HONORS Study Break

Ann Badmus '84

Photo Courtsey of Duane Perry

Message FROM THE Director

This is my first opportunity to write to you as the Interim Director of the Honors Program. Michael Arnold has returned to the Economics Department. Thanks to Michael for his dedication and many contributions to our Honors Program over seven years. His steadiness and clear vision has been a huge benefit.

Over my first few months, my amazement in Honors Program students has only increased. Fully 40% of our Honors graduates pursue further education. Honors students are the leaders of a preponderance of campus organizations. Honors students generate films, symposiums, writing projects, and undertake so many projects of educational and practical value.

My position title says "Interim," which needs some explanation. Under President Assanis' leadership, we have an opportunity to reconsider the future of the Honors Program. Our core—excellent living learning community, deeply dedicated staff, close connections to faculty, special opportunities for research and engagement, support for individual projects—will remain, of course. At the same time, we take this opportunity to envision what more Honors can become. A group of faculty and staff members and I are proposing new ways to look at Honors, and new ways to set the culture and programming of Honors. We will produce a proposal for faculty and administration to consider, and for a new long-term director to implement. I look forward to telling you more next time I write. Honors is deeply worthwhile work, and I am thrilled to be part of the effort.

Looking ahead, I hope you will be able to attend Alumni Weekend on June 1-3, 2018. I will look forward to meeting you then!

Paul Laux, Interim Director,
University Honors Program
Professor of Finance & JP Morgan Chase Faculty Fellow

Classroom Sneak Peek:

HONORS FIRST YEAR SEMINAR

In the fall 2017 semester, most first year honors students took a one-credit First Year Seminar course taught by honors faculty and staff. Topics, such as time management, bystander intervention, and opportunities for research and involvement assisted students with the transition to college life at UD and in Honors. Here, two honors seniors visited one FYS section to share their experiences at UD. Freshman Spencer Babcock noted "this class was extremely useful in showing freshmen how to navigate their first semester and how to understand what their status as honors students mean. Being with just honors students was also beneficial because not only are we living in the same building but we learned more about the honors opportunities and expectations. Listening to the amazing opportunities the honors upperclassmen have had and the support they have access to because of the Honors Program reminded me why I chose UD and the Honors Program in the first place."

Alumni, faculty, staff, and friends celebrated Burnaby Munson's 40 years of service at an event in his honor during Alumni Weekend.

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/makeagift to use our secure, online giving form. Allocate your gift to the "Honors Program" in the "Other" box.

Alternatively, you may send a check to the Office of Annual Giving, University of Delaware, 83 E Main Street, 3rd Floor, Newark, DE 19716. Please write "Honors Program" on the memo line of your check.

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HONORS STUDY BREAK

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PRINTER: *University Printing*

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UNIVERSITY of DELAWARE
ISSUE 8 | FEBRUARY 2018

Student Feature

HONORS STUDENTS WIN OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARDS

Linda (Ellie) Halfacre and Micah Petersen were the 2017 Warner and Taylor Award recipients.

Ellie Halfacre (AS '17) and Micah Peterson (AS '17 MS '17) received the UD Alumni Association's Emalea Pusey Warner Award and Alexander J. Taylor Sr. Awards, respectively, as the most outstanding seniors from the 2017 graduating class. Consideration for the awards is based on leadership, academic success, and community service.

Micah graduated with an Honors degree with majors in Chinese and International Relations while also completing a Masters degree in Geography. He was a Eugene duPont Memorial Scholar, Army ROTC Cadet of the Year, and a Project GO Scholarship and ROTC Scholarship recipient. He was founder and CEO of Reviresco, Inc., a non-profit that works to engage society with veterans. Micah is spending the year in China as a prestigious Schwarzman Scholar and will enter the Army as a 2nd Lieutenant when he returns to the U.S. Micah shared, "the most rewarding part about being a UD student was the people. So many people in our world chase success, but UD taught me to work toward significance instead of success. The difference between the two lies in their definition: success is what you take, significance is what you give."

Ellie earned an Honors degree with distinction with majors in International Relations and Public Policy. Also a Eugene duPont Memorial Scholar, Ellie contributed to UD as a victims advocate providing confidential crisis assistance to survivors of sexual assault and led a domestic violence public awareness poster campaign. She was also a senator with the Student Government Association and the founder and president of the Red, White and Blue Hens group, which planned local voter engagement initiatives. She received a competitive Fulbright Award, and will spend the next year teaching English in Malaysia. "The Honors Program was so incredibly influential in my UD experience. My friendships with other honors students and with the program staff first come to mind when I think about the forces that shaped my college years. I was able to have some truly special academic experiences, from small seminar classes to one-on-one honors contracts, that changed my approach to schooling." Congratulations to Ellie and Micah.

