

BRYANT UNIVERSITY THE HONORS PROGRAM

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Volume 2, Issue 2
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CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2007!

The Bryant University Honors Program would like to congratulate the seventeen members who are candidates to complete the Program.

This year represents a significant milestone for the Program. In the ten-year history of the Program, this year represents the largest number of candidates to complete the senior honors project.

The seventeen members are scheduled to complete the senior honors project presen-



tation. These members are: John Belanger, Shawn Benham, TingTing Chen, Courtney Demoree, Kathryn Dionne, James Gallant, Emily Giannini, Danielle Godon, Amanda Harnden, Monica Kraus, Benjamin Lawlor, Benjamin Leger, Kristin Milligan, Erika Rosewell, Stephen Rush, Nicholas Sinkus, and Bijan Zamanian.

These seniors truly exemplify the meaning of accepting "the road less traveled" to challenge themselves as the best of our academic program.

Candidates of The Honors Program who are certified by completing the Program's requirements will receive special designation on their transcripts, program and diploma at the University's Commencement on May 19.

Along with all of my colleagues from the Academic Affairs Division, please accept our congratulations on your effort and focus on academic excellence.

Best wishes and good luck!

*Kenneth J. Sousa, Ph.D.
Coordinator,*

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CLASS OF 2007 — AMANDA HARNDEN

For a student majoring in applied actuarial mathematics and a minor in communication, a senior honors project in sociology might seem like an unusual fit. However, a series of events and fluke meetings led me into a very interesting, and powerful, project.

In the fall of my senior year, I decided to take a new community engagement and service learning (SL) class that the University now offers. My professor for the class, Dr.

"The final destination was worth the hard work."

Enos, was new to Bryant, but had a background filled with community involvement and teaching. She is a very enthusiastic and passionate professor and it is easy to tell how much she enjoys her work.

I approached Dr. Enos during the semester wondering if she would like to be involved in my senior honors project as my senior advisor.

Dr. Enos immediately expressed interest and quickly generated a multitude of project ideas. A meeting was arranged with Nancy Paradee, the Deputy Executive Director of Family Resources Community Action, an organization dedicated to serving low-income families throughout northern RI.

I went into the meeting with an open mind and came out with a promising idea to look at the ways in which lower-income families unknowingly pay more for goods and services in the nation, and specifically in Woonsocket, than

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Program In Brief...

- 224 Members
- 5 students petitioned for membership Spring 2007
- Fall 2007 — 19 honors-designated course sections
- New Fall Courses 2007
 - MATH201: Statistics I
 - LCS463: Studies in Comparative Literature

CLASS OF 2007 — AMANDA HARNDEN (CONTINUED)

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middle-income families.

During the past semester, I spent a large portion of my time gathering data and researching the topic. There is definitely a large amount of research, but it seems there is so much more to be understood and quantified. After compiling the research, it was time to apply what I had learned to Woonsocket.

My project analysis of Woonsocket involved identifying and mapping businesses in the city that I believed could potentially be charging lower-income families more money. These less desirable stores include payday lenders, check cashing services and pawn shops. I also looked at more desirable stores like banks and credit unions.

After the research and quantitative work

in Woonsocket, I validated the general research and found that Woonsocket lower-income families are more susceptible to a general category of businesses which are known to take advantage of lower income persons. Over seventy-five percent of these types of businesses are located in areas of lower income and lower education—those that I identified as problematic areas when categorizing neighborhoods.

Looking back over my experiences with this senior honors project, I am struck by just how clearly the data held true for Woonsocket. Having grown-up in a comfortable middle-class environment in Saratoga Springs, NY, I must confess to an absolute lack of awareness of such predatory business practices. I also believe that the situation is probably much more predatory in even larger cities with large concentrations of lower income

persons. It is my hope that my project can serve as a base for others in the future. I believe community leaders, such as Bryant, can begin to form important alliances and coalitions to address these problems, and can start offering services such as a financial literacy program for Woonsocket residents.

