

In the Company of Friends

The Honors Program Newsletter

January 2012

January 25

Honors Component Workshop

February 1

Honors Component Due

February 10

*Students notified of approval
or revisions*

February 17

Revised components due

Office Hours

Sullivan 101

**Monday &
Wednesday
10-3:30pm**

**Tuesday &
Thursday
8:30-3:30pm**

Spring Honors Component Workshop

Wednesday, January 25th 3-4:30pm

Sullivan 101

There will be a **mandatory** information session/workshop for any honors student who wishes to submit an honors component proposal for the spring semester. The deadline to submit your proposal is February 1, so please attend if you are interested in submitting a proposal this semester. We will cover the goals and requirements for a successful proposal, as well as some of the best proposals from previous semesters.

Staff Spotlight: Lisa Cavallaro

Honors Program Administrative Assistant

Lisa received her undergraduate degree from Assumption College in '87 with a B.A. in Business Management. She then received her MBA with a concentration in International Marketing. She has held various international support, marketing and program management positions in the high tech industry over the years. During her junior year in college, Lisa studied abroad, and has used this experience as a catalyst for her career in Higher Education. She worked as an intern in 2009 with International Programs at Merrimack. She now shares her time between positions in

the World Languages Center and The Honors Program. Additionally, Lisa is a committee member on the Institutional Review Board. The IRB committee monitors the various human interaction surveys that happen at Merrimack.

Lisa has 5 children-3 boys and twin girls. She has been married 20 years, and lives in North Andover. She spends an ample amount of her free time volunteering, and recently organized a fundraiser at St. Michael's school and raised \$30,000 in December! She is also the President of the Bradford ski team, and all 5 of her children ski race!

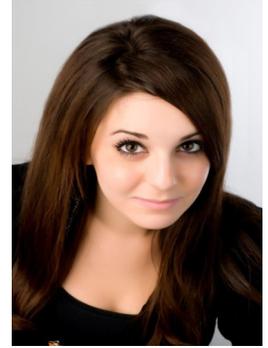
Christina Piantigini Reflects on National Collegiate Honors Council Conference

My name is Christina Piantigini and I am a Junior member of the Honors Program and Honors Committee. I am majoring in English and Middle School Education and hope to someday teach in a public school setting. The Honors Program has given me many rewarding opportunities, my favorite being the chance to attend NCHC (National Collegiate Honors Council) in Kansas City, MO in 2010. NCHC was an incredible experience that was both educational and entertaining. The Council hosted thousands of Honors students across the country which

allowed for interaction between professors and students from almost every part of the United States. NCHC made me extremely excited for the potential of the Merrimack College Honors Program. I took a whole notebook full of notes at about ten different sessions, mostly revolving around making Honors Programs cohesive and productive. I was able to bring many fresh ideas back to the Honors Committee and I have a lot of hope for the growth of our Honors Program. My favorite part of the trip was meeting Aron Rolston, author of *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*, and

the inspiration behind the movie *127 Hours*. Aron's speech was simply remarkable and inspiring, and meeting him afterwards was life changing. It was a true blessing to be given the

opportunity to attend NCHC 2010, and I am so grateful to the Honors Program for everything I was able to experience in Kansas City and take home to the Merrimack Community.



Sophomore Kendrick Lim on Service Learning Experience at Lawrence General

Volunteering is an essential component in enriching the quality of our lives and those in the communities around us. Last semester, I had the opportunity to offer my services at the Lawrence General Hospital Emergency Department. It is one of the busiest hospitals in Massachusetts, treating more than 200 patients a day and 73,000 people per year. My task there

consisted of two components. The first involved restocking medical equipment in every room. This ensured that staff would have everything they needed to handle any situation. I was also a clerk in the reception area and helped answer inquiries, which helped patients see their physicians in a timely manner. This included directing visitors within the ER,

transporting patients to various departments within the hospital, and collecting confidential, background information. The most rewarding aspect of my time at Lawrence General was found in my interactions with patients. This opportunity has provided me with real, hands on experience in the field I aspire to become a part of after graduating from Merrimack.

Women's Path to Employment created by Sophomore, Sabrina Boggio



Women's Path To Employment (WPTE) is a student-run "Campus Catalyst" project, comprised of Merrimack College students. It was created by Sabrina Boggio, a sophomore in the Honors Program through the Merrimack Valley Sandbox, which is funded by the Deshpande Foundation. In stage 1

of the Campus Catalyst Program, WPTE began with a professional women's clothing drive. This served as a basis to build an inventory of clothing that would be later used to create interview outfits for WPTE's clients. Through the advertising of the clothing drive on the Merrimack College campus, a space was arranged for WPTE to store the donations. The initial grant was used to build the brand, create connections, and organize the closet. In stage 2, WPTE has gone into full effect by helping low income, unemployed women in the Merrimack Valley along their path to employment by (A) collecting and distributing women's professional clothing, shoes, and accessories, and (B) hosting workshops that will equip the

women with the tools needed to be more marketable to employers. Workshop topics include resume writing, cover letter writing, and interview skills.

During the winter break, Sabrina Boggio started a partnership with Family Services in Lawrence to have the social workers refer clients to WPTE. Year round, there is a public drop-off location for donations at the Merrimack College Post Office. Women's Path to Employment is in need of volunteers for the Spring semester of 2012 – for those who are interested, please send your resume to womenspathtoemployment@gmail.com