

BRYANT UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

HONORABLE MENTIONS

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NEW PROGRAM COORDINATOR

On June 13, Dr. VK Unni announced that I was selected as the Honors Program Coordinator. I want to thank Professor Karri for all his efforts over the last year and wish him well in his new position.

As a short introduction, I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of CIS in the College of Business. Prior to my academic career, I have worked for an international public accounting firm, consumer products manufacturer and a large insurance company.

My faculty appointment began in 1994 and was promoted to my current rank in 2001. I received my Ph.D. in Business Administration from the University of Rhode

Island ... and more importantly, my MBA from Bryant University. Bryant has been a significant part of my life. I cannot even begin to convey the number of wonderful students and alumni as well as the faculty and staff that I have met during my employment at Bryant.

I begin this new opportunity with many thoughts and ideas ... my goal is to expand and develop it into a program where its members will be as excited as I am ... and graduating students that will be exceptionally prepared for their career and/or graduate school.

As a proud alumnus, I am



completely committed and supportive of any initiatives that a) provide the best education for our students and b) provides the community with a young professional ready to "take on the world" and be successful.

Best wishes!

Kenneth J. Sousa, Ph.D.

WELCOME CLASS OF 2010

During June, the University hosted its annual orientation activities for the entering Class of 2010. We welcomed the Program invitees of the freshmen class with a luncheon during the first day of orientation. This luncheon provided an op-

portunity to meet the new members of our community and the Honors Program. Several faculty members attended the luncheon, introduced themselves and conveyed their thoughts on the Program. In addition, two of the orientation lead-

ers provided insight from a student's perspective on their experience as members of the Program.

A significant number of freshmen have been invited to join the Honors Program; over 75% have registered for

at least one honors course for the Fall semester.

The members of our new class bring exceptional preparation in academics, activities, work and athletic experience.

Welcome and best wishes!

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New Courses for Fall 2006

- MGT200: Management Principles and Practice (J. Segovis)
- POLS/GLOB290: Politics of the Global System (J. Dietrich)
- COM204: The Process of Communication (S. Baran)

VISION OF THE HONORS PROGRAM

When I considered applying for this position in May, I found myself compiling numerous thoughts about the Program, its past and its future. So that I would not lose these thoughts, I created a document and began to organize and memorialize my ideas. This document has become the foundation of new strategies and ideas associated with the Program.

One of the most important reasons for accepting this position is the level of support and commitment for the program including President Machtley, VPAA Dr. Unni, Dean Trifts, Dean Lux and the Honors Council. In addition, the talented faculty who volunteer to teach the honors courses that add significant value to the Program.

A great deal of good work has been accomplished before me. However,

Rome was not built in a day ... nor will the Honors Program. Here are some initial thoughts that will guide me.

Firstly, each of the initiatives and strategies will focus on a program which will provide a "*personalized, unique experience*" for its members. The Program will create an environment that will tailor the educational and co-curricular experiences to develop the talents of our best students. A program both our students and University will be proud of.

One of the initiatives will be to devote attention to refine and develop honors coursework; so that the focus is not to "make the courses harder", but cultivate

an environment that integrates challenge with a purpose. The sole focus will be to better prepare our students for a successful career or advanced education. Over the fall, I will be working closely with faculty on co-curricular activities to integrate into honors classes ... to supplement the in-class experience.

The goal of the Program is to "... provide a personalized, unique experience ... and develop the talents of our best students."

I encourage you to contact me with suggestions or if you need any assistance with the Honors Program.

I will leave you with a quote I told the incoming freshmen at the orientation luncheon ... "*Instead of looking at the honors program as more work, students should see it as a different experience that can define them as a person.*"

HONORS ASSISTANTSHIPS

Honors Assistantships are one of the unique opportunities offered to our students in the Honors Program. These positions are available to all honors students in good standing.

These assistantships provide students with an opportunity to work with a faculty member on research and special projects.

The assistantship students work directly with a member of the faculty on research or special

projects. This work provides an extraordinary position to gain additional knowledge in a specific subject area as well as gaining experience with interesting projects.

Faculty members will be submitting proposals which includes specific tasks and deliverables

that are required to be completed by the student assistant. Students will be paid based on working between 10-14 hours per week over the Fall semester. Students applying for these positions are not required to have work study financial aid to qualify for the assistantships.

The number of positions is limited. If you are interested in these positions, contact me by September 1.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

The Honors Program at the University of Rhode Island is hosting an Honors Colloquium during the Fall 2006 semester.

Music is emotive and creates a feeling of belonging; it can speak in code, rendering it acceptable to the mainstream even as it forwards the specific social agenda of a particular group of people.

Beginning on Tuesday, Septem-

ber 12 and continuing through December 5, the Colloquium features activist musicians who will discuss and perform their music, emphasizing the power of music to shape political and social ex-

perience.

Bryant University Honors Program members have received an invitation to attend any of the sessions free of charge.

More information on the Colloquium is available at <http://www.uri.edu/hc/>. If a group of members wishes to attend a specific session together, contact me and I may be able to arrange transportation to Kingston.



ALUMNI PROFILE — BECKY LAFRANCOIS '05

*By David Cranshaw
University Relations*

Becky Lafrancois '05 a recent graduate of the honors program returned to Bryant this summer to speak to a group of incoming honors students during their orientation.

