

# WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

## HONORS COLLEGE NEWS

October 31, 2017



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*Honors Intern, Samantha Koprowski, publishes the Honors Newsletter several times each semester. She can be reached at [honors@wpunj.edu](mailto:honors@wpunj.edu).*

### Upcoming Events

- 11/02– Honors Hangout with mozzarella sticks and wings. Information about study abroad fellowships will be discussed in Raubinger 212 during common hour.
- 11/16– Coat Drive delivery to Passaic Head Start from 12:00–2:00 p.m. Space is limited so email [honors@wpunj.edu](mailto:honors@wpunj.edu) to sign-up now! This is worth 2 civic engagement hours.

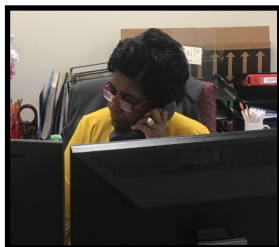
### Important Dates

- 11/03– Priority Registration 9:00 a.m.
- 11/15– Progress Reports due

### Honors Office welcomes new Administrative Assistant

The Honors Office would like to welcome our new Administrative Assistant, Ms. Alice Armstrong!

You may recognize Alice as the secretary from the Provost’s Office. She has now moved to join us at the Honors Office. Please stop by and say hello!



*Ms. Alice Armstrong*

### A note from Dr. Andrew

One thing that is unique about the Honors College is the one-on-one attention students get from acclaimed faculty. In this issue, you’ll read about alumnus, James Van Wyck, and about his mentor, Honors Performing and Literary Arts Track Director, Dr. Philip Cioffari. James, who is now Dr. Van Wyck, earned his Ph.D. in English from Fordham University. Read more about James and his work on behalf of graduate education in this issue of the newsletter.

Dr. Philip Cioffari is interviewed in this edition. When you read Dr. Cioffari’s interview, first think about what a big deal it is that he is part of this famous studio! Second, think about how many times he has rewritten the play he is talking about. That is what good writing requires – writing and rewriting and rewriting again! Finally, think about this: he is one of the faculty you can, or already do, work with! This is the other big deal: here, at William Paterson, you, as an Honors student, get to work with an author who is very highly esteemed in the New York theater world.

Honors students are active! An Honors student was chosen to pose a question about rising college costs at the gubernatorial debate. The Honors Club hosted a fundraiser for those affected by hurricanes. The Honors College, in conjunction with the Honors Club, is in the middle of our annual coat drive. Honors is about academic excellence. It is also about being an engaged, active, thinking participant at William Paterson!



*Dr. Barbara Andrew*

### The annual Honors College Coat Drive is underway!



#### What we accept:

Gently used jackets and coats of all sizes and scarves, hats, gloves, and mittens.



It’s easy to donate! Drop-off your items at the Honors Office, Raubinger 154 or call 973-720-3657 to have items picked up from your car or campus location.

*The items collected will be donated to the families at the Passaic Family Head Start.*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**  
For more information, please contact the Honors College ([honors@wpunj.edu](mailto:honors@wpunj.edu) or 973-720-3657).

## Register for Spring 2018 Honors UCC Courses

Priority registration is Friday, November 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Courses are available by permit only. To request a permit, please send your name, 855 number, the name of the class, and CRN number to [honors@wpunj.edu](mailto:honors@wpunj.edu). For more information and full course descriptions, please visit the Honors website: [wpunj.edu/honors](http://wpunj.edu/honors).

### AREA 2- EXPRESSION

#### **UCC 2A- Arts and Communication**

**COMM 2630-05** *Public Speaking*

TR, 9:30-10:45 – Dr. Jen Owlett – CRN # 11648

#### **UCC 2C- Literature (WI)**

**ENG 1500-11** - *Experiences in Literature*

TR, 2-3:15 – Dr. Robert Rosen - CRN # 10175

**ENG 1500-36** - *Experiences in Literature*

MW 3:30-4:45 – Dr. Marquita Smith - CRN # 10955

### AREA 3- WAYS OF KNOWING

#### **UCC 3A- Philosophical Perspectives**

**PHIL 1120-02** – *Philosophy of the Future*

TR 11-12:15 – Dr. Pete Mandik – CRN # 11573

#### **UCC 3C- Social and Behavioral Sciences**

**ECON 2020-07** – *Microeconomic Principles*

MW 9:30-10:45 – Staff - CRN # 13143

### AREA 4- DIVERSITY AND JUSTICE

**ANTH 2020-08** - *Diversity & Equity in Schools*

T 2-4:40 - Dr. Maria Villar - CRN # 11933

### AREA 5- COMMUNITY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

**PBHL 3180-02** – *Tobacco as a Public Health Issue*

MW 11-12:15 – Dr. Marianne Sullivan – CRN # 12963

### UCC WRITING INTENSIVE

**FR 3800-01** – *Topics in Parisian Culture*

T 5-7:40 – Dr. Madhuri Mukherjee – CRN # 13123

## Honors alum speaks at event

Honors alumnus, Dr. James M. Van Wyck, a 2006 graduate of William Paterson, was recently invited back to campus for an alumni reception hosted by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.



