

# In The Company of Friends

The Honors Program Newsletter

December 2011

## Professor Spotlight: Kathryn Nielsen-Dube

Associate Director, Writing Center

Lecturer, Department of Communication Arts and Sciences

*BA* – Merrimack College (English)

*MA* – University of New Hampshire (English Literature)

*Doctoral Candidate* – Lesley University (Adult and Transformative Education)

*Teaching:* Introduction to College Writing; Issues and Topics in Second Language Writing; Writing Across Cultures; and Composition Theory all using technology and Writing Intensive formats.

*Research Interests:* Adult and Transformative Learning; Critical Race Theory; New Literacy Studies

*Fun Facts:* Native Californian who loves her four amazing children Corrine, Kirsten, Andrew, and Alex, in addition to Rafael Nadal, the game of tennis, and my pacifist Golden Retriever, Brad

As a writing instructor from

the Communications Arts and Sciences Department I have had the pleasure of meeting Honors students in their first year at Merrimack College. The experiences that I share with students in the classroom and in the Writing Center serve as a springboard for my current research pursuits in understanding how institutional, personal, and social contexts continuously shape varying modes of representation and identity formation. It is there, working with students, where I can lay claim to knowing that I simply love what I do.

Over the years I have also learned that voice and passion matter. As an adult learner and the first person on both sides of the family to attend college, I earned my undergraduate degree here at Merrimack College seventeen years after my high school graduation. The

years in between were filled with stops and starts owing to the expected and often *unexpected* aspects of life's journey. Returning to finish my undergraduate degree was a time of excitement and discovery, and I am thankful for the professors who generously extended their hands of mentorship by welcoming me into the academic arena through introductions, invitations and many, many conversations. It is after those professors that I aim to model my own teaching. My vocabulary and knowledge grew amidst this new discourse community and provided the fertile soil for my courage and voice to develop and grow. What I have come to value most, though, is being the beneficiary of and now a professional contributor to the transformative power of education. I remain committed both personally and professionally to the pursuit of lifelong learning and believe

deeply in its ability to foster profound and meaningful growth.

Working with students in the Honors Program, with its commitment to transformative and reflective learning practices, allows me the opportunity to participate in the cultivation of voice and intention through the act of writing. It is my profound hope that the process, in turn, helps to develop and empower students to become change agents amidst a lifetime of personal, community, and civic agency.



## The View from 101: An Address for Director Wians

Drawing to the end of another semester might seem like a time to look back. Instead, members of the Merrimack faculty are beginning to look forward. In response to an invitation I sent to all faculty at the College, about two dozen professors met in an Open Forum on November 30 to discuss ideas for reshaping the Merrimack Honors Program. Discussion centered on two issues: how to increase

the number of Honors courses that are offered; and an innovative approach to increasing student participation designed by members of the Honors Student Council. Full details about the Point Proposal will appear in an upcoming newsletter. For now, I'll just say that the Point Proposal will reward students for various forms of involvement over their four years in the Program. When

you see the details of the proposal, you'll know why I am so impressed by what Honors Council students have come up with.

Best wishes for a joyous Christmas and a restful (and well earned) break!

Dr. B

### Holiday Party!

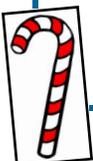
Friday, December 9th

2-5pm

Honors Office Suite

Cookies, gingerbread house contest, and honors

t-shirts



## Student Spotlight: Angela Milinazzo

I've been a part of the Honors Program at Merrimack for four years now, but my time here is quickly drawing to a close. With any luck, I will be graduating as one of the first Honors Program graduates after this semester. It certainly has been a whirlwind four years, not only as a Merrimack student in general, but as a member of the Honors Program.

I'm a member of the class of 2012 – the pioneer Honors Program class – and double majoring in English and Italian Studies. Despite both of my majors, the majority of my honors courses have been in other disciplines. Most memorable would probably be my Honors classes from freshmen year. No one could forget Dr. Allman's Intro to Religious Studies or Christian Social Ethics. Both classes stand out in my mind because they not only made me realize that I enjoyed being

a student at Merrimack, but because it was when I really felt like *this* was what it meant to be a part of the Honors program.

Since that first year, I have been involved in various clubs and organizations on campus, such as Student Government Association, the Italian Club and the English Club. I've been a Resident Advisor since my sophomore year (including a position as Senior Resident Advisor last year as a junior) and been involved in various committees and focus groups. Off campus, I spent this past summer interning abroad in London, England, working on a small magazine and immersing myself into a major international city. I've tried to be as involved in possible to get as much from the Merrimack experience as I could in just a mere three and a half years.

With only a few short weeks left, I'm trying to figure out "what happens next" – which is easier said than done. I'm thinking about heading to grad school and get my master's in something having to do with media, such as journalism or publishing. I've realized that I want to be a part of the constant exchange of information that basically rules the world on so many different levels. I'm confident that, regardless of what comes after Merrimack, I will be ready though, and I will be able to use my experience as an Honors student to handle any challenge thrown at me.



*Sullivan 101*

*Hours of Operation*

*Monday & Wednesday*

*12-5pm*

*Tuesday & Thursday*

*8:30-3:30pm*



## Honors Students Receive Campus Catalyst Grant

Coordinated by the Stevens Service Learning Center students have the opportunity to apply for a small grant of \$500 to make some big changes happen. These micro-projects allow students to become entrepreneurs in their field of interest as well as provide hands on real world experiences to bring change to their college campus.

*Water for the World*

**Rebecca Read**

Create an organization that supports awareness & education about clean water

*Outdoor Adventure*

**Chelsea Comfort**

Creation of a student group that focuses on sustainability and outdoor adventures

*The Seedling Project: Phase 2 Vermiculture*

**Sabina Shakya**

Create a vermiculture and composting business at Merrimack College

*Energy Efficiency Team*

**Anthony Capobianco**

Conduct an energy efficient audit of Merrimack College

*Prestige World Wide*

**Anthony Capobianco**

**Patrick Hovsepian**

**Mike Riordan**

**Sergio LaFrazia**

Create a video game rental system at Merrimack College

*Women's Path to Employment*

**Sabrina Boggio**

Networking website for law school students to give advice to students applying to law school

**Krysten Moore**

Conduct a survey and assessment of Merrimack College's sustainability efforts as it relates to campus athletics