NEW BEGINNINGS & OLD TRADITIONS

THE BANTIVOGLIO HONORS CONCENTRATION CONTINUES TO GROW
Meet Lauren Shryock, Our New Academic Advisor!

By: Marie Totzke, Senior, Accounting Major

The growth in the Honors Concentration over the recent years created a need for a full-time academic advisor to guide students. The new academic advisor for the Honors Concentration is Lauren Shryock. Originally wanting to work in college athletics, opportunities have led her to the Honors Concentration this year.

Ms. Shryock received her undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and pursued her graduate degree from Temple University in Sport and Recreation Administration. While at the University of Maryland she worked as an academic advisor for student athletes and coached softball at the same time; juggling both activities, she realized her passion for advising students.

Ms. Shryock is originally from South Jersey; so when she decided to come back to the area she was looking for a position at Rowan University but was unsuccessful. She became an academic advisor at her alma mater Temple University. Once a position opened as an academic advisor in the Rohrer College of Business in 2016 she applied and got the job. She then began as an advisor in the Honors Concentration this past semester.

Ms. Shryock has enjoyed her first semester working within the concentration. She says her favorite part about working with students in the Honors Concentration is the sense of community that is built within the program. She enjoys working with honors students because they are high achieving and have a lot of goals.

When asked what her goals are, Shryock says that as a professional who primarily works with first-year students, her goal is to help them transition into college, make sure that they are aware of all the things available to them through the Honors Concentration, and engage them in the community. In the long-term, Lauren is hoping to take on more responsibility and become fully immersed in the Honors Concentration. Aside from working with students, Lauren was able to familiarize herself within the concentration by traveling to the National Collegiate Honors Council in Atlanta, Georgia with Dr. Talley, Dr. diNovi, and several members of the Honors Student Organization. There, she learned about best practices within honors programs at colleges across the country.

As an advisor, it is valuable that Lauren understands all the commitments that students juggle. Lauren herself has been a student athlete and had the opportunity to play softball as a pitcher in Switzerland for 4 months after receiving her undergraduate degree. She lived in Basel, had the opportunities to visit France and Italy, and even played a tournament in Greece. Because of that experience she is especially impressed by the opportunities of abroad internships and wants to encourage students to do things out of their comfort zone and try something new, whether it is an internship abroad or just traveling to a new place.
This year, the BLAST Olympics were different than they had ever been before. Held inside, the Olympics included all new events that key every group on their toes. With over 20 groups participating, the Whitney classrooms were packed with excitement and friendly competition.

The first event, Slack-jaw dancing, took everyone by surprise. In this game, one participant front each group had to dance in front of another person with their jaws dropped until they made the other person laugh. More familiar to the crowd, Rock Paper Scissors was the second event. Once again, the groups chose one person to represent the team and compete in a bracket to win.

After this, the events got even more interesting. The next one was a relay race, which required four group members to work together and cheer each other one throughout. The fourth event was a challenge familiar to all the Engineering students. The entire BLAST group had to build the tallest structure possible using a fixed number of uncooked spaghetti noodles, two feet of masking tape, and a marshmallow. Seeming to forget what they learned in their Engineering Clinics, many of the students’ structures collapsed, leaving only a select few standing tall!

The fifth event was taken from the popular game show *Minute to Win It*. Four group members had to sit in a line and move a cookie from their forehead to their mouth using only their facial muscles. A challenging feat, group members cheered each other on as each individual finally got their cookie down. The games ended with a classic round of trivia centered around popular culture and of course, a few facts about Rowan University.

The BLAST Olympics this year was certainly one for the books. Being held inside, they were completely different from any of the Olympics in the past, which made them even better. Who knows, may even become a new tradition for the BLAST Olympics!
HSO members Mike Foye (Left) and Paige Richards (Right) braved the weather to represent the Honors Concentration at the Fall Organization Fair.

HSO members traveled to the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. They were able to meet with honors students and faculty from across the nation and got in a bit of sightseeing along the way!

Students worked on their mummifying skills at the Honors Halloween Party.
Honors students make sandwiches for Cathedral Kitchen as part of the BLAST program.

