

In the Company of Friends

The Honors Program

April 2012

Honors Students Nominated for 13th Annual Women's Leadership Seminar

A number of our students were recognized last month at the 13th Annual Women's Leadership Seminar for their outstanding leadership both inside and outside of the classroom. Nominated students had the opportunity to participate in a series of workshops hosted by Merrimack alumni on how to empower one's voice to create positive change. Students also had the opportunity to hear keynote speaker, Alexa Abowitz, Vice President of Administration and General Counsel talk about her own experiences as a leader, and offered advice on how to hone one's leadership abilities.

The following honors students were nominated for the seminar, and we congratulate them as female leaders at Merrimack College.

Emily Achilles	Jessica Gurka
Sabrina Boggio	Kayla Hodgkins
Jaclyn Caruso	MaryRose Mazzola
Casey Chapman	Anna Ndamba
Chelsea Comfort	Rebecca Read
Jocelyn Cordell	Sabina Shakya
Hannah Farrell	Andrea Yavarow

Student Spotlight: Breanna Walukevich

My name is Breanna Walukevich and I am a sophomore member of the Honors Program. I am majoring in Human Development and Elementary Education with Moderate Disabilities and hope to someday be a guidance counselor or school psychologist.

The Honors Program has given me many rewarding opportunities, especially through the Honors Component. Last semester I completed an Honors Component for my Psychology of Learning and Assessment class. I really loved going beyond the course syllabus and focusing on an area that I am especially interested in. Not only was I able to research the role of a school guidance counselor, but I was also able to intern every Friday with the guidance counselor at an

elementary school. I witnessed the guidance counselor play an active role of teaching the guidance curriculum and play a responsive role by listening to students individually.

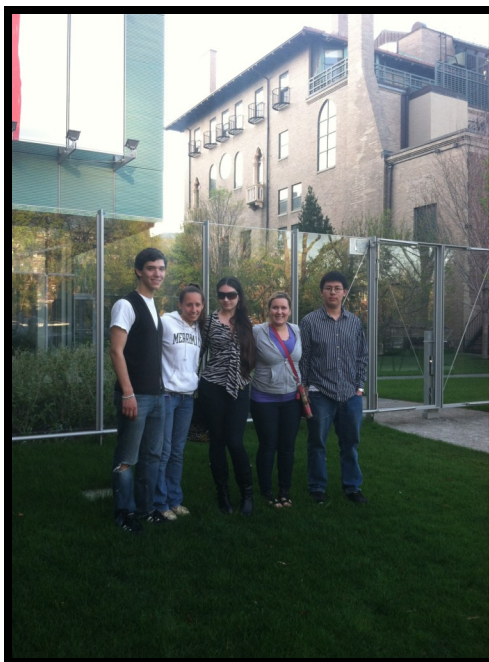
Specifically, one major role of a guidance counselor that I was able to experience was Buddy Lunches. Buddy Lunches are held in order to give students support, especially if they are having any family or social issues. When the guidance counselor I interned with had meetings to attend, I was given the opportunity to take her place at the Buddy Lunches with the students. It really made me feel like a guidance counselor and I can definitely see myself in that role every day. Through my



internship and after researching school counseling on my own, I feel more confident in saying that counseling is something that I definitely want to do with my life. My internship provided me with a wonderful opportunity to truly experience what it is like to be an elementary school counselor and I never would have pursued that opportunity if it were not for the Honors Program. I now feel more confident in my decision to potentially pursue a school counseling career and I owe that to my experience completing an Honors Component.



Congratulations to all of our wonderful students who performed in the musical production, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*: Jacyln Caruso, Jocelyn Cordell, William Graham, Christina Piantigini, Kali Tudisco and Andrew Rivenbark!



Honors Students at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston!

Upcoming Events

Honors Convocation

Wednesday, April 25th at 4pm
Collegiate Church

Come support Honors Seniors who will be recognized at Convocation for their academic achievements.

Social Gathering

Friday, May 4th from 12-4pm
Honors Office Suite

Need a break before finals? Come to our end of the year social gathering!