

THE

HONORS



2018 - 2019

CONNECTION



Succeeding In and

Out of the Classroom

Bantivoglio Honors College Dean

The transformation from the Bantivoglio Honors Concentration to becoming a Concentration within the Honors College has been swift, and for the class of 2022, dramatic. They've never known BLAST without Professor Flocco at the helm training the mentors. And the mentors have not likely contemplated leadership alongside the important issues of access and inclusion Professor Flocco shares with them. This new, more robust First Year Experience, which is tied to Freshman Clinic and Composition I and II, reflects our changed status as college alongside our continued and deepened commitment to the strong community that distinguishes Rowan Honors.



In addition to more course offerings, such as Honors Public Speaking and Honors Sophomore Clinic, which will start Fall of 2019, we've added other classes to assist targeted majors fulfil their requirements within Honors. We've built up our offerings in STEM and Business in particular, and held a Town Hall with all Non-STEM majors to brainstorm courses we can offer to expand our classes in the Humanities, Social Sciences, as well as the Arts and Communications. I have also been conducting targeted outreach to qualified students as well, so we are optimistic that by 2020 we will have a more diverse Honors community as well.

After realizing how incredibly popular our trip to DC this past fall was, we're working on expanding those types of trips and will be offering many more next fall. As some of you know, the trips are filling up within seconds of opening! We're re-organizing our budget as well as office duties to accommodate your cultural interests and are confident that next semester, most of your wishes will be granted. Although it is still early in the season to know about graduate and professional school acceptances or job offers, preliminary news suggests another year of Honors students excelling, with acceptances to Brown, University of Delaware, and Harvard thus far, we believe you are poised to thrive in Whitney and beyond. In May we are hosting an all-Honors-Faculty Education and Pedagogy Retreat, so next year, you can expect even more dynamic teaching and learning in our classes. And with a strong HSO Executive Board, we are eagerly anticipating more Honors groups as well as our annual, excellent events such as the Murder Mystery Dinner.

In 2014 when I became the Director of the Honors Concentration, I could never could have imagined we would be where we are now. We are thinking, thriving, and sharing together; growing our program; and deepening both our community and academic offerings. Dr. diNovi, the HSO, and I are always eager to hear your suggestions, so don't hesitate to share your ideas, and be prepared for more exciting changes next fall...

Bantivoglio Honors College Dean, Dr. Lee Talley

Honors Student Organization President



I am proud to be not only the President of the Honors Student Organization, but also an active member in our honors community. Since I began my college career in Honors, I have been able to watch and participate in the transformation of our program. While so much change was happening in the structural aspects of Honors such as changing from a concentration to a college, as President, my goal was to strengthen our community. This desire to create a stronger community came from my first year that I got served in the HSO: my counterpart and I came up with the Registration Breakfast

where students could all register together, ask advising questions, get help from other students, and eat plenty of carbs! Since this event first began in Fall 2017, it has been an exceedingly popular event that has helped many students with the registration process and help students bond in the early morning hours. To be able to replicate and accomplish the type of community events that the Registration Breakfast was able to create, myself and the HSO have been working extremely hard at creating events and more meaningful hours of participation and service. Our current Service and Events Coordinators have created a series known as the Breakfast Club where students have an opportunity to eat breakfast with fellow Honors students and talk about the topic of that event. In addition, we had a 24 hour streaming service event known as ExtraLife where students played games while helping raise money for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Our events are more meaningful than ever and have helped build an incredible Honors community! It can only get better from here. I cannot articulate enough how proud I am to be a member of our Honors community and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for Honors!

Honors Society Organization President, Paige Richards

Graduating Seniors Q&A

Q: What accomplishment are you most proud of?

During my undergraduate career I have many accomplishments I am proud of both in and outside of academics. My greatest accomplishment over the past four years would be being awarded Admissions Ambassador of the Year my junior year. This award is given to two Admissions Ambassadors who exemplify outstanding work ethic and leadership. The reason I consider this my greatest accomplishment is because I was so shocked and surprised to receive the award, and I was chosen among such an amazing staff of students! I love working for the Admissions staff as a tour guide and love working alongside my Ambassador family.

Q: What is your favorite memory of Honors?

I have done several great things through the Honors program, and have a lot of great memories. My favorite memory would be from a trip to NYC to visit the Modern Museum of Art my freshman year. The trip was so much fun and it was my first honors trip. It's my favorite memory because this trip introduced me to my life long friends. After we went on the trip together, we continued to hang out and go on more honors trips with each other. It was through the honors program that I met my best friends, and I couldn't be happier!

Q: What are you doing after graduation?

After graduation I am working full time for West Pharmaceuticals Services as an Engineer within the Research and Development Department. I am very excited to work for West Pharmaceuticals, I worked there over a summer as an intern and had a great experience. I also plan to get my masters degree in either Engineering or Business within the next 5 years while working.