Mermaid Man and Barnacle Boy make an appearance at the Honors Halloween Party.

Members of the Honors Book Group show off book covers they created. Members of the Honors Book Group also draw pictures of what they think the characters would look like, write haikus about their favorite (and least favorite) characters, and make personal and political connections to scenes with stories and video clips.
Caitlin McElwee

Caitlin is a junior Computer Science major with a minor in Math. This past summer she worked in the Advanced Interaction Research Lab at Drexel University as part of a research experience with the CRA-W DREU program. Caitlin worked with a brain sensor system called functional Near-InfraRed Spectroscopy, or fNIRS. This system is a noninvasive brain activity meter on par with EEG and fMRI systems for accuracy. She designed and built programs to facilitate psychology tests as part of her research testing fNIRS’s ability to detect working memory use in human subjects. In the future, Caitlin hopes to work in industry or in a different research field to expand her experience areas.

Brad Crowther

Brad is a senior Biological Sciences major with a minor in Chemistry, graduating in December 2018. Brad’s work over the summer with Dr. George S. Deepe from the University of Cincinnati School of Medicine dealt with Histoplasma capsulatum, a fungal pathogen endemic to the Ohio and Mississippi river valley areas and how to inhibit its growth once it has infected macrophages in the immune system that are responsible for killing the fungus. They used 2-deoxyglucose (2DG), a common cancer drug known to inhibit cellular respiration in tumors, to inhibit the growth of H. capsulatum within infected macrophages in a similar way. Brad found that 2DG did inhibit the growth of the fungus, showing the most inhibition when combined the gene Hypoxia-Inducible Factor 1α (HIF-1α), which stimulates macrophages to perform cellular respiration in conditions of low oxygen, was present to be expressed. If macrophages were deficient in HIF-1α, they would not be able to kill the fungus at the same rate due to 2DG’s ability to block expression of the gene. Further testing is needed to see if this technique can be used in the field. Dr. Deepe will be investigating this further, as there may be a specific product of cellular respiration by macrophages that may be directly responsible for killing the H. capsulatum. After graduate school, Brad plans to go into research specializing in microbiology and immunology. He is also thinking about teaching Biology at the university level, as he has been a tutor for Rowan in the past and loved every minute of it.
Summer Experiences
By: Jessica Sesko, Senior, Electrical and Computer Engineering Major

Mahaa is a junior Biological Sciences and Philosophy and Religion Studies dual major with a minor in Dance. This past summer, she was part of the ReNUWIt (Re-inventing the Nation's Urban Water Infrastructure) REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) at the University of California, Berkeley. ReNUWIt is a National Science Foundation (NSF) funded Engineering Research Center (ERC) aiming to change the ways in which our nation manages urban water. Mahaa completed her REU under Professor Kara L. Nelson in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering with the mentorship of PhD candidate Erica Fuhrmeister. Her project focused on determining the impact of the sanitation intervention arm the WASH Benefits Trial conducted in Mymensingh, Bangladesh, where the majority of the population has limited access to improved sanitation. Diarrhea is the second leading cause of death among under-five children. Infectious diarrhea can be transmitted via consumption of contaminated food or water, exposure to polluted soil, and exposure to fecal-contaminated hands. In the future, Mahaa hopes to become an infectious disease specialist as a physician-scientist (MD/PhD).

Ashleigh is a senior Journalism major with a French & English minor. This past summer, Ashleigh studied abroad at the University of Paris, Sorbonne in Paris, France. She spent five hours in class a day taking an intensive French class, which dealt with grammar, culture, and conversation. During this time, Ashleigh stayed with a host mom who was 94 years old! She was still as sharp as a tack and spoke no English, which really helped Ashleigh with her French skills. In the future Ashleigh hopes to keep French in her life in some capacity, she just isn't quite sure how yet - perhaps by joining a French club. After graduation, Ashleigh is hoping to attend graduate school to become a teacher.
Students smile at the Honors First-Year Welcome Reception before mingling with university administration and college deans.

Students visit a local alpaca farm in conjunction with our Honors Modern Descendants of the Incas course.

Students converse with Drs. Talley and diNovi at our popular Talk with Talley, Dish with diNovi event.