HONORS DOUBLE DELS

HUNTER & ALEXANDRA BACHMAN

Hunter Bachman (EG '16) and Alexandra Baruch (AS '15) met freshman year in Russell D1. Although their academic interests didn't overlap, they had very similar extracurricular interests that included making dinner together and watching classic movies, like their favorite, *Good Will Hunting*. Hunter graduated with both Bachelors and Masters degrees in Mechanical Engineering, and Alexandra graduated early with a double major in English and Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. A few months after graduation, Hunter proposed in Asheville, North Carolina, on the outdoor balcony of the villa that they were staying in on vacation. They got married a year later at the Peninsula Club in Cornelius, North Carolina. Currently, they are living in Chapel Hill where Alexandra is attending the University of North Carolina School of Law and Hunter is pursuing a Doctorate in Mechanical Engineering at Duke University.

WANT TO BE FEATURED? *Email honorsprogram@udel.edu with "Honors Double Dels" as the subject line.*

Alumni Feature

IMMIGRATION LAWYER MAKING AMERICAN DREAMS COME TRUE

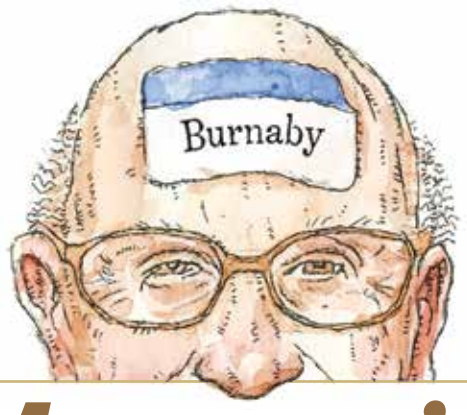
Ann Massey Badmus '84 graduated from the University of Delaware with a Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering. During her time at UD, she was actively involved in her sorority, Sigma Gamma Rho, where she met many women from other countries, some of whom became her closest friends. As an Honors student, Ann appreciated the smaller, more intimate classes, as well as the brilliant and dedicated professors who helped shape her undergraduate experience.

Ann Badmus '84 receiving the Alumni Wall of Fame Award in 2017 from the UD Alumni Association President Anne Barretta.

Upon graduation, Ann worked as an engineer for a few years, but soon realized that she wanted to solve people problems rather than technical problems, and went on to get her J.D. degree from Widener University School of Law. Ann began practicing law at a corporate law firm in Delaware, and then opened up her own legal practice in 1993 which started in Delaware before relocating to Texas. When asked why she decided to launch her own firm, Ann said: "I had worked with a corporate law firm for five years and had learned a lot but I wanted the personal and professional flexibility that I thought I could get with self-employment." Her firm went on to become incredibly successful, and now Ann is a nationally recognized immigration lawyer.

Her biggest personal accomplishment includes bringing doctors from other countries into urban and rural regions of America which suffer from a shortage of medical professionals. "I'm glad to be a small part of bringing such exceptional talent to the U.S.," Ann said, "Many of them are world-renowned and are conducting research to cure cancer and other diseases and conditions." Her job has been very rewarding, and she is grateful to be able to help so many people. Although she has been practicing immigration law for over 20 years, Ann expressed that, "I am always excited whenever we win a green card for a client because their future in the U.S. is finally secure. It's very gratifying to know I have helped a client's American Dream come true."

Ann stays connected to UD by attending alumni events in both Delaware and Texas, and by staying updated through social media. In 2011, she received the Distinguished Career Award from the Mechanical Engineering department, and, recently, she was inducted into the UDAA Alumni Wall of Fame. Her biggest piece of advice to undergraduates looking to go into law is to volunteer or intern at a law firm, because it is often not the same as one would expect from how law is portrayed in movies and television.



Munson's CORNER

Dr. Munson's Study Breaks thrived this fall with support of the Munson Fellows and faculty. Held in the downstairs lounge of Louis L. Redding Hall, the breaks are a great way for Honors students to unwind and de-stress one evening a week and get to know each other and UD faculty. "We have had a lot of visiting professors," Olivia Mann '19, Munson Fellow said, "Professors Tague, Buckley, Van Horn, Reidel, Winkler, Sidebotham, and Hanley, to name a few! I really enjoy seeing first-year Honors students interact with their professors outside of the classroom." The faculty come in to chat with students as well as to share their interests outside of the classroom. Professor Winkler arrived with his guitar and played a few songs. "It is intriguing to me how the interpretations of Dr. Munson's Honors Study Breaks, although differing, can be so fruitful," said Olivia, "I was so happy to work with Sarah Georger, the co-curricular coordinator of the UDHP, and Professor Munson on the continuation of Study Breaks." Dr.Munson's Study Breaks are supported in part by the 'Burnaby Munson Honors Program Faculty Engagement Fund' started this summer.

HAVE AN HONORS STORY TO SHARE FOR MUNSON'S CORNER?
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ILLUSTRATION BY JEFFREY CHASE AS'91

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