Haley Schapell, Biomedical Engineering Major

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

I'd have to say my greatest accomplishment would have to be when I was selected as a Student National Medical Association's National Future Leadership Project Fellow. I am one out of nine premedical students chosen for this honor from over eight thousand national members. The Student National Medical Association, is the nation's oldest and largest nonprofit organization that is committed to supporting current and future underrepresented minority medical students, addressing the needs of underserved communities, and increasing the number of clinically excellent, culturally competent and socially conscious physicians.

What is your favorite memory of Honors?

I hate to be that guy, but I don't have one clear cut favorite memory. What I will forever remember from my Honors experiences is the sense of joy I felt from being a part of this community. From the Honors classes and trips and everything inbetween, I have met such wonderful people and expanded my way of thinking. In retrospect, I do have one particularly fond memory from my experience in Honors. In Professor Kitson's Honors Cultural Geography class we had the opportunity to go to the Edelman Fossil Park and search for fossils with a bunch of elementary school kids. It was even more fun than it sounds.

What are doing after graduation?

First and foremost, I plan to relax and travel for a little bit. I'm hoping to go to Nigeria since I have yet to go. Other than that, I will be working and simultaneously getting ready to apply to medical school.



Oluseun Dairo, Biological Sciences Major



Mahaa Ahmed, Biological Sciences & Philosophy and Religion Studies Major

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

My greatest accomplishment during undergraduate was finding balance. Finding balance between my two majors, Biological Science and Philosophy and Religion Studies, my minor in Dance, and the Honors concentration in addition to conducting research, participating in clubs, volunteering, being a student worker, and making time for myself was often a challenge. Over time, I have definitely learned the importance of organization and understand that it is easy to make time for the things we truly want to do.

What is your favorite memory from Honors?

Being part of the Honors program has provided me with many opportunities. My favorite experience is undoubtedly being a BLAST mentor during my sophomore and junior years. BLAST was a memorable experience during my freshman year and it was great being able to help students when I was in their shoes just a few months earlier.

What are you doing after graduation?

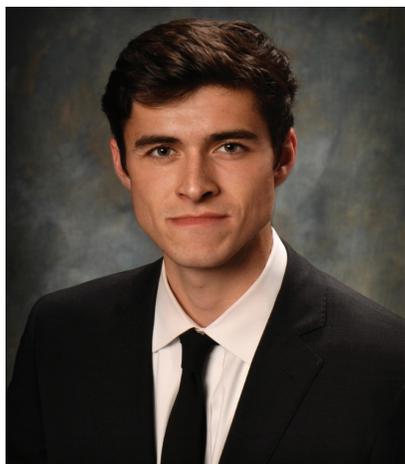
After graduation, I will be pursuing my MS in Environmental Health at Harvard University. I am currently shortlisted for a Fulbright Award to the University of Leeds in the UK. If I receive the Fulbright, I would spend one year in the UK getting a MS in Water, Sanitation, and Health Engineering and would then attend Harvard. My ultimate goal is to attend medical school in order to become an infectious disease specialist.

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

I feel my greatest accomplishment was being named the History Department's Senior of Distinction. I felt honored and humbled to be recognized by all my professors for my dedication to learning. This was an incredible award to receive and I felt truly appreciated by the members of my department at Rowan.

What is your favorite memory from Honors?

My favorite memory of my honors experience would have to be acting in the Honors Murder Mystery Dinner. Having never been involved in a theater production, I had the opportunity through Honors to try something totally new and exciting. Even with my lack of theater experience, I felt incredibly comfortable on stage surrounded by a group of supportive students. I also got to meet a lot of people in Honors I would not have met otherwise. It was some of the most fun I have had in college.



Riley Shea, History & Africana Studies Major

What are you doing after graduation?

After graduation, I plan to pursue a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) in History at Brown University. I am incredibly excited to continue my education at Brown and eventually working in education myself.

HONORS BLAST

By Sam Trembly, Senior PR & Marketing Major

This year, the Bantivoglio Honors College had a major change to the BLAST Program. BLAST stands for Bantivoglio Leadership and Service Training, a program for incoming Honors students to get better acquainted with Honors and, for incoming freshman, more familiar with college in general. The program pairs a group of new Honors students with two mentors for their first semester in Honors to meet on a weekly basis to cover a variety of topics related to adjusting to their new curricular requirements and college life.

The newest addition to the BLAST program was the integration of a weekly class for mentors. Taught by Professor Marie Flocco, students who volunteer to be BLAST mentors register for this unique class during the semester they are mentoring. BLAST class is an open discussion among the mentors to discuss what they experienced during their meeting last week and to plan for what's ahead. With 33 BLAST mentors this semester, each student has had a different experience in their group meetings.

