

Areté

Newsletter of The Honors School

Inside this issue:

Anybody for Pizza?	2
Invitation to Join The Honors School	2
Upcoming Events	3
Freshman Orientation	3
Help is on the way!	4
TRTC Ain't Misbehavin'	5
Alumni Corner Rob Ackerman	5
Alumni Corner Susan Koreen	6

Newsletter Staff

Michael Edwards: Editor,
Layout, Contributing Writer

Sasha Goldfarb: Editor,
Contributing Writer

Kristopher Jackson:
Contributing Writer

Alanna Raines:
Contributing Writer

Contact Information

- If you would like to comment, question, or write/photograph for Areté, please write to aret@monmouth.edu

Areté: New Possibilities, New Leaders, and Opportunities for the Monmouth University Community

by Sasha Goldfarb

The Honors newsletter was founded just one year ago, and named by its founders as Areté (ἀρετή), which translates from ancient Greek as "virtue." An important value of classical Greek thought and tradition, it refers to the total fulfillment of personal potential. While used in Homer's *Iliad* and *The Odyssey* to refer to the strength and bravery of nobles and warriors, its use is not limited to these traits alone. Areté was a term used by other Greek poets, such as Aristotle, to define a moral code of responsibility and admirable ventures. The newsletter, however, is not intended to have an exclusively Honors audience, but rather to be a vehicle for opening dialogue and information about activities available to the entire University community. The new Honors School is dedicated to being not a community 'apart' but a community that is 'a part' of the life of the whole University.

As students of the Honors School, our mission is to strive for that excellence in all that we do, not simply within an academic domain. Honors students show a strong presence on campus, participating in clubs, student government, events, athletics, and leadership roles. We are people of our community, volunteering our time and efforts to help others, unraveling the intimate culture and character of local arts and events, lending a new perspective through discussion and research, participating in political activities, and having an awareness of international and global issues.

The Honors School currently provides a mentoring program that establishes connections and guidance for our undergraduates with alumni in graduate and professional programs, an initiative intended for extension in order to serve all interested undergraduates. A course that satisfies the Experiential Education requirement, "Adopt an Adult Community," is in development. Students will be paired with elderly members of the community with whom they will spend a semester taking oral histories, helping when they are able, and writing up the experience at the end of the semester to explore how the experience is tied into each student's academic curriculum in some way. We are also cooperating with the First Year Experience to bring all freshmen as well as upper-level students to see the production of *Tartuffe* at the Two River Theater Company. Free tickets to the TRTC's Spring production of playwright Sam Shepard's *True West* will be advertised for all students.

As members of the Monmouth University's Honors School, we are not identified by ranking and grade point averages, but by the changes we make, the work we do, and the legacy we keep. We would like to congratulate our new freshman class and recent graduates. Thank you to all alumni who continue their support and watch future classes with pride. We welcome you back to a new semester and wish you the best in rising to meet new challenges.



Honors students recently enjoyed a pizza party mixer with Honors freshmen outside of Birch Hall.



Anybody for Pizza?

by Kristopher Jackson

The Honors Pizza Party took place at Birch Hall on September 12th, 2006. In addition to playing horseshoes, playing croquet, and eating pizza, this year's freshmen had the chance to talk with upperclassmen about their experiences as a member of the Honors School and Monmouth University. By this time, the Honors freshmen had become somewhat adjusted to college life, and had some of their own experiences to share with each other. Paul Carrera, an honors freshman, shared his views on the pizza party: "The Honors pizza party was not only a good time, but also an excellent way of meeting other people in the honors program." Another freshman, Nicole Cousins, had this to say about the Honors pizza party: "[The pizza party] was a good way to talk to upperclassmen about their experiences during their freshman year." Clearly, the pizza party was a success for both freshmen and upperclassmen alike.

