

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

HONORS COLLEGE NEWS

December 2017



IN THIS ISSUE

Kresky prepares for retirement	2
Honors Hang Out	3
Field Trip.....	3
Alumni Tips.....	4

Honors Intern, Samantha Koprowski, publishes the Honors Newsletter several times each semester. She can be reached at honors@wpunj.edu.

Upcoming Events

- 12/06– Holiday Party, 4:00-5:30 p.m., second floor of Hobart manor.
- 12/12– Ugly Sweater Contest, Honors College Office, during common hour. (See page 4 for more details.)

Good luck with finals!

The Cheng Library will be open for 24 hours during pre-exam and exam week starting Sunday, December 10th at 12:00 p.m. and ending Friday, December 22nd at 4:30 p.m.

The Academic Success Center is hosting late night tutoring sessions in the Amy Job Classroom (Library 114A) on December 11th&13th from 7:00 p.m.– 2:00 a.m. and on December 18th from 7:00 p.m.- 10:00 p.m. Please refer to the Academic Success Center’s flyer on their webpage for information on the courses offered for tutoring.

Dr. Jeffrey Kresky honored

The William Paterson University Department of Music presented (as part of the New Music Series, Peter Jarvis, Director) a retirement concert for Dr. Jeffrey Kresky on Monday, November 27 featuring the New Jersey Percussion Ensemble and Friends, together with the William Paterson University Percussion Ensemble, and Bill Charlap.

The special concert featured music written by Peter Jarvis, Jeffrey Kresky, John Link, Payton MacDonald, David Saperstein, and Anton Vishio. Performers included Payton MacDonald, Carl Patrick Bolleia, Edward Broesler, Alexander Cichocki, Sean Dello Monaco, Greg Federico, Daniel Lucci, Joshua Lustig, Elise McAloon, Christian Olivera, Brendan Orfan, Jesse Gerbasi, Anthony Salimbene, Elizabeth Tieu, Anton Vishio, (Peter Jarvis, Payton MacDonald, Gary Van Dyke), Bill Charlap, John Ferrari, and Kenneth Piascik.

President Kathleen Waldron, dozens of students, and many William Paterson faculty and staff members were present in the audience to honor Kresky, who has been at the University for 45 years. He is the founding Track Director of the Honors Music Track which was implemented in January, 2000.

(See more on pg. 2)



Dr. Jeffrey Kresky reacts to a standing ovation at his retirement concert in Shea Auditorium (photo courtesy of Rich Green).



Carl Patrick Bolleia, a graduate of the Honors Music Track ('08), performed during Dr. Jeffrey Kresky’s retirement concert. Bolleia is a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate in Piano performance at Rutgers University. He is currently an adjunct professor of piano and collaborative piano at William Paterson University, and lecturer in piano at Rutgers University (photo courtesy of Rich Green).



Dr. Jeffrey Kresky speaks with several students following his retirement concert on Monday, November 27th in Shea Auditorium. Dozens of current and former students were present in the audience to honor Kresky (photo courtesy of Rich Green).

Dr. Kresky celebrates retirement after 45 years of service



Dr. Jeffrey Kresky
(Photo courtesy of William Paterson University)

Dr. Jeffrey Kresky, professor of music, will officially retire from the University on June 30th, 2018. Kresky holds a Ph.D. from Princeton University and is a music theorist, composer, conductor and keyboardist. As a theorist, he authored books and journal essays mostly in the areas of criticism and analysis.

He currently serves as chair of the music theory area and as director of the Music Honors

Track. We asked Dr. Kresky to reflect on his time at William Paterson University.

Why did you develop the Music Honors track?

I proposed the Honors Music Track in the late 90's when the Honors Program was being expanded. Back then, there were only two tracks (Biopsychology and Humanities), and various faculty members wanted to introduce new tracks. I was the only one from the Music Department who volunteered to develop the track. Programs in the music department are primarily vocational in nature; it's job training. Students enter the music program because they want to be grade school music teachers, music managers, audio recorders, or they want to be classical or jazz performers. I wanted to introduce to William Paterson an old tradition in studying music at the college level where it is studied in its liberal arts setting; that is, students learning to think about music as opposed to simply doing it. There is a place for studying the history, theory, and philosophy of music without specific reference to any training in actually doing music. That may strike today's young students and their parents as very odd, but there's another way of looking at the place of music in the undergraduate liberal arts curriculum. My program was designed to gather those very few among our students who are interested in thinking about music. Since most music students come here with vocational aims, I search for those few students among those whom, in addition to their vocational aims, find that they like thinking about music. For example, the typical Music Honors student is also someone taking courses in the philosophy department, is interested in foreign languages, the arts and sciences, and so forth. That's the population of undergraduates that I draw from for the Music Honors Track.

What is your favorite thing about teaching Honors?

Teaching Honors students is a chance to share some of my thoughts about how music works with students who are engaged in questions like that. Over the years I've been here, I've had some students who have been extremely stimulating, typically people who are double majoring in philosophy, and some of those have been extremely gratifying to work with in my track.

Describe the most memorable thesis and/or student accomplishment.

There's not one particular thesis that comes to mind. Unlike many of the other tracks, I make the thesis specification very wide open because music undergraduates are not used to doing a lot of writing since it's not typical of any of our courses in the music department. Very few thesis projects turn out to be actual papers; they tend to be advanced projects of one sort or another, usually a kind of lecture demonstration. One of my advisees is currently exploring what makes a particular jazz trumpeter's improvisation sound the way it does. He will gather examples, present some analytic ideas about them, and then do a PowerPoint presentation with some recorded examples for a live audience. That is a very typical senior capstone Honors project in my track. I leave wide open whether it's to be a presentation, an actual musical artifact like a composition, or an arrangement. I allow that as well.

