Honors Program
University of Delaware

On August 24th I had the pleasure of welcoming the Honors Program class of 2017 as they moved into the newest residence hall on campus. Called “Building A” at the time, it has since been dedicated in honor of Louis L. Redding. As a pioneering civil rights leader who challenged generations of Delawareans to expand their thinking about segregation, equality and social justice, Louis Redding is an appropriate namesake for the residence hall in which Honors students begin their career at UD.

Of course, locating Honors freshmen in the new residence hall required a new name for the fellows formerly known as Russell. Students were not interested in the title “Building A Fellows,” so I asked Professor Bunmuyi Muxton if she would allow us to recognize her many contributions to the Honors Program by giving the fellows a permanent name. Bunmuyi graciously agreed. The cover photo of this issue features the newly named Munson Fellows and Louis Redding Hall. I can assure you that Honors Program freshmen are living in style with air-conditioning, large floor lounges, study spaces throughout the building and a grand piano in the main lounge. Although I did witness a merry yule parent or two, move in day was dominated by the excitement and enthusiasm of our newest students.

In other Honors Program news, administrative assistant Susan Katz retired after 17 years of service to UD. Many of you will remember Susan for her welcoming smile and the basket on her desk, always filled with candy to brighten the day of any Honors student (or staff member) in need of a chocolate boost. I am happy to report that Susan left the basket... On a final note, please save the date for Alumni Weekend. As always, we will host a reception on the evening of Friday, June 6, prior to the Mag Night festivities. I hope to see you there.

Michael Arnold
Dr. Michael Arnold, Director
University Honors Program

Thank you

With your support, the Honors Program is able to provide even more resources and opportunities for our students:

- Individual enrichment awards for special opportunities outside the classroom
- Course enrichment funds for Honors sections
- Funding for Honors service learning and study abroad trips
- Making a gift to the Honors Program is simple. Visit www.udel.edu/honorgift to use our secure, online giving form. Allocate your gift to the “Honors Program” in the Other box.

Alternatively, you may make a check the Office of Annual Giving, University of Delaware, 33 E. Main Street, 3rd Floor, Newark, DE 19716. Please make sure to honor the program name, “Honor Program” on the memo line of your check.

If you have donated and your name does not appear (right) or if you would like your name listed differently, please send an email to honorsprogram@udel.edu.

DONORS TO THE HONORS PROGRAM

Thank you to our generous donors who made gifts to support the UD Honors Program from April 15 to October 21, 2013:

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SHARE YOUR CAREER STORIES WITH HONORS

Many alumni ask how they can help the Honors Program. Sharing your career story with current students and other alumni is one way to make an impact. The Honors Program is partnering with the Career Services Center to create videos highlighting career advice and information from alumni. These videos will be shared on the Honors Program and Career Services Center’s websites. A team from Career Services will conduct informational interviews with alumni volunteers to create 2-3 minute videos highlighting individual career stories and insights.

If you will be on or near campus in the future and would like to contribute to this project, please contact the Career Services Center’s Multimodal Coordinator Heather Cardillo (hc171@udel.edu) via email and attach your resume. The team from Career Services will coordinate with Honors students to interview the interviewees and create 2-3 minute videos highlighting individual career stories and insights.

HONORS PROGRAM STUDY BREAK

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PRINT: University Printing

HONORS PROGRAM
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MUNSON FELLOW TAKES THE “LEDE”

Journalism is about stories, and Elizabeth Quartararo (AS ’15) believes that everyone has a story to tell. This summer, 28 middle school students discovered their own stories through Project Lede, a newwriting summer camp founded by the junior English & Public Policy major and friend Jackie Schechter, a junior at Harvard University.

Quartararo, who is also Executive Editor for The Review, spent four weeks with Jackie and a team of local volunteers at Closson Middle School in Stamford, CT teaching newwriting and newspaper production. The pilot program was supported by UD’s Service Learning Program and a start-up grant from Harvard.

