

## NEW HONORS ART COURSE CELEBRATES THE SPLENDOR OF EXPRESSION

by Assistant Professor Adam Tavel

It is with great excitement that I join the Honors Program faculty here at Wor-Wic Community College and announce our most recent course addition: an honors section of Introduction to Art History, Art 101H, which will begin in spring 2009. While Art 101 has remained a consistent course offering in the Arts & Humanities Department for several years, this honors section will allow students a rare, interdisciplinary experience tracing the development and progression of the artistic impulse through the ages, from Paleolithic cave drawings to the Renaissance to post-modern abstraction. Additionally, our discussion of world cultures and the various modes of human expression will create ongoing dialogues with many other courses offered here at Wor-Wic, particularly World Civilization I and II and the 200-level literature courses. Perhaps the most exciting dimension, however, is that ART 101H will let students transcend the role of spectator to create their own works through a series of provocative journal assignments. Not an *artiste*, you say? Not to worry; rather than harshly fixating on the quality or refinement of these journal projects, students will have the freedom to write, sketch, paint, or sculpt in response to, or as a result of, the masterpieces we encounter from week to week. This *ekphrasis*, or

production of additional art through the power of inspiration, is at the very core of this unique experience.



Pablo Picasso, "Girl Before a Mirror," 1932  
The Museum of Modern Art (New York)

If you have any questions or curiosities between now and January, feel free to stop by my office in AAB 321 or write me at [atavel@worwic.edu](mailto:atavel@worwic.edu). As the great Pablo Picasso once said, "art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life," so I hope you'll join me for Honors Art 101!

GREETINGS FROM THE HONORS PROGRAM DIRECTOR

A Mountaintop View of the Honors Program

Over the years I have learned to value the art of reflection. As applied to my position as Honors Program Director, I am talking about reflection as an invaluable tool for using the past to inspire and direct planning for the future. A large part of my summer was spent writing a Five-Year Program Review for the Honors Program. This arduous task forced me into the much dreaded yearly “Spring cleaning” of my filing cabinet drawers--

drawers which were jam-packed with emails, reports, newspaper clippings, conference materials, final exams, data, letters. . .I’ll stop here as my reflection of that purge is beginning to

cloud my message. My point is that, although painful at the time, this review process has its benefits, the most critical of which is allowing me to step back from the minutia and to grasp the big picture. This view of the Honors Program reminds me very much of the pictures on my son’s blog as he and his new bride have been hiking the Pacific Crest Trail this summer. Some pictures are close ups of his backpack or flora and fauna, but others are those



breathtaking panoramic shots like the ones from the top of Mount Whitney, the highest mountain in the continental United States. Let me take you to the top of one mountain where you can view with your binoculars a host of honors students (our academic flora and fauna) scurrying below.

Focus your field glasses, and you will be able to see our 2007-2008 honors students who are actively involved in

academic, campus, and community events. Zero in on the patch of ground identified as “Fall of 2007.” Notice students participating in two PTK/Honors Seminars, a Reader’s Theatre fundraiser for our program, a Student Service

Day at “Night of the Living Zoo,” the Open-Mic Night Coffeehouse, and the Maryland State Student Legislature at Towson University. Then locate the area known as “Spring of 2008.”

Twelve honors students are earning the respect of nearly 100 participants representing 16 Maryland two-year and four-year colleges through their individual, group, and poster presentations. This is the Maryland Collegiate Honors Council conference

hosted by Wor-Wic's honors program. Students and faculty have worked diligently throughout the year to achieve the enormously successful results of this conference. (After this tour, you can locate a summary and pictures of the conference which are posted on the Honors Program link to the college's homepage.) Look, over in the awards corner, that's Lisa Dean, student representative on the Honors Program Committee, receiving the Faculty Honors Scholarship. Then notice that Heather Clark and Lisa Dean have been named to the First Team All-Maryland Academic Team. You certainly cannot miss Dan Caton as he proudly receives The University of Maryland Transfer Academic Excellence Scholarship. You might also be able to see some other highlights of the spring semester such as an IDS 200H field trip to Washington, D.C., a Thoreau seminar, the Honors Spring Social, and, of course, the graduation of 24 honors students, 12 of whom graduated with the Honors Program designation. You will even see a group of honors students, Allison Pilat, Cassie Dasher, Carol Thomas, and Cranston Cox, who volunteered this summer for the honors fundraiser held during the Chautauqua event at Wor-Wic. You can put your binoculars down now and look up at the blue sky—the perfect



symbol for the future of the Honors Program. If you tilt your head a bit, floating on one cloud you will catch a glimpse of our new honors, seminar-style, computerized classroom and conference room in AAB 333. Then, just to the right you will see the book, A Hope in the Unseen, nestled atop a cloud; ENG 200H and other honors students will be reading and discussing this book and even meeting the main character this Fall. Drifting by is still another cloud upon which sits a theatre with a marquee containing the titles of eight films; these films will be shown this year in the Honors Film and Discussion Series. Now that you have completed this virtual tour of the Honors Program—past and future—I am certain that you can understand why I am so proud of every student who has made the decision to accept the challenge of enrolling in honors classes. After all, academic challenges are very much like climbing mountains—the journey is long, difficult, and a bit treacherous at times, but, oh, the exhilaration and joy of reaching the top!

