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Annea Hapciu ‘12 at the Kosovo monument “Newborn”
See Alumni Profiles, Pages 4-5
Dear Alumni and Friends of the Honors Program,

This program continues to be blessed with students willing to take risks — willing to accept the challenges of an Honors education with all of its demands rather than settling for an easier path. Besides a willingness to be challenged, another of the great things about working with these students is the extent to which the diversity of their talents and abilities surprises me. Ours is a program where the winner of “Best of Show” at the Honors Art Exhibition is a pre-med student. Ours is a program where a Chaminade Scholar committed to the academic exploration of vocation can also be committed to an intensive summer of research as part of the Berry Summer Thesis Institute. Ours is a program where students from all majors have applied in this past year for a host of national scholarships and fellowships connected to their passions, their callings, their sense of vocation.

I hope that the stories in these pages — those of current students, recent graduates and yours — will testify to the continued strength of the program and provide the same spark of inspiration and University Honors Program pride for you that they do for me.

Wishing you all the best,

David W. Darwin, Ph.D.
Director

THE INaugural
Dayton2DC Spring Breakout trip in February 2013 con-
nected 24 University of Dayton participants with alumni currently working and living in the Washington, D.C. area. Students were exposed to a wide variety of career fields available in Washington and were able to engage in personal conversations with many UD alumni.

Eleven of the students who made the trip were Honors students: Grace Blumberg, Morgan Draves, Brittany Hines, Andy Kurkulis, Sarah Mott, Lauren Mooney, Dylan Moore, Meredith Percosta, Katy Schwabell, Alexandra Van Loon and Alash Vahidchil.

While in Washington, the students selected sessions based on their career interests and selected sessions based on their career interests and aspirations and talked with UD alumni currently working on Capitol Hill. Students met with legislative assistants and deputy chiefs of staff, receiving advice about how to navigate internships on the Hill into full-time, paid positions. Other UD alumni from organizations such as USAID, Meridian International Group, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the Washington Center were generous with their time and insights. Business cards and resumes were exchanged throughout the trip, and some students have already secured internships for the upcoming summer.

The highlight of the trip for many was meeting House Speaker John Boehner on the eve of sequestration. UD alumni Dave Schnittger, the current Deputy chief of staff for communication operations Speaker Boehner, scheduled the meeting: Students spoke with Speaker Boehner for almost 30 minutes, and then Schnittger provided insight into his own political career that led from Ohio to Washington, D.C.

Students received excellent insights from UD alumni about how to balance work and life while living in D.C. and tips on budgeting.

In addition to the trips in February 2013 connected with the program, the White House and explored some of the national monuments and museums on the Mall.

Students expressed sincere appreciation for the experience and a hope for the trip to be repeated for future students. All were amazed by how many UD alumni are in the D.C. area and willing to help current UD students achieve their dreams. Even 500 miles away, the UD community and its mission to “learn, lead and serve” thrives.

Dr. Jason Pierce, chair of the political science department, spearheaded the organization and funding of the trip with support from the University Honors Program and the College of Arts and Sciences. The UD Office of Development was instrumental in providing alumni contacts in the D.C. area.
Annea Hapciu ‘12

A year and a half ago, Annea Hapciu was busy enjoying her final few weeks at UD. Now, she is back home in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo. The Republic of Kosovo is a state established in 2008 lying in southeast Europe in the central part of the Balkan Peninsula. Following her graduation from UD, Hapciu worked for a company called Index Kosova, the only private market research company in Kosovo.

Hapciu was an entrepreneurship major with a marketing minor at UD. Like many of us, Hapciu did not have a set path in mind upon graduation. Her main focus was to get her thesis published. She fell into an internship job at Index Kosova after presenting her thesis to the company in hopes of possible publication. While her thesis did not fit with the company, they referred her to other companies that could publish it. But Index Kosova did offer her a job, which she began May 2012.

Hapciu reflects, “This was not the path I had imagined that I would take after graduation. But it has been a wonderful journey, and I have the chance to truly see much of my country and spend some excellent time with the amazing people that work there.”

Hapciu was a Berry Scholar at UD. This program greatly enhanced her experience and her accomplishments, as the program required her to complete an Honors thesis that eventually ended up being published by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, a renowned non-profit German political foundation with the goal of advancing public policy issues based on the values of social democracy through education, research and international cooperation. Hapciu feels that completing her thesis, The Internal Effect of the Kosovo: The Republic of Kosovo is back home at UD. Now, she is constantly balancing a full plate but better because of it; not only in the academic sense, but also in all aspects of my life.”

