

Areté

Newsletter of The Honors School

Areté: Striving for Excellence

By Sasha Goldfarb

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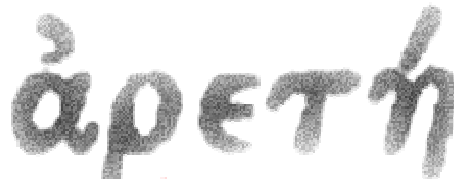
In ancient Greek culture, areté is the most valued of human attributes. Although it is often translated as "virtue" it literally means, "to shine." Areté is associated with reaching the highest in individual potential, not linked especially with intelligence, but any activity. It means working to the best of one's capability, no matter the context or necessary skills. The Honors School has long been dedicated to the cultivation of its students' potential, allowing all a time to shine in their own way.

The Honors School is now centralized in Birch Hall, the freshmen Honors residence hall, complete with social and academic lounge including a full conference table, computer lab, small classical library, free food and drinks, and office. The new Honors School provides highly motivated students a challenging and nurturing learning environment and also increases cul-

tural and communal awareness.

The name *Areté* signifies the commitment of the Honors School to academic excellence, leadership, and continuing aspiration in building ties to both campus and external communities. As representatives of the Honors School and Monmouth University, our staff writers hope

to communicate the many ideas, accomplishments, and objectives of the Honors School and how it relates to Monmouth University as a whole. By working together, all students here at Monmouth will shine all the brighter.



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Freshman/Sophomore Mixer

By Mike Edwards

After roaming the central room at Birch Hall all of last year, completing the "Academic Habit," completing the "cluster experience," and living to tell about it, this year's sophomores have some experience under their belt. Meanwhile, the incoming freshman are about to learn what Monmouth University has to offer. What better way to bring the two sides together than a party at Birch Hall with pizza and outdoor games? Reenie Menditto and Dr. Garvey sponsored the first annual Freshman/Sophomore Mixer this year, and everything went off without a hitch.

While it is up for debate how many freshman learned to make their transition any easier, there were certainly some memorable



moments

caught on camera, and plenty of other students from the north side of campus joined in on them. The badminton court was being used all day while horseshoe champions emerged and fell throughout the afternoon. There was plenty of pizza to go around for the dozens of people who all had a great time there. Many sophomores took the time to recollect all the late nights in the dorm and connecting with old friends. All in all, it was a hugely successful venture. To see all of the pictures taken at the event, visit the Honors Lounge inside Birch Hall. Next up: the spring party!

Reminders

11/16-11/20
Two River Theater Co.—
Visiting Mr. Green

11/30— Draft of Honors
Thesis Due

12/7 - Final copy of Thesis
Proposal due in to Honors
School Office

12/14— Final copy of Thesis
due in the Honors School
Office

1/19 - 2/5— Two River
Theater Co.— *All My Sons*

1/22— Last Day to register
for Sophomore Seminar

1/31— Graduation
applications due in to
Registrar's Office for 5/06

Juniors:

Be sure to contact the Honors School Office as soon as possible regarding registration for Honors Thesis Proposal.

WANTED:
Any contributors, Honors or non-Honors, to provide photos, articles, artwork or editing services. Please contact Sasha Goldfarb at s0549535@monmouth.edu

Cultural Experience: Getting in the 'Habit'

By: Sasha Goldfarb

One of the keystones of the Honors School is the Freshman Honors Cluster Experience. This refers to the "clustering" of freshmen Honors courses, usually combining an English, Western Civilization, and one or more social science courses offered to a common group of students in a scheduling block. But beyond a strictly academic focus, the Honors School also provides an opportunity for cultural awareness and expansion through The Academic Habit.

The Academic Habit, a one-credit course, requires students to attend at least four cultural events and write a critique. Afterwards, participating freshmen meet to discuss the different events they have attended including plays, exhibits, concerts, etc. in a seminar setting. The Aca-

demie Habit not only provides students with enriching encounters in the world of art, philosophy, music, drama, customs, and many ways of life, but also opens students to intelligent discussion and debate.



