Who We Are...

The purpose of the University Honors Student Advisory Board (UHSAB) is to serve as a voice for University Honors (UH) students. The UHSAB is a student organization that supports University Honors, the largest and oldest living-learning program in the Honors College. We serve as a liaison between UH students and the UH administration and regularly meet with the administration to discuss issues affecting our program. We, the UHSAB, are dedicated to serving the students in all endeavors and welcome any suggestions, questions, or comments from the students we are serving. Visit our website at go.umd.edu/uhsab.

Members:
Jennifer Weinstein, Chair
Laura Miller, Vice Chair for Operations
Taimur Chaudhry, Vice Chair for Membership
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Emily Billett, Member
William Pratt, Member
Neomi Rao, Member
Anthony Starego, Member
Roshan Talagala, Member

The Second Annual UH Student-Faculty Dinner
By: Laura Miller

The University Honors Student Advisory Board hosted its second annual Student-Faculty Dinner on Tuesday, March 29 in the Stamp Student Union Atrium. The Dinner was designed to connect our community of University Honors students with faculty and staff members. The interactive atmosphere combined with a variety of keynote speeches provided personal and professional guidance for University Honors students. The Honors College Executive Director and University Honors Director, Dr. Susan Dwyer, opened the night with a welcome address highlighting the unique and special opportunity that the University Honors community provides for students and faculty to develop and deepen relationships with one another that will last for years to come. University Honors alumnus, Andrew Publicover, followed her address with a keynote reflecting on how he was able to cultivate relationships with University Honors faculty and network with peers in the program to ultimately help him land his dream job. He left students inspired to take time to develop relationships with the support system that is accessible through University Honors. Students were given a chance to practice Andrew’s advice while dining beside University Honors faculty as well as their peers. Conversations among attendees included discussion about Honors Seminars, post-college goals, shared interests, and campus life involvement.

Dr. Chantel Rodriguez closed the evening with a keynote speech sharing her personal story about cultivating a relationship with a faculty member that ultimately helped her discover her passion for history. She challenged students to approach their professors and ask about their career path and how they discovered their passion for a specific field of interest. Dr. Rodriguez left students feeling empowered to approach their professors with curious conversation. Students and faculty alike enjoyed the opportunity to meet new individuals within the University Honors community, develop and practice networking skills, and celebrate being part of the University Honors community.

We would like to give a huge thank you to the University Honors Administration that made this possible: Damien Franze, Dr. Susan Dwyer, Dr. Cathy Barks, and Linh Tran.
Honors College Study Abroad Opportunities
By: Jennifer Weinstein and Mitchell Wilson

There are numerous opportunities to study abroad at University of Maryland, but many students are unaware of the range of short-term study abroad options available specifically for Honors College students. This past winter term, some of the HONR study abroad courses included trips to Australia, Chile, Dubai and Hong Kong, New Zealand, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

We were fortunate enough to enroll in an HONR course called New Zealand: Literature and Culture, taught by Professor Jason Rudy from the Department of English. With only 12 students, students from different class years were able to get to know each other and connect on both a personal and academic level. The literature discussions Professor Rudy held were compelling and informative, teaching us to look at culture through different lenses and to think in new, analytical ways.

We first traveled to Wellington, the capital, where we visited the Parliament building and learned about New Zealand’s unique “mixed-member proportional” parliamentary government. Another highlight was Zealandia, a bird sanctuary intended to bring New Zealand back to the state it was in before humans settled there. The birds were exquisite and colorful, and their song was singularly peaceful. Next, we went to Rotorua. In Rotorua, we went to Te Puia, a Maori cultural center. After getting to watch the haka, the traditional Maori war dance, we got to indulge in a Maori feast and watch steam rise from the huge geysers around the center. We also traveled to Hobbiton, which is where Lord of the Rings was filmed. Our trip ended in Auckland, a modern, bustling, international city. Right outside of the city limits are beautiful sandy beaches full of large cliffs and windsurfers. We got to climb Mt. Rangitoto, a dormant volcano that gave us breathtaking views of the entire city.