Looking toward the future, Hapciu hopes to move into the arts, which she would like to use as a way to improve the image of Kosovo internationally while also helping the people to contribute to the betterment of the country. She recently left Index Kosova to take a job as marketing coordinator for KosovaLive Media Group, the only independent news agency in Kosovo.

Hapciu remarks that the unexpected opportunity in Kosovo “has not changed my goals for the future at all, just made them more clear and has enabled me to pursue them in the meantime.” Hapciu encourages current UD students to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Honors Program and “do a thesis in an area that you feel passionate about and love.” At the same time, she reminds students to enjoy their time at UD — “every second counts.”

— Sarah Reynold ‘14

Natalie Berra ’12

Berra Berra is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Washington University in St. Louis. Health care was not in the picture when first entering UD. As a first year student in August 2008, she was a declared education major. However, when her interest in human anatomy manifested itself, others began asking why she didn’t change her major. The question sparked a million thoughts and, after long talks with advisors, professionals in the field, her parents and friends, she formally changed her major to pre-physical therapy, never looking back.

Since she changed her major, Berra knew that she planned to go to graduate school. What she did not expect was how much she would love it and how the perfect fit. She says, “Being a student in Washington University’s Physical Therapy Program has been challenging, intense, eye-opening, busy and a blessing. I entice some UD students to hear that Berra feels she has found her calling. Washington University’s graduate school similar to the one she was fortunate to have at UD. “I describe my graduate school experience as the ultimate camp where I get to study what I love, practice what I love and be surrounded by people who are eager and excited to do the same,” she said. At the same time, it pushes her harder academically than she could have ever imagined. “Honestly say I am better because of it, not only in the academic sense, but also in all aspects of my life.”

She is constantly balancing a full plate but maintains that it will all work out no matter how hard the task may seem.

Berra was given an opportunity her sophomore year at UD to be a camp worker in the University Honors Program office.

Every time she worked, she was inspired by the Honors students — their theses, the trips and grants for which they were applying, the multiple majors and the honors that is part of the movement in Dayton. She remarks, “Although many of them may not realize it, their enthusiasm and drive I encountered every day that really pushed me to figure out what I was being called to do.” To reflect these sentiments, her advice to current Honors students is to really be involved in the UHP and the many opportunities it offers. Most importantly, she advises students to soak up the intelligence and motivation of fellow classmates because, in fact, “they teach you things about yourself you never knew, and maybe even bring you to the future you were called to pursue!”

As for Berra, she looks forward to continuing and finishing her degree at Washington University. She very much considers the possibilities beyond, stating, “The more awesome professors and nurses I meet, the more areas of health care have really inspired me to continue my education, even after graduating from this program.”

— Sarah Reynold ‘14

Reflections

Joe Capka ’12

Since August 2012, I have been working as a financial analyst at BlackRock, the world’s largest investment manager, with $3.9 trillion in assets under management. I specifically work within their Latin America division, researching and launching new investment funds for clients in Mexico, Brazil, Colombia and Chile. Living and working in downtown San Francisco, I have been adjusting to a lifestyle very different from that of a student at UD. Every day continues to be an adventure as I learn new things and try new experiences, but the most exciting has definitely been training for and competing in an Olympic-distance triathlon in Waikoloa, Hawaii!

I am very grateful to have landed a job which utilizes both of my majors — finance and Spanish. Fortunately, upon graduating, I had already received and accepted the job offer, so I had a number of months to plan ahead for the move to San Francisco. As for the triathlon, it was definitely an unexpected experience that I signed up for on a whim. When I learned that my company was sponsoring a group of employees to participate, I figured it would be a good way to meet new people.

In addition to signing up for a 0.9-mile swim, 26-mile bike ride, and 6.2-mile run, I pledged to raise $4,900 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, a charity which researches treatments for blood cancers that currently threaten the lives of 950,000 Americans. This cause is near and dear to my heart, as these diagnoses have affected my immediate family.

In 2011, my maternal grandmother passed away from the effects of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. Overall, I am grateful for the opportunity to support those who battle cancer today.