What is perhaps most special about the course is that it is not open exclusively to Honors students. Any student at Monmouth University is welcome to audit the Academic Habit and attend events free as guests of Honors students, demonstrating

the connection the Honors School seeks between all Monmouth students. Honors students are always encouraged to involve their friends, either by inviting them into the Honors Lounge or introducing them to other aspects of the program. An Honors student can invite a friend as a guest of the Honors School to any event with paid admission. While the Honors School, of course, gives mainly to its students, it is by no means an elitist institution. It is the belief that with the establishment of the Honors School's reputation and continued progress, everyone will reap the benefits.

Academic Habit 2005

By: Michael Edwards

The Honors School is increasingly an inclusive community within the larger Monmouth University community. In "The Academic Habit," for example, non-Honors students wishing to attend cultural events are welcome as sponsored guests. On Wednesday, September 28, over 75 students flocked to the Two River Theatre Company in Red Bank to see a showing of the *Umbrellas of Cherbourg*. Dr. Garvey brought most of the freshman Honors class to the customary first show of the season.

The *Umbrellas of Cherbourg* is a musical perhaps most true to the form. Its seemingly natural use of libretti lends a sense of a modern opera to *Umbrellas* rather than that of typical off-Broadway musicals. The removal of dialogue is always a unique approach of expression; however, the jazz rhythmic melody made parts of the message scattered or unclear.

Stage setup was another interesting aspect of the play as the orchestra pit was set below the stage in a way so that only half of the musicians were revealed for a full acoustic range. These musicians mainly consisted of the keyboard, strings, and upper woodwinds. The lower brass and battery remained towards the back providing for a more significant sound dynamic.

The story starts out as a cliché tale of 'star-crossed' lovers. Genevieve, the manager of a small shop beside her widowed mother, and Guy, a mechanic in an auto body garage. When Guy is drafted into the military for a two-year tour, Guy and Genevieve decide to remain faithful and wait for Guy to return so they can marry. Unfortunately, Guy convinces Genevieve to consummate the relationship before he leaves. Two months after he leaves, she realizes she is pregnant.

Enter Roland Cassard: a rich, middle aged, renaissance man. When Roland sees Genevieve before Guy has left, he falls in love with her. Even when Roland learns of her pregnancy, he promises to still marry her and raise the child as his own. The love and innocence of Genevieve is painfully tested and when Guy returns home he finds his whole world turned upside down.



“When Italian-Americans were Enemy Aliens” A Secret Untold

On Monday evening, November 7, at the newly renovated Guggenheim Library, Monmouth University hosted guest speakers and an exhibit dedicated to educating the audience about the little known experience of Italian Americans during World War II. Lawrence DiStasi, author of *Una Storia Segreta: When Italian Americans Were Enemy Aliens*, who also assisted in structuring the exhibit, will be speaking on Monday, November 14 at 7 p.m. in the Guggenheim Library.

Professor Susan Douglass of the Department of History and Anthropology organized this important cultural and historical event, giving thanks to the many contributors to the effort. Professor Douglass introduced Dr. Thomas Pearson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, to an audience of approximately ninety members of the Monmouth University and local communities. Dr. Pearson commented on the importance of the event and welcomed the guest speaker Paolo Toschi, Vice Consul of the Italian Consulate. Mr. Toschi spoke warmly of the post-war relations between Italy and America, of America's role in helping to shape Italy and Europe, to support the European Union, and most pointedly about the role of Italian Americans who served their country during the war.



“Ironically, many of these families had sons who were in the American military fighting with dedication and loyalty ‘...for their country and for the freedom and dignity of all people...’”

Finally, Mr. Anthony Martignetti of the Sons of Italy gave an impassioned address to the audience about what it was like to live during those times. Few people know that along with the internment of Japanese Americans Executive Order 9066 also allowed these measures to be applied to Italian and German Americans. There were 600,000 Italian-Americans who had never completed their papers for citizenship. They were branded as enemy aliens in January of 1942. They were ordered to register at local post offices across United States. They were fingerprinted, photographed, and required to carry their enemy registration cards at all times. Their lives changed dramatically.

