government and its use

of propaganda. He cites examples of bulletins written and used by Napoleon himself as well as political cartoons to demonstrate the evolution that had taken place in the manner in which governments shared and distributed information.

Richard's interests and thesis project have helped to finalize plans for his future. He has completed his degree in History and the Honors College at William Paterson in only three years and has recently been accepted into a master's program at Florida State University. The work he will complete through the Honors Track will enable Richard to obtain his degree in only a year and a half through an accelerated program. From there, he plans on beginning the journey to receive his doctorate in hope of one day becoming a university professor.

Reflecting back on his experience in the William Paterson University Honors College, Richard admits that the proposition of a thesis is not as intimidating as its initial notion was. He explained that college coursework and requirements have prepared and eased him into the process of preparing his own thesis. He wisely believes that completing an Honors thesis is very rewarding in that it will put students ahead, whether that be in career opportunities or in graduate school. He said that at the completion of the research, students should give themselves a pat on the back and be proud of their dedication.

## Lunch in the Lounge

What better way to discuss research strategies and techniques than over a slice of pizza? On Tuesday, January 29th, Dr. Learmonth, the director of the Cognitive Science Track, led a discussion on the subject to kick off the first Lunch in the Lounge of the Spring Semester.

Dr. Learmonth spoke of the importance of finding interest and passion in research and explained how having experience in a laboratory can add to an undergraduate resume. She spoke of past research she has conducted as well as mentioned her current work with young children studying mental competence and memory.

Two of Dr. Learmonth's students, Derek Voyticki and Nicole Caltabellotta, were also present to speak about their research experiences. They shared their motivations and what they have gained from their work while strongly recommending that those present take the initiative and get more involved in their studies.



Honors Students with Dr. Amy Learmonth



Honors students at "Lunch in the Lounge"  
(Photos courtesy of Kara Peterson)

## Club Corner

The Honors Club and MAPS Biology Club sponsored a Back to School Blood Drive on Tuesday, January 29th. In total, 95 products were collected and donated to the New Jersey Blood Services. Special thanks go out to those who participated and helped make the event a success!

## Honors Apparel

The Honors Club is now selling its new spring apparel. Order forms can be found on the Honors College website and Facebook page. All forms are due back to the Honors Office, Raubinger 154, on Friday, March 15th. If you have any questions please contact Rebecca Wance at [wancer1@student.wpunj.edu](mailto:wancer1@student.wpunj.edu).



# Track Time!

If you are interested in the fields of biology, medicine, or the environmental sciences, then the Life Sciences and Environmental Ethics Track may be right for you! This program offers students a unique opportunity to investigate the ethical, social, and political issues in each field while examining relevant matters such as the creation of medications and technologies used to sustain life, protecting clean air and water, and the manipulation of genetic material in scientific studies.

The track works to guide students in developing analytical thinking skills, understanding core issues and arguments, and learning how decisions are made in the field. This track, like other tracks, functions as a minor that can enhance any resume as well as reinforce a major.

The Life Science and Environmental Ethics Track requires students to take three courses as directed by the track curriculum. At the completion of these courses, students will participate in a semester-long internship with an agency that addresses some of the ethical issues they have investigated as a part of their requirements.

For more information please contact the track director, Dr. Karen Swanson at (973) 720-2589 or email her at [swansonk@wpunj.edu](mailto:swansonk@wpunj.edu). You can also visit the Honors College Website at <http://www.wpunj.edu/honors-program/tracks/life-science-and-environmental-ethics.dot> for these and other details.

## Expand your thought with the Life Sciences and Environmental Sciences Track!

## Partners in the Parks

Partners in the Parks is an outdoor experiential learning program for collegiate honors students co-sponsored by Southern Utah University and the National Collegiate Honors Council. In 2013 it will be hosting a variety of academic adventures at national parks across the country. These week-long projects include seminars led by university faculty and park rangers as well as exciting recreational opportunities to broaden participant's understanding of the overall value of national parks to our country and its citizens. PITP programs are open to honors students and faculty from all majors and disciplines.

There are a limited number of scholarships available to assist financially challenged students to attend. Those interested in finding out more about scholarships, registration, and projects should visit <http://www.partnersintheparks.org> or contact Partners in the Parks at 435-865-8451 or [honors@suu.edu](mailto:honors@suu.edu).



### Proposed projects for 2013 include:

1. Buffalo National River, AR (May 13-19)
2. Virgin Islands National Park, VI (May 18-25)
3. Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, AZ (May 27-Jun 1)
4. Great Basin National Park, NV (July 27-Aug 2)
5. Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, CO (Aug 4-10)
6. Olympic National Park, WA (Aug 5-11)
7. Sequoia National Park, CA (Aug 5-10)
8. Everglades National Park, FL (Dec 26-Jan 1)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Time	Place	Event
3/7/2013	12:30pm	Fourth Floor High Mountain East	Lunch in the Lounge with Dylan Anderson
3/15/2013	10:00am– 5:00pm	Honors Office, Raubinger Hall 154	Spring apparel order form due
4/11/2013	12:30pm	Fourth Floor High Mountain East	Lunch in the Lounge: Finding Passion in Research

## Honors Week

Honors Week is right around the corner! Each spring, the Honors College showcases the work of students who are completing one of the Honors College tracks. We are currently finalizing the schedule for 77 students who will present their Honors research on April 16, 17, and 18th. Please watch your email for the presentation schedule and for information about a new Honors Week attendance policy.

*The Honors College  
Newsletter is published  
several times per semester  
and is written by honors  
student, Kelly Ginart.*

## Community Service

The Office of Campus Activities is sponsoring two community service projects to aid in Hurricane Sandy relief efforts. The events are listed below. Those interested must sign up in the Office of Campus Activities which is located in the Student center, room 302. Seats will be allotted on a first come first serve basis so don't miss this wonderful opportunity give back to the community!

### March 9th, 2013—Liberty State Park—Recovery and Beautification Project

Bus leaves Lot 5 at 8 am and service experience will end by 2pm.

We only have 19 spots for students with 1 advisor

Responsibilities: planting bulbs, cleaning park, etc.

Location: Liberty State Park

Transportation and Meals provided

### April 20th, 2012—Jersey Shore Recovery open to all WPU students

Bus leaves Lot 5 at 7:00am and service experience ends at 7:00pm

94 students and 6 advisors

Responsibilities: muck and gut of house, beach recovery, board walk repair

Location: Jersey Shore

Transportation and Meals provided