*Dr. James Van Wyck, (06)*

James earned a B.A. in English Literature and Secondary Education, and completed the Honors Performing and Literary Arts Track under the direction of Dr. Philip Cioffari. Cioffari was one of the faculty members who was honored at the HSS reception. Van Wyck took the opportunity to speak about his experience studying with Cioffari, as well as how Cioffari's kindness and encouragement helped shape his career as a Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in the Fordham University English Department.

Dr. Van Wyck went on to earn an M.A. from the University at Buffalo, and a Ph.D in English Literature from Fordham University. While at Fordham, he's held a variety of posts, including the Facilitator for Graduate Student Professionalization in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, where he helped shape the Fellowship in Higher Education Leadership.

James holds a variety of advisory and leadership roles: he is a board member of ReEntry (a nonprofit that provides leadership training for international students), he serves on a University at Buffalo Alumni Leadership Council and chairs its Academics Committee. He also serves as a Regional Network Leader for SUNY Buffalo, is a member of William Paterson University's Alumni Executive Council, a Communications Committee member on mC19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, a core planning group member of Fordham's NEH Next Gen group, "Living Humanities PhD," and a member of the Graduate Career Consortium. In recognition of this work, he has been dubbed one of the "nations' most articulate graduate student advocates" by the editors of *The ABD Survival Guide*. His writing can be found in venues such as *The New England Quarterly*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and *Inside Higher Ed*.

## Honors Hangout

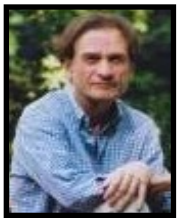
The first Honors Hangout of the year was held on October 10th in UC 211. Students enjoyed pizza and snacks while listening to the Director of International Students, Ms. Cinzia Richardson, speak about the National Student Exchange and international study abroad opportunities available to William Paterson students. In addition, Dr. Michael Principe also spoke about the Cambridge Summer Program. Thanks to all the students who joined us for a successful first Hangout!



*Ms. Cinzia Richardson speaks to students about studying abroad.*



*Dr. Michael Principe discusses the Cambridge Summer Program.*



## Dr. Cioffari accepted to NYC Actors Studio

Dr. Philip Cioffari, professor of English and director of the Honors Performing and Literary Arts Track, was recently accepted into the Playwrights/

Dr. Philip Cioffari

Directors unit of the renowned Actors Studio in New York City. Dr. Cioffari has written and directed plays for Off-Broadway and Off-Off Broadway, and has published numerous books and short stories. We recently interviewed Dr. Cioffari about the exciting news regarding his career.

### *What is the Actors Studio?*

The Actors Studio began in 1947 as a training ground for actors. The three current co-presidents are Ellen Burstyn, Harvey Keitel, and Al Pacino. Graduates include Marilyn Monroe, Marlon Brando, and other incredible actors. The studio was recently opened up to playwrights and directors. On Wednesday nights, a play written by one of the playwrights is read by some of the actors who are members, and also directed by a director who is a member. The plays have only been rehearsed briefly, and are not productions. Following the reading, the playwright goes onstage for criticism from the audience, and the moderator gives a full critique of the play.

### *How did you become a member?*

Becoming a member was a two-stage process. First, I submitted my resume, and then they invited me to submit a play I had written earlier this year. On the basis of that, I was accepted.

### *How do the actors, playwrights, and directors interact?*

The Wednesday night group is the main session. I have to find a director from the group, ask him/her to read my play and decide if he/she wants to direct it. Once we have gone through that step, we will look for actors. There are usually one or two rehearsals of the reading of the play before it is presented at a Wednesday night session.

### *Does the studio help get your work produced?*

One hopes, but the studio mainly helps you revise your play and improve it. From what I've seen so far, there's not a direct connection to production. It really would depend on who in the audience has connections to theaters and liked your work. All of the plays I've seen so far were well written, but they were not ready to be staged yet since they all had some kind of problem that needed to be addressed.

### *How long have you been writing plays?*

I started writing plays in the late 1980's because my fiction writing was at a plateau. For twenty years, I studied acting, playwriting, and directing at an acting studio in New York called HB Studios. I directed here on campus at the Black Box Theatre from 1995-2000. I directed about three plays per year for five years and then I did some directing Off-Off Broadway.

(cont. on next page)



Jan Pinkston

## Jan's tips for student success

### It's almost time for Spring 2018 Registration!

Priority Registration for the Spring 2018 semester will be held Friday, 11/3. Following is some advice to help you prepare:

If you have not already done so, make an appointment with your advisor to discuss your class schedule and obtain your six-digit registration pin number. Note that your pin number changes each semester. Students with priority registration have pins that begin with 000. If your advisor gave you a pin that does not begin with 000, please contact me as soon as possible (pinkstonj@wpunj.edu or 973-720-3776).