She recalled being at the same event before her freshmen year in 2001. At the time, she was unsure

whether she wanted to take part in the honors program. "I worked hard in high school; I'm going to college, I want to have fun," she thought at the time.

Ultimately, she decided that it would be a good idea to challenge and test herself a little bit more.

"You are never going to find out how far you can go until you take that first step."

Challenge herself she did. After only a year at Bryant, she had already completed half of the required coursework.

"The honors classes were a good opportunity to be in smaller classes with students of your own caliber who were serious about learning," she said.

Most honors classes offer hands-on opportunities to apply theories and ideas discussed in class. Lafrancois, for example, interviewed a vice-president of a major insurer to learn first hand about supply chain management, explored the Enron scandal as it was unfolding, and even studied the mathematical structure of the galaxies in an honors astronomy class.

For Lafrancois, the highlight of the program came at the end of her tenure at Bryant as she worked on her senior thesis. While working on the yearlong project, Lafrancois decided that she wanted to continue her studies in the field of economics, which led her to Syracuse University where she is now studying for her Ph.D.

"I am glad that I made the decision to take honors classes as a freshman. I was able to grow both academically and personally, and I managed to have fun, too," she said.

"You are never going to find out how far you can go until you take that first step."

STUDENT PROGRESS

Membership in the Honors Program provides unique opportunities to our students. To maintain an effective program for the benefit of our members, it will be important to evaluate progress toward successful completion.

This month, each member's record will be reviewed to measure their progress in the program. Several data points will be reviewed including: honors and overall GPA, number of honors courses registered in the current semester and number of courses completed as well as the last semester an honors course was

completed. Please note that all honors courses which receive a "X" grade through the grade replacement policy do not count as a completed course. Additionally, the computation of any replaced course will not be included in the overall and honors GPA until the same honors course is completed.

If you have any questions about this policy, see Bob Lafond in Undergraduate Advising.

Member's progress will be evaluated to ensure progress toward successful completion.

In September, members will receive an evaluation of their progress. In cases where the member's progress is not advancing appropriately, a "warning" status will be conveyed. In some cases, a consistent lack of progress will result in being released from the Program.

Members may appeal the decision directly to me. Only official members in the Honors Program will be assigned preferred registration status.

HONORS PROGRAM ASSISTANT POSITION

Do you want to receive additional experience with research? Strategy development? Working with a faculty member? The Honors Program is looking for a student to serve as an assistant.

Applicants should have the following skills:

- Solid interpersonal and writing ability.

- Ability to perform basic research tasks.
- Good organizational skills
- Ability to complete tasks with minimal direction and supervision

Students with webpage development skills are encouraged to apply.

The position is open to all honors students in good standing. Sophomore

and juniors with work study preferred. Students should be available for 10-14 hours per week with flexible scheduling available.

Applications will be accepted through September 6. If you are interested in the position, please send an email to me along with your resume attached. If you have any questions about the position, please contact me.

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Visit the new honors website. The website contains more information about the Program, a listing of senior honors projects and contact information for the Honors Council and Coordinator.

The website also includes the necessary forms that are required for the honors course contracts and senior honors project proposal. Additional documents are also included which outline instructions and guidelines associated with the senior honors project proposal and contract. Ensure that you use these new forms for the honors contract and senior honors project. Take a look at the new website. The website will have additional items in January.

Our Updated Website
<http://honors.bryant.edu>



The Bryant University Honors Program offers its members a personalized, unique experience that enriches their academic, social, cultural and professional talents in a mentor-oriented environment.

PARANOIA? THE SENIOR HONORS PROJECT

You do not need to read the entire Library of Congress. Nor do you need to write a book that will be on display there.

From several conversations, it appears that the senior honors project may have created some anxiety with some members and prevented them from successfully completing the Honors Program. In this case, the perception of this course has overtaken reality.

This course consists of a project defined by the member as the terminal requirement of the Honors Program. Contrary to popular belief, a large "term paper" is not required as the course's objective. The deliverable can (and should) be something that reflects the student's interest in a specific subject or topic. More importantly, it is strongly suggested that the student leverage the project's deliverable to assist with a future career path or indus-

try preference. It could also be a traditional research project which could provide an opportunity to develop an in-depth knowledge on a subject. This option could be useful for students who wish to further their education through graduate study. Traditional research papers can "tilt" the admission decision for an advanced degree.

Projects such as a business plan, marketing analysis or financial study could be completed to apply concepts into a useful project. Applied projects, possibly working for a real business, can provide a distinct competitive advantage for students seeking a career position. Traditional research papers can also develop ideas in various liberal arts and sciences topics.

Ultimately, this project should define the culmination of your coursework

(honors and overall) at Bryant University. Especially in relation to your concentration or minor. Students discussing the nature and depth of their project during an interview will illustrate the ability to succeed with a definitive example. Even if the project has not been completed prior to interviews, students can converse about the objective and methodology associated with the project.

This capstone course presents the student with a winning combination to gain an advantage on a career or graduate school admission.

Students should begin to consider their project during their junior year and register for the course in either the fall or spring. You can begin and complete your project "outside" the timeline of the fall or spring semester. Upon completion, a grade will be submitted.

Over the next few months, juniors and seniors will be receiving information to assist with the process of the proposal development and acceptance.

The Senior Honors Project ... reflects the student's interest in a specific subject or topic ... and presents a "winning combination to gain an advantage on a career or graduate school admission."