INVITATION TO JOIN THE HONORS SCHOOL

Not everyone is aware that students may join the Honors School even if they did not come into Honors as freshmen. If you have a 3.5 or better GPA after completing 12 credits at Monmouth University, and you are interested in more information about joining a tailored curriculum to suit your needs, please contact the Honors School Office at 732-263-5308.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

4/28/07

ANNUAL HONORS SCHOOL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Young
Auditorium,
Bey Hall

10:00 a.m. -
4:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/18/06** **ACADEMIC HABIT MEETING**
HO 101 01 Prof. Azcuy 2:30-3:45 BH 126
HO 101 02 Prof. Parkin 1:00-2:15BH 227
(Athletes and conflicts by arrangement with professor)
- 10/18/06** **HONORS SCHOOL ANNUAL BBQ**
4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Birch Hall
- TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY. Red Bank**
9/27 – 10/22 *Ain't Misbehavin'*
11/15 – 12/3 *Tartuffe*
(Contact Rose at rscodari@monmouth.edu for tickets)
- 10/25/06** **HONORS NEWSLETTER STAFF MEETING. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!**
6:30—7:30 p.m. - Honors School Office, Birch Hall
- 11/1/06** Princeton University Art Museum Trip
(1 p.m. – 8 p.m.)
- 11/12/06** Phi Eta Sigma Induction
- 11/29/06** Final draft of Honors Thesis due in to Chief Advisor, Second Reader, & Honors School Advisor (Dr. Garvey or Dr. Mitchell)
- 12/6/06** Draft of Thesis Proposal due in to Chief Advisor, Second Reader, & Honors School Advisor (Dr. Garvey or Dr. Mitchell)
- 12/13/06** Final copy of Thesis/Thesis Proposal due in to Chief Advisor, Second Reader, & Honors School Advisor (Dr. Garvey or Dr. Mitchell)

Freshman Orientation

by Kristopher Jackson

On Monday September 4th, 2006 this year's Honors freshmen, residents and commuters, piled into the Honors office in Birch Hall. It was more than obvious that feelings of excitement and confusion filled the room. Students used adjectives like "overwhelmed" and "nervous" to describe their feelings during the move-in time. Dr. Garvey then proceeded to explain the requirements for the Honors School, and pass out the information regarding "The Academic Habit." This was a chance for incoming freshmen to ask any questions they may have had about the program itself, life in Birch hall, or commuting as an Honors student. Dr. Garvey and Reenie Menditto tried very hard to address each of these concerns, and made sure no question went unanswered. At this moment, nervous or not, the Honors class of 2010 began their academic journey at Monmouth University.



Volunteerism at Monmouth: Help is on the Way

by Sasha Goldfarb

One of the important aspects to the Honors School and a cornerstone of our commitment to the public is volunteerism. No one can speak about the rewarding and valuable experiences that volunteering can offer until they have experienced it for themselves. And volunteerism is not solely an Honors endeavor, but something all Monmouth's students should be encouraged to do whether it's through an organization, fraternity or sorority, or an individual decision. Inviting friends to volunteer with you can make it an even more fun experience to share.

After several years of community service, I decided to give some of my time during the summer at Monmouth. I contacted Marilyn Ward, the coordinator of Service Learning and Community Programs, to see what was needed in the local area. I was unsure about what I wanted to do, but Ms. Ward gave me a multitude of options ranging from a soup kitchen to tutoring. I decided to try volunteering at a blood drive sponsored by the Central Jersey Blood Center in Red Bank. One of my roommates chose to volunteer with me so we could work and have fun together. The event was also an all-day concert with free give-aways and raffles. RAT Radio (95.9 WRAT FM) also co-sponsored the event and checked in to the studio with live feed from the show. It was an amazing day created to help alleviate the critical blood shortages that New Jersey and many areas experience, especially during the summer months. I worked registering donors for the drive, answering health questions, and directing them through the necessary paperwork.



If you, or anyone you know is interested in volunteering some time, you can check out any of the following activities or events. Remember, if you are willing but think you may be unable because of time constraints, or there's nothing that interests you, try to keep an open mind as there is probably something out there that fits your unique skills and lifestyle.