Camps’ efforts culminated with the publication of the Closson Chronicle, the school’s first student newspaper. As campers interviewed, wrote, and photographed, Quartararo saw them realize their own power through acts of creation. Kids that were reserved and wary became confident and engaged. “We were mostly concerned with imparting those character traits that would inspire academic ability,” says Quartararo. “Things like grit, drive, and motivation.”

Quartararo quickly realized the lasting impact of her work when the school year started at Closson Middle School also fell. Nearly all Project Lede campers have been present at newspaper club meetings and 40 total students applied to participate. “Kids who I would not have expected to be taking initiative are talking to classes, interviewing guest speakers, and doing leadership activities at school.”

Quartararo hopes to make this difference at other schools by expanding Project Lede: the organization will apply for 501(c)(3) status this fall and next summer the program will run at a second middle school in Boston. “We’re not trying to make a new generation of journalists,” says Quartararo. “We’re trying to teach skills that won’t disappear. I want campers to look back and say ‘I learned how to be engaged. I learned how to be confident.’”

For more information on Project Lede, visit ProjectLede.org.

Alum Feature

MR. RUSSO GOES TO WASHINGTON

When Bill Russo (AS ’09) arrived at UD as a freshman, he was determined to build a service-centered career. The desire to serve others led Russo from Newark to the United Kingdom and ultimately to the White House where he currently works as Special Assistant to the National Security Advisor in Vice President Biden’s office. “The overwhelming majority of people in DC are brilliant, passionate, and most importantly fundamentally decent and caring. What draws me to politics and government is that hope that I can be one of those good people.”

After graduating from UD, Russo pursued a Master of Arts Degree in Environment, Development, and Policy at the University of Sussex. He was the only American in a small program of 23 students from 12 countries. A year later, he returned to the United States and was working at his local Starbucks to keep busy when a friend suggested that he apply for a White House internship. In Fall 2011, Russo turned down a consulting job and moved to Washington D.C. to intern in the Vice President’s Scheduling office, an experience that later turned into a full-time job.

While Russo has enjoyed opportunities to write speeches and work on policy, he maintains that the most memorable experiences have been during travel. “Researching and writing about women’s access to education in India is fascinating, but being led around a technical college in Mumbai by some of the brightest women in the country is the kind of experience that no briefing memo can equal.”

Russo advises undergraduates hoping to pursue careers in politics to avoid cynicism and display sincerity and kindness. Those, he believes, are the qualities that truly help people gain power and prestige and sustain the integrity of our institutions through difficult times.

“When those who give the town a bad name are loud and we become a nation of hearers, we shall also become a nation of doers.” — Bill Russo

From Dickinson to Russell to Redding, Honors Peer Mentors continue to build community in the Honors Freshman residence hall. To mark the transition of UD’s Freshman housing to the new Louis L. Redding Residence Hall, the Russell Fellows have been renamed Munson Fellows in honor of Professor Burnaby Munson. A veteran chemistry professor, Dr. Munson has been involved with the Honors Program since its inception, served as Director (1986-1989), and still hosts Wednesday Night Study Breaks in the Redding Lounge.

Munson Fellows, like the Dickinson and Russell Fellows before them, are upperclassmen who live with Honors Freshmen and serve as an academic resource, act as a liaison with the Honors Program, and plan community-building activities.

The 2013-2014 Munson Fellows are:

- Jessica Applebaum (’14), Pre-Vet and Animal Biosciences
- Celeste Diaz (’15), Exercise Science
- Rebecca Arias (’16), History and Anthropology
- Emily Brooks (’16), Cognitive Science
- Alexander Fang (’15), Pre-Vet and Animal Biosciences
- Nikki Gomes (’16), Pre-Med
- Annie Gould (’16), International Relations and Economics
- Devak Mehta (’16), Physics and Mathematics
- Elizabeth Quartararo (’15), English and Public Policy
- Dave Sang (’15), Finance and Accounting
- Ariana Shakaey (’15), Pre-Veterinary Medicine and Animal Biosciences
- Eden Sung (’16), International Relations
- Lauren Tesoroli (’16), Neuroscience

HAVE AN HONORS STORY TO SHARE FOR MUNSON’S CORNER? Email honorsprogram@udel.edu with “Munson’s Corner” as the subject line.