

# In the Company of Friends

## The Honors Program Newsletter

### February 2012

#### Faculty Spotlight: Mark Allman

Dr. Allman received his PhD in Christian Ethics from Loyola University of Chicago. His main research interests are Political Theology and War & Peace Studies. His main teaching interests are Social, Political and Economic Ethics.

Prior to Merrimack College, Dr. Allman was an Assistant Professor of Philosophy & Religious Studies at Mt. Union College in Alliance, OH. At Merrimack, Dr. Allman is an Associate Professor in the Department of Religious and Theological Studies, Faculty Associate for the Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations at Merrimack and co-editor for the Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics.

He is currently teaching Honors RTS 1100 Christianity in Context. Next

semester he will be teaching Ethics in the Abrahamic Traditions, both honors and non-honors sections.

Ethics in the Abrahamic Traditions explores contemporary ethical issues (capitol punishment, embryonic stem cell research, gender issues, same sex marriage, etc.) from Jewish, Christian and Muslim perspectives by looking for similarities and differences between the way these 3 sister religions understand right and wrong behavior as well as concepts of justice in society.



#### Honors Students to Perform in Dirty Rotten Scoundrels!

Come support your fellow honors students and Merrimack College's OnStagers in their performance of Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. This musical follows the story of two con men living in the French Riviera as they try to seduce a beautiful heiress out of \$50,000. The loser must leave town for good. This is a hilarious, Tony Award-winning musical comedy, filled with twists, mishaps, romance, and scandals that will have you laughing out loud the whole time.

*Dates:* March 29, 30, 31  
*Tickets:* Students and seniors \$10;  
Student Rush \$5.

#### Important Announcement Regarding Next Year's Senior Capstone

**Attention Juniors!**  
**The Honors Senior Capstone, a requirement of The Honors Program, will be taking a new form next year. The Honors Program envisions a Senior Honors Capstone that distinguishes Honors Program graduates from other students while preparing them for post-graduate studies or employment. The key component will be a major independent research project.**

**More information will be distributed this semester, so be on the look out.**

## Honors Students Participate in Global Village

This year the Office of International Programs hosted Global Village, an event where international students and study abroad students came together to represent their home or host country. The displays were filled with photos, music, food and clothing from all over the world.

Two of the students who participated in Global Village were Sophomore Casey Chapman and Junior Sabina Shakya of The Honors Program. Casey Chapman created a beautiful display representing France, which included a 3D model of the Eiffel Tower, traditional French music, and mouth-watering madeleines and jus de limon. Casey plans to study abroad in France next Spring and

jumped at the opportunity to represent France with pride.

Sabina, a native of Nepal, was more than willing to showcase her home country's culture. Her display included photos of Nepal's vast and mountainous landscape, a slideshow of life in Nepal, and its' traditional foods.

Casey and Sabina represented the Honors Program's commitment to transformative experiences. Their participation should be applauded and recognized. With



the success of this year's Global Village all of you are encouraged to attend and participate next year. If you're interested in representing a country next year at Global Village please contact Elyse Kelley, [kelleye@merrimck.edu](mailto:kelleye@merrimck.edu).

**Office Hours**  
**Sullivan 101**

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

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



Casey Chapman, Sophomore

**“It was exciting for me to have a forum to share my passion for France with the Merrimack community. Often underrepresented, I think people were able to appreciate France's beautiful culture.”**

## Student Spotlight: Jocelyn Cordell

Jocelyn Cordell is a senior Romance Languages Major from Bedford, New Hampshire with two minors in Music and International Affairs. A current honors program participant with a perfect academic record, Jocelyn has recently returned from a Fall semester abroad in Angers, France where she was featured as a soloist in a selection of sacred Baroque repertoire by Monteverdi, Lully, and Charpentier. An accomplished classical soprano, Jocelyn regularly performs with the Jazz Ensemble, Concert Choir, Mackapella, and Music Ministry on campus in addition to regularly participating in the Merrimack Onstager's theatrical productions (she will be playing Lenore in this spring's musical *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*). Her musical passions

served as the catalyst for the Honors Program Service Learning collaboration with nationally acclaimed composer Dan Ellsey in conjunction with Mackapella. In the spring of 2011, the team composed and presented a combined instrumental piece titled *Memories of Autumn: Trust in the Values of Friendship*, which consisted of both a live acoustic orchestra and a complementary electronic score created through a software program developed by MIT professor Todd Machover. In regards to the project:

*"I was looking for a way to be apart of music while also giving back and Dan was looking to collaborate with Merrimack," said Cordell. "When we met it was an instant connection. We were able to combine our talents and create a piece that is the best of both*

*worlds, all while developing a deep friendship."*

While not singing or composing, Jocelyn participates in a variety of activities including Model UN as Head delegate and as a Music Chairwoman of her sorority Alpha Sigma Tau. Next year, she plans to return back to France to teach English before pursuing graduate studies in International Diplomacy.



## Spring Events

**Honors Program Trivia Night**  
**More information to follow...**

**Waiting on Superman Documentary and Discussion**  
**Wednesday, April 11th**  
**4pm**  
**Cushing 203**

**Boston Symphony Orchestra**  
**Friday, May 4th**  
**Reserve your ticket today!**  
**\$10 for students (value \$49.50)**

Interested in submitting an article? Please contact Caitlin Jarvis at [jarvisc@merrimack.edu](mailto:jarvisc@merrimack.edu)