Crop Walk:

You can support the Church World Service's global relief effort by donating food for local pantries or making a monetary donation online to the Red Bank CROP Walk. Peanut butter, rice and beans are needed for local food pantries and monetary donations will provide relief and development assistance in 80 countries around the world. Help CROP stop hunger by getting involved and collecting donations during the month of October.

Long Branch Senior Center:

Energetic volunteers are needed to assist with lunch preparations every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00-1:00 at the Senior Center. Help the friendly staff members prepare lunch for the seniors who visit the center. For more information please call Katie at 732-571-6542.

Tutoring

Use your special talents to help a child in grades K-12 or help a homeless mother prepare for the GED. There are tutoring opportunities throughout Monmouth County. Sites include Asbury Park High School, Red Bank Charter School, Freehold Open Door and many other programs either during the day or after school. For information please call the Service Learning office at 732-571-4411.

Francis Asbury Manor

If you enjoy working with senior citizens there are many opportunities to help out at Francis Asbury Manor in Ocean Grove. They will welcome you as a visitor or as an arts and crafts assistant. If you'd like to help occasionally or on a regular basis please contact Tara Sciddurlo at 732-774-1316 x534.

Water Watch

Get involved in supporting NJ Community Water Watch by contacting our AmeriCorps Campus Organizer, Liz Glynn at 732-263-5753 or monmouth@waterwatchonline.org. Liz is coordinating efforts that include stream monitoring, cleanups, and teaching lessons in local school districts about water pollution and conservation. Do your part to support clean water efforts by working with Water Watch on one-time or ongoing projects.

"No one can speak about the rewarding and valuable experiences that volunteering can offer until they have experienced it for themselves. "

Ain't Misbehavin' at Two River

by Michael Edwards

"The scenes ranged from bars, nightclubs, ships, and cafes, while the moods swung from blue and desperate to high and mighty. "

Season two of the Two River Theatre Company at its new location in Red Bank started out with an old time musical Wednesday night. Two men and three women sang over three dozen songs in two acts in a showing of the 1978 Tony winning musical *Ain't Misbehavin'*. The show on its surface is a summation on the works of Fats Waller, an early 20th century jazz musician and pianist. Yet as the show progresses, it shows the larger concept of music and culture in the Harlem Renaissance. The scenes ranged from bars, nightclubs, ships, and cafes, while the moods swung from blue and desperate to high and mighty. The performance's greatest asset was what the actors brought

to the stage. Starring James Alexander, Charles E. Wallace, Rebecca E. Covington, Kathleen Murphy Jackson, and Lucy Shropshire, the energy level was consistent and passionate. Each embodied the passionate ups and downs of Harlem life in the 20's, and each played remarkably diverse characters at different points in the play. From the jovial and humorous "Fat and Greasy" to the poignant "Mean to Me" and the showy "Find out What They Like and How They Like It (And Give It to Them Just That Way)," the show truly has something for everyone. Of course, what would a Renaissance tribute be without a spectacular on-stage five piece orchestra led by Fats



Waller's character (who plays the part well) on the piano. In the end, the play boils down to a celebration of the human experience regardless of the times. To reserve free tickets to see the play, contact Rose Scodari in the Honors School Office at rscodari@monmouth.edu.



Robert Ackerman is pursuing his Ph.D. in Social Psychology at Michigan State.

"...completing a thesis is certainly a feather in your cap in the eyes of employers."

Rob Ackerman — Class of '04

by Alanna Raines

Robert Ackerman, a recent graduate of Monmouth University, truly believes the completion of his Honors Thesis is responsible for his current academic success. Honored with the Jane Freed Award for Creativity in Honors Thesis Proposal in 2003, Ackerman's thesis, entitled: "The Role of Self-Expansion in Sexual Extradyadic Involvement among College Students" focused on the possible factor of cheating in relationships as a means of self-expansion. Now, as he pursues his Ph.D. in Social Psychology, Ackerman looks back on the importance and necessity of completing his thesis.