- Priority Registration will be held from 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. You should login and register as close to 9:00 a.m. as possible in order to identify any issues early and have a better chance of resolving them that day (remember, many offices on campus close by 4:30 p.m.). The system will close at 9:00 p.m. on 11/3 and you will not have access again until Monday, 11/6. Keep in mind that on Monday, 11/6 the registration window opens for students who did not have priority registration, so the classes will begin filling quickly.
- Even though you are an Honors student, you still need a permit to take an Honors course. You may request the permit by sending an email to [honors@wpunj.edu](mailto:honors@wpunj.edu). Be sure to include your name, student I.D. number, and the course title and CRN number. Remember, Honors cannot give you a permit for a non-Honors course; you must contact the department that is offering the course.
- Always check your self-service tab in WPCONnect for important information about registration and messages regarding holds that may prevent you from registering. Unfortunately, holds are sometimes placed on students' accounts at the last minute, so be sure to double check your status again on 11/2.
- A listing of the Spring 2018 Honors courses on the Honors website, as well as a step by step guide to the registration process. Be sure to visit the page and familiarize with the process before priority registration: <http://www.wpunj.edu/honors-program/courses.html>.
- **Need help?** Do not panic if you are not able to immediately access the registration page. If there is a system-wide problem, you will receive a message from Honors. If the problem is unique to you and you cannot access the system after numerous attempts over a one-hour period, send an email to [honors@wpunj.edu](mailto:honors@wpunj.edu) with your name, 855 number, contact information and a description of the problem.

*Good luck with registration! If you run into any problems, please remember that you can always stop by the Honors Office, Raubinger 154 and we will be glad to assist you.*



## Honors student addresses candidates during debate

The Gubernatorial debate was held on campus on Wednesday, October 18th. Democratic nominee and former U.S Ambassador for Germany, Phil Murphy, battled Republican nominee and former Lieutenant Governor, Kim Guadagno, in a fiery debate filled with taunts and jeers from not only the audience members, but from the two opponents as well.



Photo courtesy of CBS New York

First year Honors student, Khizar Siddiqui, took the initiative and submitted a question to the Political Science Department, and was then chosen to ask the candidates the question at the debate. Khizar asked the candidates what they would do to reduce the rising cost of public, in-state tuition. This question has a personal meaning for Khizar. Most of his friends from high school with outstanding academic and extracurricular records could not afford to attend the prestigious colleges they got accepted to and attended community college because it was the only option they could afford. Phil Murphy responded that he would like to construct and implement a program similar to New York's tuition-free community college program. Guadagno replied that she could not justify asking taxpayers to dole out money for other people's education by hiking up already absurdly high tax rates.

When asked why it is important to get involved in government and politics, Khizar responded, "This is your future. If you think it won't affect you, remember that it will affect future generations." He believes it is important now more than ever for college citizens to advocate for issues that are important to them. Khizar was ecstatic about the opportunity to get involved in the democratic process and hopes to encourage others to follow in his footsteps.

## Honors Club hosts fundraiser



Members of the Honors Club making stress balls.

The Honors Club hosted a fundraiser, "Stress Relief for Puerto Rico," in collaboration with Campus Activities, Service & Leadership's Heart 4 Hurricane Relief Initiative. Club members got together and made stress balls using water bottles and sand. The stress balls were sold on October 24th and 26th

in the Atrium lobby for a suggested donation of \$1. Proceeds will be donated to UNICEF for the victims of Hurricane Maria.

## Dr. Cioffari becomes member...

(cont. from page 3)

I wrote plays in the 90's and had a production, "Love in the Age of Dion," that ran for eight months at an equity theater in the Bronx called Belmont Italian American Playhouse. A few years ago I wrote a screenplay and directed an independent film based on the play. The film, also entitled, "Love in the Age of Dion," was screened at film festivals such as the New York Independent Film Festival and Hoboken International Film Festival, and it won a number of awards. This is my first time back in the theatre scene since then.

### What are you working on now?

I've been working on a play for about six months and I'm currently revising it. I hope to find a director that I'm confident in and possibly present it at the Actors Studio in the spring. I'm also developing a second play that I wrote over the summer, and hope to get both of them into production at some point. In the meantime, I'm also working on a couple of books.

*PHILIP CIOFFARI has been associated with Honors at William Paterson since 1999 and is the founding director of the Honors Literary and Performing Arts Track. He is the author of five books of fiction: the mystery/thriller, CATHOLIC BOYS; the short story collection, A HISTORY OF THINGS LOST OR BROKEN, which won the Tartt Fiction Prize, and the D. H. Lawrence award for fiction; JESUSVILLE, DARK ROAD, DEAD END, and just recently, THE BRONX KILL. His short stories have been published widely in commercial and literary magazines and anthologies, including North American Review, Playboy, Michigan Quarterly Review, Northwest Review, Florida Fiction, and Southern Humanities Review.*

### UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE

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