My greatest accomplishment was completing the swimming portion of the race. At the start of training I was reminded of how terrible a swimmer I was, but to be honest I had never swum more than one consecutive lap in a pool — swimming 0.9 miles is about 33 laps! At the beginning I confess, it was a tough challenge and I struggled at our team swim practices. Fortunately, my apartment complex has a lap pool in which I practiced regularly. After a few months I definitely saw some progress!

Incidentally, my first long distance run took place my first year of college with two fellow University Honors Program members, Mary Untener and Erik Vasilauskas. We ran five miles from campus to the Untener family residence in Kettering. I struggled and constantly trialed Mary and Erik, both accomplished runners in high school, but in the end I survived and was rewarded with a home-cooked spaghetti and meatball meal at Mary’s house. Little did they know, but Mr. and Mrs. Untener were feeding an aspiring triathlete!

If I could go back and relive my four years at UD, I wouldn’t change much, but I would certainly take more advantage of the fitness activities on or surrounding campus. It took me until senior year to take long jogs in the beautiful Oakwood neighborhoods or go biking along the Great Miami River. Although many wouldn’t expect it, Dayton is a great city in which to be active — take advantage of it!

On-line issues of honorlink can be found at: udhonorsnews.com! — End of story.

Alumni

Profiles are featured in every January issue so send us your news!
Oh, the Places They’ll Go!
The 2013 Honors Graduates

WORK, SERVICE OR SCHOOL — this year’s graduates are coast-to-coast and beyond.

The map indicates some of the locations in the U.S. where graduates are heading. The listings include places of employment, branches of service, fellowship destinations and graduate schools.

**The West**
- Los Angeles, California
- San Diego, California
- Parker, Colorado
- Denver, Colorado
- Austin, Texas

**The Middle States**
- Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Chicago, Illinois
- Argosy University
- Management and Administration
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- South Bend, Indiana
- University of Notre Dame
- Bloomington, Indiana
- Indiana University
- Ann Arbor, Michigan
- University of Michigan
- Lansing, Michigan
- Michigan State University
- Nashville, Tennessee
- Vanderbilt University

**The East**
- Boston, Massachusetts
  - Emerson College
  - Providence, Rhode Island
  - Brown University
- Warwick, Rhode Island
  - Bishop Hendricken High School
- Wilmington, Delaware
  - Richardsons Park Learning Center
- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
  - University of Pittsburgh

**Ohio**
- Toledo, Ohio
  - The University of Toledo
- Cleveland, Ohio
  - Case Western Reserve University
  - Nexus Engineering Group LLC
- Akron, Ohio
- Columbus, Ohio
  - Battelle for Kids
  - Ohio Dominican University
  - The Ohio House of Representatives
  - The Ohio State University
- Dayton, Ohio
  - Dayton Logistics
  - Chromic Inc.
  - Compact Dayton
  - Dayton Public Schools
  - NCR Country Club
  - University of Dayton
  - Wright State University
  - Cincinnati, Ohio
    - Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center
    - Ernst & Young
    - Ethicon Endo-Surgery
    - University of Cincinnati

**The Southeast**
- Washington, D.C.
  - The George Washington University
  - Georgetown University
- Norfolk, Virginia
  - Old Dominion University
- Chapel Hill, North Carolina
  - The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Durham, North Carolina
  - Duke University
- Columbia, South Carolina
  - University of South Carolina
- Atlanta, Georgia
  - Georgia Institute of Technology
  - Emory University

**Overseas**
- Dublin, Ireland
  - University College
- Guatemala
- Pristina, Kosovo
  - KozenaLive
- Thailand
  - CEE Teach Abroad

**Locations Undetermined**
- BP America
- Brooksource
- Catholic Social Services
- Credit Suisse
- Deloitte & Touche LLP
- Fabric Care
- GE Appliances
- Grant Thornton LLP
- Hazen and Sawyer
- Makino Engineering Services
- PricewaterhouseCoopers LLC

**Oh, the Places They’ll Go!**

The 2013 honors graduates are coast-to-coast and beyond. The map indicates some of the locations in the U.S. where graduates are heading. The listings include places of employment, branches of service, fellowship destinations and graduate schools.
Challenges together with the passing of one of our closest friends and fellow Honors student, Danny Arnold. Throughout Danny’s final days and the grieving process, Dr. David Darrow was by our side ready to help us in any way he could. My friends and I came out of those painful days closer than we ever had been before, and I will be forever thankful to the support and the rest of the Honors Program for the support they provided.”