Overall, we would highly recommend that every University Honors student try to take advantage of an HONR study abroad program. The experience of traveling to new places and experiencing different cultures is unlike any other, and it is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other students in the Honors College.

Fun and Educational Things to do in Washington D.C.
By: Dylan Clay-Devlin

The University of Maryland is only a mere 8 miles from the bustling city of Washington D.C., which happens to be our nation’s capitol as well. As a student myself, I understand that balancing school work, a social life, and some sleep leaves little time for day trips into D.C. However, after being dragged there a few times by my more adventurous friends, I realized that there are incredible things worth leaving campus for in this convenient and beautiful city. Here are just a few!

-The Renwick Gallery at the Smithsonian American Art Museum (Free Admission)

-International Spy Museum ($21.95, but well worth it)

-The National Cherry Blossom Festival (the peak time to see them is the first week of April)

-Chinatown (not as large as the one in New York, but just as great and lots of wonderful food)

-Georgetown Cupcake ($3.25 each, but worth it for the Instagram)

-Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (Free Admission with over 126 million things to see)
University Honors Student Spotlight: Kelly Dwyer
By: Roshan Talagala

This semester, our student spotlight is Kelly Dwyer, a senior History and Art History major from Mount Airy, MD. Kelly is in University Honors and the History Departmental Honors Program. She has taken two honors seminars--“Does the Museum Need a Killer App” with Dr. Quint Gregory and “Conflict in America” with Dr. Howard Smead--and she really enjoys her art history classes. Specifically, these classes have opened her eyes to see the world in a new way. After never taking an art history class before college, or even thinking about art at all, adding art history as a double major allowed her to take advantage of the great free museums nearby in DC and inspired her to study abroad in Italy! This past semester, she took 17th Century Italian Art, History of Korea, Women in Public Leadership, and a class for her internship at the U.S. Department of Education in the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education. Furthermore, Kelly discussed her long list of extracurricular activities as well as the inspiring changes that she has experienced while attending UMD.

On campus outside of her studies, Kelly is a part of Honors Ambassadors, ARHU Ambassadors, Janus Undergraduate History Journal, Delta Gamma, Mortar Board Honor Society, Order of Omega, Young Scholars Program, and Relay for Life. She also likes to run and travel: in just the past few years, Kelly has completed two half marathons (the Frederick Half Marathon and the Disney Half Marathon) and flown to England, Ireland, France, and Italy. These were both huge milestones for Kelly, who says she had never been super athletic before college, nor had she ever been on a plane!

Speaking about University Honors and the Honors College, Kelly explained how she feels a very strong sense of community. Specifically, at the Calvert Cotillion senior class event, she felt as if she knew 70% of the people there simply because she had met them through Honors housing and classes. When asked about her advice to students, Kelly’s response was one that is applicable to everyone’s time in college: “Take advantage of every opportunity thrown your way. When I came to college I was very shy and was not one to step outside of my comfort zone. But, I have learned that what makes you uncomfortable can end up being the best experiences.”

As far as her achievements go, Kelly highlighted one in particular: being chosen as the student speaker for the most recent Honors College Citation Ceremony. “This was actually a huge accomplishment for me because when I was growing up I was incredibly shy. In elementary and middle school my teachers always told my parents that I never spoke in class. Clearly, a lot has changed since then, and I would attribute a lot of that to my time in college. I have become much more outgoing and confident in myself.” We wish Kelly all the best in her future endeavors after graduation. Kelly was recently accepted into UMD’s School of Public Policy where she will pursue her Masters of Public Policy next fall.

Pictured: Kelly Dwyer

The UIISAB would like to thank Linh Tran, the University Honors Graduate Assistant, for all her hard work and dedication these past two years at UMD. Her bright ideas and passion for this program will be dearly missed. We wish her the best of luck in this next chapter of her life!