Best wishes on your journey,  
Dr. Elinor Cabbage, Honors Program  
Director

**HONORS STUDENT SHARES HER EXTRACURRICULAR JOURNEY AT WOR-WIC**

**by Ayla Turner**

Even after my first year, college had left me unsatisfied with myself. The academics were great, and yet there was something missing. Heading into my second year, I had no idea that things would change in rapid succession. At the time, I knew there were a few clubs at Wor-Wic, but I never paid any attention to any of the flyers posted around the school. It was an accident that I landed myself into a Wor-Wic Arts Club meeting. The meetings were always fairly short, and they organized so many exciting events at the school. The Arts Club holds two "Coffee Houses" a year, where students and staff are invited to express themselves through any performing medium. The Coffee Houses were a great way to meet new people and share passions for art. There is never any reason to feel embarrassed; the environment reminded me of being in a room with my own family. In addition to the Coffee Houses, the Arts Club holds several trip opportunities throughout the course of the school year. They range anywhere from visits to plays, musicals, museums, and even art galleries. Last year, the group took a trip to Washington D.C to visit museums and to see a musical. With my participation in all of the events that the Arts Club provided, I realized I wasn't as bored anymore with my college life. I was already meeting new people, and getting to share in new experiences. However, my ride through extracurricular events was far from over.

As I explored these Arts Club activities, I also expanded my love for academics by enrolling in honors classes. A year after I took my first honors class, I was informed by one of my teachers that the Maryland Collegiate Honors Council's annual conference was to be held at Wor-Wic that year. She asked me if I would do a presentation for the event. I had absolutely no idea what this honors thing was. I imagined bespectacled people in suits and really ugly ties gathering around in a seminar-like atmosphere. Nevertheless, I agree to submit a proposal, "Students, Guns, and Classrooms: What's Wrong with this Picture?" which was accepted. As it turned out, the conference was less like a "Dilbert" cartoon and more like a meeting of the minds. With the theme of "The Far Side of the Bridge" in mind, students from all over Maryland came to Wor-Wic to share what they had learned. Some students painted scenes out of famous novels while others shared their stories of studying abroad in places like Africa. As the host school, Wor-Wic impressed so many visitors with its honors students' creative displays. I will never forget the exhibit of Eastern Shore food (including muskrat!) or Mike Rippetoe's "Guide to Being a ShoreBilly." As much as I enjoyed the academic aspect of the conference, I really loved getting to know students from other counties in Maryland. After the conference was over, I got back into more of a passive mode. I was sure that the second part of the Spring

## HONORS HORIZON

*AUGUST 2008*

semester would be fairly quiet. And as always, my inner monologue was wrong.

Echoes and Visions is an annual publication sponsored by the Arts Club which showcases Wor-Wic students' creative writing, photography, and art work. As a writer myself, I had admired the shiny, polished cover of the book many times before. When I was asked to be a part of the editorial staff for the new book, I jumped at the chance.

The process of selecting the pieces was difficult, yet slightly humorous. There were six of us: three teachers, two students, and one alumnus. And among all of us, we never agreed with each other. It really was like the American Idol of poetry. We negotiated strong and weak points of writing like the United Nations negotiates peace treaties. It took

hours and hours of reading, planning, and arguing to finally get a rudimentary idea of what would be in the book and how it would be put together. The final product proved to be a beautiful 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary addition.

I always thought the only lessons I could ever learn from college would be those that came from academics. I neglected to realize that lessons can come in all forms, and they can contribute to the way I carry and respect myself. My second year at Wor-Wic made all of the difference, thanks to one little meeting I wasn't even planning to go to. I've seen changes in myself as a person, a writer, and a student. Best of all, college has become my favorite part of my life. Take it from the cynical antisocial- get involved. You just might like it.



**Ayla Turner enjoys the MCHC conference in February with fellow honors students**

**Top row from left to right are Heather Clark, Anna Davis, Amber Swann, Ayla, Carol Thomas, Cassandra Dasher; Bottom row from left to right are Mike Rippetoe, Joe Colantuoni, Allison Pilat, Lisa Dean, Ervin Sanchez, Brittany Schappell, and Dan Caton**

**WOR-WIC'S HONORS PROGRAM FINDS A NEW HOME**

Wor-Wic's Plant Services personnel worked hard over the summer to transform AAB 333 from a regular classroom into the Honors Program's very own classroom and conference room. The transformation seen in the "before" and "after" shots below prove that a picture is worth a thousand words!