"Writing a literature review, designing a study, analyzing data, writing a final manuscript, you name it— were valuable lessons learned dur-

ing my Thesis experience," Ackerman explained. Furthermore, "completing a thesis often increases one's chances of being accepted into graduate school, as well as receiving good funding." Rob Ackerman is currently attending the Social and Personality Psychology Ph.D. program at Michigan State. He is working on a research project that looks at friendship development in college roommates, among many other variables. Yet, as Ackerman also states, "Even if graduate school is not something you foresee in your future, completing a thesis is certainly a feather in your cap in the eyes of employers." Thus, for job market or post-baccalaureate studies, the thesis experience is invaluable. Demonstrating personal motivation, ingenuity, along

with professionalism, students can show employers and admissions boards that they are up for a challenge in their field.

Now, with revisions to the Honors Thesis requirements, the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of Ackerman can begin as early as second semester of junior year. Current juniors may register for Thesis Proposal in Spring '07. This will allow four marking periods to complete the process, especially important to students enrolled in tight major curricula. Registration for the Thesis Proposal can be done on Web Advisor under course code HO 498H 01. . After successfully signing up, set up an appointment with Dr. Garvey, the Dean of the Honors School, to discuss the specifics by calling his assistant Reenie Menditto at 732-263-5308.

Alumni Corner

Alumni Corner

Susan Koreen — Class of '03

by Alanna Raines



The life of a medical student is one of immense challenge; with a near mythical reputation heaping workloads, crippling stress, and impracticable study hours. Quite often, the same can be said for a student receiving an Ivy League education. And yet, Monmouth University Honors Program graduate Susan Koreen conquers both, masterfully excelling in her field of study at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons. Recently, Koreen has found time in her hectic schedule to recount her days in the Honors Program and explain its importance in shaping her higher education.

Born and raised in the Elberon section of Long Branch, Susan Koreen grew up as a pupil in the Long Branch Public School Systems. Inspired by her pediatrician, she realized her medical aspirations at an early age, dreaming of one day becoming a doctor. She later went on to fulfill that dream by attending Monmouth University, completing many research projects and her honors thesis in biology. In addition to her affinity for science, Susan Koreen was also fond of the broad spectrum of curricula she encountered, saying, "I am very proud of the excellent education I received in all different disciplines – literature, history, and the sciences."

Curriculum aside, Susan Koreen believes the environment of the Honors Program also fostered much of her success: "I truly enjoyed working with the very bright and capable students, as well as the extraordinary Honors faculty," she explained. Furthermore, she extends her gratitude to Dr. Brian Garvey for the role he played in the creation of the Honors School, feeling very grateful to have been able to have been a part of it.

Now in her third year at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, Susan Koreen finds herself in the midst of her dream. After excelling in her first two years, which were mainly lecture and exam based, she is excited to begin her instruction in the hospital setting, where she will learn by examining patients during rotations in various fields. Already having rotated through the primary care, neurology, and surgery aspects of the work, she still has obstetrics/gynecology, psychiatry, and internal medicine to experience. Reluctant as of yet to pin-point her area of expertise, Koreen wishes to experience all the fields before choosing a focus of study: "I will be better equipped to make a final decision as to what I would like to do after experiencing them all." Nonetheless, there is one thing she does know: she wishes to have a clinical practice one day, and still continue her medical research in the New York/New Jersey area. Additionally, she has plans for marriage, as she was recently engaged to Matthew Wosnitzer, whom she describes as a "fabulous man."

With a bright and promising future ahead, no matter which medical field she pursues, Susan Koreen feels her experience in the Monmouth University Honors Program has laid the groundwork for her success. Feeling honored and privileged to be a Monmouth University graduate, Ms. Koreen extends this word of advice to those students in the process of chasing their own dreams: "If you take advantage of everything Monmouth has to offer, the opportunities once you graduate are limitless!"

ATTENTION ALUMNI

E-mail arete@monmouth.edu to update us on what you have been up to since you left MU. We would love to hear from you!!