One senior mentor, Mitch McDaniels Senior Biology major, described the transformation like this: "I would say that BLAST has been completely rejuvenated this year. I've really enjoyed the last three semesters as a mentor before, but the changes this year have been momentous



Students competing in a basketball shoot-off



One of the competing BLAST groups!

in a very positive way. This year, having BLAST be an actual class and regular group meetings has been very beneficial in building the honors freshman community and acclimating these freshmen to their life as a Rowan Honors Student for the next 3, 4 or 5 years. Students seemed to be excited about going to BLAST and the Honors requirements, commitments and values seem to be even more at the forefront of their minds this year. Honors seems to be an even bigger focus because of this weekly reinforcement of Honors concepts and goals in the BLAST class" Mitch says of his experience as a mentor this year.

Professor Flocco takes a deep interest in what each mentor says about their experiences, and tries to weave it into a class wide discussion for everyone to take part in.

She explains how "BLAST exists in two parts: I mentor the class, and the class mentors their groups. It's really just a transfer theory: each week has a different topic; we discuss the mentors prior experiences and what they wish they knew. We are taking their experiences, what they know now and new information I introduce, and the mentors go to their group meetings with the concept of

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the week. Then, we come back to this class and discuss what happened. We review the mentors' experiences and talk about if it worked well or needs improvement, and how we can do better for next year's groups."

The topics the class focus on are all designed to encompass the typical experiences incoming students have throughout college. There are practical topics, that range from registering for classes, to drugs, alcohol and consent training, to more theoretical topics like habits of mind and time management. Professor Flocco provides structure to the classroom, encouraging the mentors to plan objectives for their groups to cover these topics. During the class she is less of a professor and more of a coach, providing advice and suggestions and sometimes acting as a referee to get the mentors back on track.

Together, the mentors and Dr. Flocco brainstorm, create and organize plans for the group meetings and debate what is most important for students to know. Each week, the mentors bring a complete agenda to their meetings to make sure they cover the topics they wish to cover during every BLAST meeting. Mentees this year believe this experience has been integral to their development as college students in Honors.

"BLAST has been really beneficial to me this year," says Samantha, a freshman Biochemistry major involved in BLAST this semester, "I feel like I have a better understanding of how things work at Rowan and in Honors."

Mentors are encouraged to share their own personal experiences in Honors while communicating advice they learned after to their group.

Outside the typical weekly meetings, BLAST groups engage in activities together to involve themselves in Rowan's community. They attend Rowan After Hours (RAH) events, volunteering opportunities, and sometimes even involve themselves off campus to become more familiar with Glassboro. These activities help the students to achieve their Honors hours requirements of 14 service and 14 participation hours while building closer relationships with the students in their BLAST groups.

Both the mentors and the mentees agree the best thing about BLAST is the relationships they form through the program. Mentees are able to meet new students in Honors they can connect with and make long-lasting friendships. The BLAST program brings new students together with like interests and offers a semester long support system to freshman and new Honors students to transition to college life and life in the Honors College.



Students competing in a round of cornhole

Honors Cultural Geography

By Jamie Medina, Biomedical Engineering Major

Rowan University's Honors Concentration challenges ambitious, goal-driven students to think, thrive, and share their experiences--both inside and outside academics--with their like-minded peers who believe in those values. As an Honors student, a plethora of Honors classes are available to take each semester that instill those same principles. One of the classes offered this Fall 2018 is Honor's Cultural Geography, taught by Dr. Kitson. Her class answers the big question: "Why does place matter?" In a personal question and answer session below, Dr. Kitson explained her side of the class from a professor's perspective.

Q: What is a general idea of what this class entails?

Dr. Kitson: "Cultural geography is fundamentally concerned with the question of place. Consider the ways classrooms, bedrooms, and boardrooms each connote different types of places that inspire different types of culture (what humans do). The basic assertion of a geographic approach to culture is that place matters.

This course really centers on developing the capacity think geographically: to investigate complex relationships between people and place, from local to global scales. Observational, ethnographic, and field-based (experiential) methods guide the place-based (spatial) investigation of human activity in this course."

Q: How does this course impact students in college?

Dr. Kitson: "As far as how this course impacts students in college, I think this course deepens the significance of this particular place (both Rowan University and Glassboro) for students. Students are involved in the Glassboro Memory Mapping Project, a public geography project exploring history, memory, and place in Glassboro. This digital scholarship project is collaboration between Honors Cultural Geography, the Glassboro Historical Society, the Heritage Glass Museum, and the Campbell Library Digital Scholarship Center. This participatory research project enlists community members and students in the making of an online archive and website through digitizing, mapping, and researching historic images.