Having this real-world experience will serve as a good balance for the data analysis that I will be doing as an actuary. In retrospect, this project experience and my increased awareness demonstrates, for me, the value of the Bryant University liberal arts education. Without such a balanced education, I might well have never gotten outside the realm of pure business classes and data analysis. The final destination was worth the hard work and long hours invested during the second semester of my senior year.

MEMBER PROFILE — KRISTIN LYNCH '08

The Honors Program has been a part of my Bryant University education since the day I sat down to lunch during Orientation with a group of my fellow honors peers and their parents.

Since then, I have only become more involved with the Program, most especially upon Dr. Kenneth Sousa's appointment to his current position as Honors Program Coordinator.

More activities, including a PawSox game trip, have been planned over the past

few months, and there are certainly more to come for the next academic year. However, this is not the sole reason for my becoming involved in the Program.

The honors classes I took, seven during my freshman and sophomore years combined, were educationally valuable and challenging. The group work experience in these classes far exceeds that of traditional classes, in the notion that the students often form closer bonds because they are Honors members, and most likely see each other on a more regular

basis.

Also, I had the pleasure of developing a closer relationship with Professor Judy Barrett Litoff, as a result of a history class I contracted with her. This class resulted in presenting a paper at the New England Historical Association conference in 2006, helping to produce a documentary for the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society's Gala in March 2007.

I will also be working on my Senior Honors Project with her. The Honors Pro-

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY: MGT203 STUDENTS AIM FOR THE BULLS-EYE

The honors section of MGT200, Principles and Practices of Management, was invited to tour the Lincoln, RI Target store located at the Lincoln Mall. Greg Pare, College Leader for Target, guided the members throughout the store and discussed the Management Trainee program that Target offers.

The purpose of

this co-curricular activity was to provide honors members with the opportunity to see each of the functional departments within the store.

Therefore, on March 21st, Greg hosted fourteen Honors Program members for an afternoon learning about Target and its management practices.

The members began the session by

learning about Target's corporate culture and how their "Fast, Fun and Friendly" mindset has led them to become the premier retailer in the United States.

The group then toured the store, meeting several managers along the way. Seeing how a massive store operates smoothly helped the members connect their classroom principles with real world situations.

And in the tradition of honors members, they were quizzed! The group also competed to win prizes based on their knowledge of Target and their history.



ALUMNI PROFILE — MIKAYLA TRUCKEY '06

Mikalya Truckey '06 is an associate in the Data Management Group (DMG) at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC). She is responsible for providing clients with advice on how to improve their data management policies. Mikalya completed The Honors Program graduating with a BSBA.

What were your original thoughts and reasoning for accepting the invitation to the Program?

I was in The Honors Program when I was in high school and it seemed like a good thing to continue in college. The promise of smaller classes and more contact with the professors were also reasons that I considered when accepting the invitation into the Honors Program.

Did the Program change any of your perceptions on your major? Or how to approach your educational goals?

The Honors Program taught me that my education was my own and for the

taking. Bryant University offers free land and it is your job to go out and stake your portion. You can take the beaten path to get where you are going, or you can take the climb up over the mountain. If you do not like the path that you are on, you can always take a turn, even if there is not a visible path. The journey is yours – it is what you make it.

“The journey is yours – it is what you make it.”

How did the Program help in defining your career development? Or how you approached your career choices?

Being a part of the Honors Program provided me the opportunity to explore my interest in data management through my honors project. Working on the project helped to affirm that I enjoy CIS and wanted to enter a CIS related position when I entered the work force.

How did the coursework alter your educational experience?

The Honors Program courses allowed me to have a personal relationship with the Honors Professors. My fellow students and I generally had the opportunity to decide what the main focus for the course was going to be. The objectives would be laid out, but if a particular topic was of great interest, the class would learn more about that topic than another.

In retrospect, how did the membership in the Honors Program affect you? Education? Future goals? Perspective in your career?