**Emma DallaGrana ’13**

Intervention Specialist (Special Education)

“I lived in an Honors learning-community freshman year, and I loved the Honors Program. I helped plan interventions for first-year students all three years after that. They really rood cool to see them come in each year.

“Completing an Honors Thesis was hands down the absolute best academic experience for me. I was able to present at the Bunting Symposium last year, present at the Ohio Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages conference at The Ohio State University and have my thesis published in The Ohio Journal of Teacher Education.

“I would not be the same person I am today without the Honors Program. I have grown academically as a scholar, and the Program has been there for me above and beyond on a personal level, showing the unique 3D aspect of community. It’s a big deal! The Honors Program supported my family in a difficult time and helped organize me to excel in future courses in graduate school.

“Furthermore, the Honors Program built a community for me among academically motivated students. My participation in Honors Orientation gave me a glimpse into what life would be like as an Honors student, and my work as an Orientation Leader allowed me to share my experiences with future Honors Flyers. Also, my four years in an academic program reinforced the positive impact of spending time with those that share my goal to excel academically. Overall, the Honors Program enhanced my experience as an academic leader at UD, and I can take what I have learned into my future profession.”

--- Kristina DeMichele ’13

**Megan Klebba ’13**

“Dr. Darrow and the Honors Program have been a phenomenal part of my college experience. It has been enriching.

Dr. DallaGrana said her analytical problem-solving nature and passion to travel and learn about other cultures has made her successful in the job-searching process. She will be working as a supply rotation analyst for JM Company at the global headquarters in Austin, Texas. “I know this job will open up doors in the future and I am excited to pursue whatever comes my way next,” she says.

DallaGrana said that her time at UD is the reason for her success. Through Delta Sigma Theta, a community for me among academically motivated students. My participation in Honors Orientation gave me a glimpse into what life would be like as an Honors student, and my work as an Orientation Leader allowed me to share my experiences with future Honors Flyers. Also, my four years in an academic program reinforced the positive impact of spending time with those that share my goal to excel academically. Overall, the Honors Program enhanced my experience as an academic leader at UD, and I can take what I have learned into my future profession.”

--- Kristina DeMichele ’13

**Megan Klebba’s hard work for her English degree and three minors in business administration, psychology and Spanish, combined with her leadership positions in Sigma Tau Delta and the Write Place, has earned her a valuable spot in Vanderbilt University’s higher education and administration program.**

Always knowing that she wanted to work in the business world, Klebba said that she started out in college with the goal of becoming a teacher; “I came to realize the personal fulfillment that working with a student-on-one-on-one granted,” she said about her work as a consultant at the Write Place. “The administrative aspect began to appeal more and more to me.”

Klebba said she knows the right decision to transfer to UD her sophomore year. She noticed a tremendous improvement in her writing and analytical thinking during her time at UD in the Honors Program. Her classes helped expand her ways of thinking about the world in ways that she could not have anticipated. “Most importantly, the relationships with friends and professors alike will be the most precious things I will take with me after graduation,” Klebba said.

Klebba encourages students to take advantage of all that the University of Dayton has to offer. The Honors Program taught her that she could go “beyond the norm” and that graduate work was something she could handle. “Whether it was studying abroad, going on a retreat, doing a semester of service, participating in a club, working on campus, researching with a professor, taking a class, or working with someone in career services… you never knew what doors could be opened for you.”

--- CC Mutten ’15

**Robert Strong ’13**

Chemical engineering major Strong certainly has a bright and exciting future awaiting him after graduating from UD this May, for which he credits God and the University Honors Program. “My time at UD has shaped the career that I am pursuing today and helped me become a better all-around person,” he says.

Strong will stay rooted locally to work for Chemineer, a company in the Dayton area that manufactures customized industrial mixers. “I will be part of their four-man research team that focus being on static mixers. This is exciting for me and the company because they are being acquired by a large company and the static-mixing research is directly applicable to the new market,” he says.

Strong credits the Honors Program for giving him a start in his engineering career. He got his first job doing research at Wright State, where he worked for two-and-a-half years. Strong has been working for the past year and a half in the editing process. He says that the Honors Program taught him to be a good, thorough reporter on a niche in the market.” he says.

Strong has many treasured memories of UD, including being a member of the football team and meeting his best friend, Brad, when they got to know each other during his freshman year. “I always like me during the first few weeks of our freshman year (because) he thought I was a dumb jock,” he says. “I would not be where I am today without the help and support of the coaching staff as well as the professors at UD.”