**BEFORE...**



**...AND AFTER!**

**HONORS PROGRAM Enrichment Opportunities  
FALL 2008**

- Sept. 20** One Maryland One Book 2008: A Hope in the Unseen by Ron Suskind. Compare/contrast the book and the film, Dangerous Minds after a film showing at Wicomico Public Library, 2:00 p.m., Room 1.
- Sept. 16 & 23** Book Discussion of A Hope in the Unseen, Wicomico Public Library, 6:30 p.m., Rm. 4.
- Oct. 3** **Echoes and Visions Reading and Reception:** 7:30 p.m., SC 302. Students will read their poetry and prose published in this year's creative arts publication. Photographers and artists will display their work from the 2008 book. Student awards and refreshments. A reception and book sale will follow.
- Oct. 10 & 11** **MCHC Service Project.** Honors students are invited to volunteer at Salisbury Zoo's **Night of the Living Zoo** on Friday or Saturday night, **4:30-10:30 p.m.** The event takes place 6:00-9:00 p.m. both nights. Orientation for the event is Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 6:00 p.m. Contact Lara Nagle, Education Technician, 410-546-3440 or email: salisburyz00ed@gmail.com.
- Oct. 17** **Open-Mic Night Coffeehouse. 7:30 pm, SC 200.** The club invites students, faculty, and staff to perform poetry, drama, dance, or musical selections. Admission: \$5.00 includes coffee, snacks, and entertainment! Sign up by **October 14** on the list posted on Dr. Cabbage's door, AAB 322.
- Oct. 20** Cedric Jennings, protagonist of A Hope in the Unseen, will speak at Snow Hill High School, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 21** **Honors Film Series Discussion #1: Paper Clips**, 5:30 p.m., AAB 333. Check film out in AAB 326 and view film in AAB 333: October 13-20. Join the ENG 200H class for a discussion open to all honors students.
- Nov. 1** **Phantom of the Opera bus trip to Baltimore's Inner Harbor and Toby's Dinner Theatre. Students: \$25.00 and Staff/Guests: \$35.00. Limit two guest tickets/person. Student tickets: Sept. 15-26. Staff tickets: Sept. 29-Oct. 10. Tickets available from Dr. Elinor Cabbage, AAB 322. No refunds.**
- Nov. 4** **Honors Film Series Discussion #2: The Candidate**, 12:45-2:15 p.m., AAB 333. Check film out in AAB 326 and view film in AAB 333: October 27-November 3. Join the SPH 101H class for a discussion open to all honors students.
- Nov. 19** **Honors Film Discussion #3: Much Ado About Nothing**, 6:30 p.m., AAB 333. Check film out in AAB 326 and view film in AAB 333: Nov.10-17. Join the MTH 152H class for a discussion open to all honors students.
- Nov. 25** **Honors Film Series Discussion #4: Frankl's Choice**, 2:30-4:00 p.m., AAB 333. Check film out in AAB 326 and view film in AAB 333: November 19-24. Join PSY 101H class for a discussion open to all honors students.
- Dec. 8** **Deadline for Student Presentation Proposals for the Maryland Collegiate Honors Conference on February 27 and 28 hosted by Towson University's Honors Program!** Send a 200-word abstract of your individual, panel, or poster presentation proposal via e-mail by 5:00 p.m., to MCHC president, Michael Taber at [mstaber@smcm.edu](mailto:mstaber@smcm.edu). Your abstracts will be reviewed by the MCHC Executive Committee. Submitters will be notified of the committee's decisions.

**HONORS COURSE SCHEDULE  
FALL 2008**

ENG 200H	Critical Thinking and Writing (core course)	T 5:30-8:45 pm
PSY 101H	Introduction to Psychology	TR 2:30-4:00 pm
SPH 101H	Fundamentals of Oral Communication	TR 12:45-2:15 pm
MTH 152H	Elementary Statistics	W 6:30-9:45 pm

**TENTATIVE HONORS SCHEDULE**

SPRING 2009

IDS 200H	Scientific Thought and Data Analysis (core course)	day
ENG 151H	Fundamentals of English II	night
HIS 151H	World Civilizations II	night
ART 101H	Introduction to Art History	day

FALL 2009

ENG 200H	Critical Thinking and Writing (core course)	day
PSY 101H	Introduction to Psychology	night
SPH 101H	Fundamentals of Oral Communication	night
MTH 152H	Elementary Statistics	day

SPRING 2010

IDS 200H	Scientific Thought and Data Analysis (core course)	night
ENG 151H	Fundamentals of English II	day
HIS 151H	World Civilizations II	day
ART 101H	Introduction to Art History	night

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