For students, this project is

intended to develop the capacity to think geographically through exploring relationships between people and place, from local to global scales. Students are investigating how a social or cultural practice or process shaped--and was shaped by--Glassboro. In applying a geographic approach to an aspect of Glassboro culture (what humans do), students consider the experience of diverse community groups, the influence of global processes, and the spatial effects. Using social science/humanities research methods (e.g., archival research, oral history, photo elicitation, re-photography, autoethnography, etc.), and digital skills (e.g., creating and managing metadata, web platform design, audio editing, etc.) in crafting a multi-media article."

Q: How will this course affect students and their careers?

Dr. Kitson: "I believe this course contributes to equipping students with the ability to articulate complex understandings of diverse communities and cultures through a spatial or geographic perspective. Cultural geographers bring a place-based focus to the study of all kinds of human activity by considering, most basically, where does an activity occur and why. Or put differently, what is happening where? And with what effects? A geographic approach reveals the complex ways our environment (place) influences culture (what people do), and in turn, how what people do (e.g., drive car) shapes our environment (e.g., roads are built, emissions are generated, etc.). As people and places become ever more interconnected, there is an imperative to understand how our everyday lives affect--and are affected by--activities elsewhere. No matter your professional path, these are critical and transferable skills for global / Earth citizenship (e.g., empathy: the ability to imagine worldviews different than your own; spatial thinking: to understand global-local processes)."

It is evident that this course allows students to examine society through a multi-perspective lense, one that takes into account how human activity affects the world we live in. It gives students the critical thinking skills necessary to extend their horizons beyond the limits of Rowan or Glassboro and into the world

where there are issues that can affect millions of lives that are thousands of miles away. When discussing the impacts of this class in general, it is important not only to get the professor's side, but the students' side as well.

One of class' current students, David Dlug, offered his input on how the Honors Cultural Geography class runs and how it will impact his life.

He states that, "In Honors Cultural Geography, Dr. Kitson teaches us about space and place, and everything in between. As a class, we discuss why place matters from a local to a global perspective. Leaving this class, I'll have a greater understanding of the world that surrounds me, and how I'm a part of it!"

As a marketing major here at Rowan, David expressed that his interest in signing up for this class stemmed from his desire to have a global perspective, since he has lived in only South Jersey all of his life. Marketing majors have to be able to reach a wide array of people in order to form connections that would help in gaining influence for whatever product or idea is being pitched.

Honors Cultural Geography is a course that welcomes minds from any majors offered here at Rowan. In any field, you will be faced with many kinds of people; This diversity is what will give you a global perspective on issues that affect humanity as a whole. As humans who live on a single planet, we all function together as a unit. This class teaches students how to apply a global perspective in order to contribute a positive impact to the community which they are a part of.



Dr. Jen Kitson, Honors Cultural Geography Professor

Study Abroad in South Korea

By Brandon Kreusch, Mechanical Engineering



Busan Nightlife

The summer of 2018 brought me to Busan, South Korea, where I had the opportunity to be immersed in a completely foreign language, culture and multitude of traditions. This was a dream come true which I heavily considered, planned and worked towards for quite some time. While South Korea was a very attractive location to me, I was most interested in studying abroad in a completely foreign country to gain valuable experience, new perspectives and knowledge of a culture unfamiliar to me. This was truly a unique and special experience that I will remember and value for the rest of my life.

My time in South Korea involved three distinct facets, including my learning and experiences at Pusan National University, the trips and excursions organized by International Studies Abroad and of course my own adventures exploring the city and sites. My courses at Pusan National University consisted of “Beginner’s Korean Language & Culture”, which was invaluable since I didn’t speak a lick of Korean when I traveled to the country! Another course I was enrolled in, “Living the Intentional Life in a Sea of Possibilities”, turned out to be a very interesting learning experience that focused on the idea that the universe is a positive environment that wants to help us lead happier lives (I often compared it to the Force from Star Wars in class discussions).

I told people that I wanted to study abroad in order to complete two general education requirements, allowing me to pursue a minor in Civil Engineering back here at Rowan. While this is true, and I am on track to get this minor along as well as my degree in Mechanical Engineering, it was honestly a thinly-veiled excuse to go and see a new country. I met people who I will be in contact with for the rest of my life from all around the world. Everybody I met was wonderful from the locals of South Korea to the other international students I had classes with. Together we discovered and learned about South Korean history, cities and famous sites like the Haedong Yonggungsa Temple, Gwangan Beach and Geoje.

Overall, this was definitely a journey that I will cherish for the rest of my life. After having my own experience studying abroad, I would want to encourage those who are considering the opportunity to seize it. I was initially hesitant to go because I wouldn’t know anyone else on the trip (no other Rowan student was going to South Korea this semester). As someone who tends to be a more shy and introverted person, this definitely made me hesitate to make this decision. However, I knew I would regret it if I never took the amazing opportunity that I had in front of me. I definitely made the right choice and am a better student and person because of it.



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Brandon Kruesch and his peers at the PNU Summer School in South Korea