Mr. Martignetti was at his most impassioned when he gave specific examples of families who lost their homes and businesses when they were relocated into camps. Ironically, many of these families had sons who were in the American military fighting with dedication and loyalty "...for their country and for the freedom and dignity of all people...Italo-American soldiers were promised by the President that they would never be asked to fight in Italy, the land of their sacred ancestors. And after this lie, imagine these loyal Italo-American soldiers returning home on leave to find their parents' homes boarded up. On inquiring from the local police the whereabouts of their family, they were told that they had been relocated." Mr. Martignetti noted that fully 500,000 Italian-American men defended their country, the largest single ethnic minority in the military. Professor Douglass gave concluding remarks, observing that these speakers and this exhibit were part of a cautionary tale for all times of the dangers to democracies in times of war.

Many students were in the audience, some of whom were required to incorporate the exhibit and lectures into Honors course papers for Professors Douglass and Garvey. Professor Douglass thanked the Sponsor of this exhibit which will run through November 18, The School of Humanities and Social Sciences as well as co-sponsors, The Department of History and Anthropology, The Global Understanding Project, The Political Science and Sociology Department, and The Honors School.

Alumni Corner : Crime-Fighter: Noel Hillman Class of 1981

By: Alanna Raines



Growing up, many children dream of becoming superheroes, protecting society, and bettering the good of the world. But for Noel Hillman, Class of 1981, the dream of becoming a lawyer allowed him to accomplish all of these feats without ever donning a cape. Born in Red Bank, New Jersey, and raised in Tinton Falls, the Central Jersey native found inspiration for his career choice from an older brother in high school. Finding it an admirable profession, Mr. Hillman took this idea and joined it with his love for public policy to craft a successful career as a government litigator. Now, as Chief of the Public Integrity Section of the Criminal Division in the United States' Department of Justice, Mr. Hillman looks back on his experiences in Monmouth University's Honors Program and his degree from the Department of English as the two that helped shape his current success.

"Lawyers gather facts, apply objective standards and craft persuasive or helpful viewpoints on how the facts meet or differ from the standards. That process is very similar to the process of critical thinking in an academic setting." Thus, Mr. Hillman credits the Honors Program and the English Department with engendering these useful tools within him and fostering their growth and improvement. He

also found that the program's emphasis on communication skills, combined with small class size, augmented by the "intimate and direct personal exchange between student and professor" enriched his education: "It provided me with the perfect skill set to excel in the law school setting and subsequent work environments."

Working his way from a law clerk position for U.S. District Court Judge Maryanne Trump Barry (one of his greatest influences to date), to an associate at New York City's Lord Day & Lord, Barrett Smith, Mr. Hillman has been able to both defend and prosecute many large cases in the white collar crime field. However, his recent works prove to be his most gratifying to date. "All of my work as a prosecutor is gratifying, especially corrupt work. Few crimes are more worthy of prosecution than those involving violation of public trust." In his new position in the Department of Justice, Noel Hillman does much work behind the scenes as well. "I also enjoy my work in the national security area, whether it was visa fraud schemes, stopping the flow of arms to Iran, or helping in the initial stages of the September 11th investigation." In whatever area he chooses, Noel Hillman is dedicated to protecting the welfare and security of citizens everywhere.

As for his future, Noel Hillman feels he does just fine following the rule his mother taught him, "Do the best you can everyday." He wishes to remain in public service for as long as he can, for "it is one of the few areas of law where the overriding concern everyday is doing the right thing for the broadest number of people." For those students currently enrolled in the Honors Program, as well as for Monmouth University students alike, Mr. Hillman intones this advice: "Read, write, and speak in public as much as you can. The best indicator for success in the overwhelming majority of modern professions is the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing."

With the Honors Program as his training ground, Noel Hillman's heroic objective of keeping America safe is all in a day's work. Recently receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award from Monmouth University at this year Founder's Day Convocation, he modestly remarks on his noble accomplishments: "Not bad for a day's pay."

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Birch Hall Class of 2005