What are your plans after retirement?

I always do a lot of reading and writing, so there will be a lot of that. But in particular, I think I'd like to do hospital volunteer work.

Biographical information about Dr. Jeffrey Kresky (reprinted with permission from the concert program)

As an undergraduate at Columbia – where he was actually an English major – it was the influence of Charles Wuorinen and his pioneering Group for Contemporary Music that set much of the direction of Jeffrey Kresky's career as a composer, conductor, keyboardist, music theorist, and teacher. Indeed, Raymond DesRoches was the percussionist for The Group, and this is what drew Kresky to join the faculty at William Paterson 45 years ago, following his graduate work at Princeton under Milton Babbitt.

In the early portion of his time here, Kresky was involved in campus governance (responsible, for example, for the introduction of plus-and-minus grading in the registrar's office, and for the creation of the formal final exam week). In later years, he served as area chair for music theory and as director of the Music Honors Track. Writing percussion music was a natural consequence of joining the faculty here, and three compositions, on today's program, followed quickly.

Soon afterwards, his focus shifted from composing to theory, with an emphasis in criticism and analysis, resulting in two published books and a succession of journal essays. A recent return to composing is also represented this evening, by pieces written for Payton MacDonald, David Saperstein and Bill Charlap. As a conductor, he has indulged a lifelong interest in the operettas of Gilbert and Sullivan, serving for decades as a music director of the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players. And he is the author of four (unpublished) novels.

Learning Community makes connections outside the classroom



One of the Honors Learning Communities poses for a photo on the Highline in New York City.

One of the Honors Learning Communities taught by Professors White, Eguigure, and Villar traveled to New York City on November 20.

Their first stop was the Whitney Museum. Professor White said she was impressed by the provocative exhibit featuring LA artist, Laura Owens, who has an unusual style and world view.

“The display of posters protesting the Vietnam War was especially moving since our entire class was at the Maya Lin talk at WP and had discussed the war and its ramifications,” said White. “We also enjoyed the access to the roof from where we could see an active river and rippling waves from the west and an active New York City from the east.”

The group also visited the High Line, walking among the reclaimed space now filled with flowers and works of art. Professor White explained that the group’s last stop was at Artichoke Pizza.

“Professor Eguigure claimed that this is the best pizza in New York City, and it was,” said White.

Honors Hangout

The Honors Hangout on November 2nd featured information about study abroad opportunities and scholarships. Dr. Madhuri Mukherjee discussed the Spring 2018 Honors course that will feature a trip to Paris over spring break. A few seats are still available in this unique course. Please call or stop by the Honors Office (973-720-3657, Raubinger Hall 154) for more information. In addition, Dr. Susan Godar spoke about the Boren Scholarships and her experiences abroad. You may also contact Honors if you are interested in pursuing various scholarships and fellowships. Thanks to all who joined us!



Dr. Madhuri Mukherjee holding a copy of “Le Chat Noir.”



Dr. Susan Godar talks to students about study abroad.

Honors alum shares tips

Christopher Cela, a former nursing major and member of the Honors Nursing Track, graduated from William Paterson in Spring 2017. Chris recently accepted a position as a registered nurse at St. Joseph's in Paterson. We asked him to address how his Honors research helped shaped the direction of his career.



Chris Cela

Please summarize your thesis topic.

My thesis was entitled, "The Role of Stigma in NICU Nurses Perceptions of Caring for the Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Mother Baby Dyad." I was inspired to write my thesis based on my experience during the mother/baby rotation in nursing school. One of my patients was a newborn girl who was withdrawing from opioid drugs that she was exposed to while she was still in her mother's womb. These newborns are extremely high maintenance and difficult patients to care for. Despite these challenges, I felt a connection with my patient and a need to dive into the topic of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and the stigma that surrounds it.

What was the job-search process like?

The time between graduation and employment was definitely a stressful period in my life. After graduation, new nursing graduates are required to pass a licensure exam, the NCLEX, in order to obtain an RN license. I passed the test and finally got called for a job interview at St. Joseph's Health System for a position as a registered nurse in the St. Joseph's Emergency Department in Paterson.

How did the completion of an honors thesis help you get the job?

My thesis was one of the stronger points of my resume. Since I had spent almost one year reading, researching, travelling, collecting data, and writing my Honors thesis, I had plenty of unique talking points. Not many students are able to say that they have completed a graduate level project as an undergrad. I was able to speak extensively about my thesis to one of the interviewers who was well versed in my type of qualitative research. I felt proud to have been able to use my thesis in my interview, and I could not have achieved all this without the help and personal attention of faculty members at William Paterson.

Do you have advice for recent graduates who might be getting discouraged with their job search?

It is normal to feel discouraged at some point during the job search. I worked a full-time job while studying for my board exam. After passing the exam, I was wondering when I would get a call for a job in my field. When the call didn't come immediately, I was discouraged and wondered if I had missed something on my resume or didn't apply early enough. I leaned on my friends, family, and girlfriend to help me get through that stressful job search period. The lesson I learned from this process is that all of the hard work will pay off, and having a support system will help ease the frustration of searching for a job.

Ugly Sweater Contest



Mark 12/12
on your calendar!

The ugly sweater contest will be held in
the Honors Office on Tuesday,
December 12th during common hour.

**Be sure to join us
for free food and prizes!**

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