For current UD students in the Honors Program, and especially those in STEM majors, Strong encourages students not to give up. “Even though the classes may seem hard at times, it is definitely worth every second of it. I would not be where I am today without the help and support of the coaching staff as well as the professors at UD.”

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Graduate Blessing

May 2013 Honors Graduation Brunch

The 2013 Graduate students pictured above right.

2013 Honors Graduation Brunch (above right) / Photo by Alan Alanos

News and notes from the University of Dayton Honors Program
Jacob Rinehart: Superior Sophomore Cadet Award  
Ella Wildemann: Kuntz Outstanding Junior (MEE)  
Molly Winslow: Huth Outstanding Senior (ANT)  
Jarrod Wurm: Organic Chemistry Award (CHM)  
Erin Yacovoni: NASA Ohio Space Grant Consortium Education Scholar  

Joint Awards  
CRC PRESS Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award: Sophia Gillum, Thaddeus Masthay, Christopher Morrow, Jonathon Sens and Meredith Taylor  
Katchman/Michaelis First-Year Chemistry Scholarship: Carolyn Capka, Katie Kerneffel and Christopher Morrow  
Sophomore Award for Mathematics: Rachel Lawless and Luke McCrate  

All-Academic Team: Erin Filbrandt, Elizabeth Gleason, Nathaniel Lundy, Stephen Mackell, Joshua Malyon, Haley Murrell and Andrew Steffensmeier  

Research Publications  
Mark Pleasants: Co-author of Global Land Ice Measurements from Space  

The Military  
Kara Dickey: Commissioned in the United States Air Force  

Do you want to make a difference in the lives of current and future Honors students?  
Donate by:  
Mailing a check to  
University of Dayton  
300 College Park  
Dayton, Ohio 45469-2961  
or visiting  
udayton.edu/give  
and designating your gift to the  
Patrick F. Palermo Founders Fund, Chaminade Scholars Program or Daniel P. Arnold Memorial Fund  

The Research  
Congratulations to the following students who presented or published research this year!  

Presentations  
Kaitlyn Francis, Samantha Stringer and Jordan Yellky: Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution  
Zachary Hadaway, Hailey Kwon, Alyssa Lesko and Andrew Steffensmeier: National Conference on Undergraduate Research  
Hailey Kwon, Alyssa Lesko and Greg Mancini: Ohio Conference on Undergraduate Research  
Nicholette Smith, Alex Ulintz and Elizabeth Wetzel: Harvard National Collegiate Research Conference  
Joseph Salomone: Society for Developmental Biology  
Leslie Sollmann: Joint Army Navy NASA Air Force (JANNAF) Interagency Propulsion Conference  
Madee Szaller: Bergamo Conference on Curriculum Theory and Classroom Practice  

Elizabeth Wetzel: Ohio Physiological Society Annual Meeting  
Alex Ulintz: American Medical Student Association National Conference  

Kaitlyn Francis, Samantha Stringer and Jordan Yellky: Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution  
Zachary Hadaway, Hailey Kwon, Alyssa Lesko and Andrew Steffensmeier: National Conference on Undergraduate Research  
Hailey Kwon, Alyssa Lesko and Greg Mancini: Ohio Conference on Undergraduate Research  
Nicholette Smith, Alex Ulintz and Elizabeth Wetzel: Harvard National Collegiate Research Conference  
Joseph Salomone: Society for Developmental Biology  
Leslie Sollmann: Joint Army Navy NASA Air Force (JANNAF) Interagency Propulsion Conference  
Madee Szaller: Bergamo Conference on Curriculum Theory and Classroom Practice  

August  
16 Honors Students Welcome  
21 Classes Begin  
31 Danny Arnold 5k Run/Walk  
TBD Hull Application Process Meeting  

September  
15 Spring/Summer Hull Reports Due  
TBD Senior Thesis Writers: Thesis Workshop Sessions  

October  
TBD Juniors: Honors Diploma Workshop  
TBD Fall Information Workshop for First- and Second-Year Honors Students  

November  
15 December Graduate Theses Due  
TBD Junior Thesis Writers: Thesis Workshop Sessions  
TBD Hull Application Process Meeting  

December  
2 Honors Art Exhibit Entries Due  
10 Juniors: Thesis Intent Documents Due  
13 Honors Graduation Lunch  
14 Fall Graduation Commencement