Being a member of The Honors Program helped to ensure that I got the courses I needed during registration. This was helpful to make a schedule

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CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY: CIS203 MINE THROUGH FIDELITY DATABASES

Dr. Richard Glass' CIS203 class visited Fidelity Investments for a presentation by Phil Capobres, Director, Strategic Marketing Analysis. Why visit a marketing professional in a CIS class? Dr. Glass responded that the objective of CIS203 "is to expose students to how technology may be used in organizations to capture data and convert it into meaningful information that helps an organization improve performance."

Phil Capobres described a data mining project for the students that he and Dr. Glass worked on to develop models for predicting which customers have the potential to become high volume purchasers of Fidelity's services.

In the Students Words...

Kelly Hollister — Mr. Capobres demonstrated how data stored in large databases is retrieved and placed in smaller data marts and how data mining and modeling tools are used to develop marketing models.

I found it really interesting to learn about how the CIS team aids the sales force through data analysis. The presentation we saw at Fidelity taught me a lot about how valuable an information system can be to a business. We got to see how Fidelity uses models to find new customers, satisfy existing customers and sell more mutual funds.

Tara Darrow — I thought the Fidelity presentation was very informative, especially since he was a marketing analyst for the

company which fits right into what I am studying. It showed me a whole new aspect of marketing that I did not really know existed.

Patricia Hix — At Fidelity, our presenter, Phil, was very informative as to how they keep track of

all of their investors. He showed us a sample of the software Fidelity associates use and explained how it is useful. For the people interested in accounting or investment

services, this is definitely a place that would be beneficial as an internship or potential future job.

Jenna Poulin — I really enjoyed the Fidelity presentation I attended with my CIS203 class. It was a great opportunity to get out of the classroom and gain some knowledge of how a real business works. The presentation was informative and interesting, and it was excellent to be able to visit such a successful company as Fidelity and get a feel for a true business atmosphere. I would recommend the visit to future sections of Honors CIS203 because it was a great experience to learn outside of the classroom in a real business environment.

Sathiavane Veeramoothoo — I really enjoyed the presentation at Fidelity Investments. It was an opportunity to see how someone was using what we were learning in CIS203 to develop models which saved Fidelity Investments millions of dollars. This makes what we are learning so much more vivid and more interesting. I think that such visits should be more frequently organized.

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In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure." - Bill Cosby

ALUMNI PROFILE — MIKALYA TRUCKEY '06 (CONT'D)

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that suited my learning style and get the professors that I liked to take.

The Honors Program in general helped me to realize that like my education, my career is what I make of it. I have the ability to go where I want and reach a height that I may have not thought possible; all I have to do is try.

In summary, what was your Senior Honors Project?

My Senior Honors Project was based upon the appointment and record keeping system at ACE and the Writing Center. Applying the concepts that I learned in System Analysis and Design as well as project management skills and process-definition skills, I

analyzed the need for a new appointment and record keeping system at ACE and the Writing Center. After the analysis I then competed research to make a make or buy recommendation for new appointment and record keeping software.

How did your experience with the Senior Honors Project affect your educational experience? Career?

Having the opportunity to develop a Senior Honors Project provided me another opportunity to take my education in my own hands. I was able to build a mountain (the project) higher and steeper than I had ever attempted to climb. I then worked diligently to slowing climb to the summit. The trip to the top is an experi-

ence that is difficult to put into words. It was fun, frustrating and satisfying all at once. I would do it all over again in a heart beat.

I know that completing a Senior Honors Project provided me with the opportunity to discuss a project that set me apart from my peers. I had an experience that few others get a chance to do. This allowed me to talk to possible employers about what I was capable of and they were able to see what type of person I was – one that works hard and goes above and beyond the minimum requirement. I know that the honors project helped me to land the position I am in at PwC.

What advice would you provide to an incoming freshman who is considering membership in the Program?

If you are a person who likes to take charge of your education - always pushing the norms - then the Honors Program is right for you.

"Having the opportunity to develop a Senior Honors Project provided me another opportunity to take my education in my own hands."