

The Honor Roll

A Quarterly Newsletter for Honors
Students, Alumni, Parents and Friends

Fall 2009: Issue 1

A Message from the Dean...



Dear Honors Students, Alumni, Parents, and Friends,
Welcome to the inaugural edition of *The Honor Roll*, a quarterly electronic newsletter for Drexel University's Honors community. The purpose of this new venture is to keep the broader Honors community informed about new developments and successes of the Pennoni Honors College, which houses the Honors Program. The Honors Program will continue to publish its separate weekly newsletter for Honors students, which contains announcements primarily of interest to currently enrolled students.

As some of you already know, my predecessor, Dr. Mark Greenberg, did such a good job as Dean of the College that he was kicked upstairs to the position of Provost, the University's highest academic office. Dr. Greenberg's achievements for the Pennoni Honors College are many, and I will highlight several of them.

- The Honors Program has grown dramatically over the years. This Fall 2009, we welcomed an entering freshman class of about 450 students with an average combined SAT of 1360, an average GPA of 3.74, and an average finish in the top 8% of their high-school graduating class.
- The Great Works Symposium, which we believe to be unique to Drexel, is a sequence of four courses over Drexel's four-quarter academic year. Each year, the Symposium addresses a major theme, such as

An Interview with Regina Cagle '08



Tell us about yourself..

Originally from Houston, Texas, I joined the Pennoni Honors College at Drexel University as a freshman in Fall 2003. After participating in the five-year Co-op program, I graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Engineering and a Double-Minor in Spanish and French.

How did you spend this last year?

In October 2007, with the help of the Honors College Fellowships Coordinator, I applied for the William J. Fulbright Fellowship. This is a program sponsored by the U.S. State Department, which allows students to pursue projects of their own design in just about any country in the world.

As a Fulbright Scholar in Ecuador, I pursued a Master's Degree in Sustainable Energy Development. Additionally, I wrote my master's thesis, which examines the relationship between water and energy by quantifying the Water Use Efficiency (WUE) for a diverse set of renewable and non-renewable energy sources. In addition, I was the Lead In-Country Liaison for Engineers

Democracy or Energy; each quarter's course focuses on an aspect of the theme, such as Sustainability or Energy Policy. It has become a very popular option for many of Drexel's most intellectually curious students.

- Drexel's highly selective STAR Program, which we administer, placed 100 students from the 2008-09 freshman class in summer positions conducting paid research under the direction of a Drexel faculty member.
- The Study Abroad Program placed 168 students in a total of 21 different foreign countries in academic year 2008-09. Its recently created Fellowships Office has helped Drexel students win the prestigious Gates Cambridge Fellowship and four Fulbright Awards for post-graduate study abroad.
- The Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) each year places about 2500 Drexel freshmen in a civic engagement activity of at least five hours. This means that approximately 2500 University Freshmen contribute a total of 12,500 hours of service to the Philadelphia community each year. This year, the CCE—in collaboration with the Goodwin College—launched the Philip B. Lindy Inner-City Public School Program, whereby 75 middle school students receive extra tutoring and mentoring from Drexel students for at least three years to increase the middle-school students' college eligibility.
- *The Smart Set*, Drexel's online journal (thesmartset.com), which was initiated under Dr. Greenberg and which the College continues to publish, now receives over a million unique visits each year. It has been linked by such on-line publications as *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Arts & Letters Daily*, *Atlantic.com*, the *New York Times* website, and others. It has received several national awards for a variety of its articles.
- The Drexel Writing Program established writing-intensive courses in students' major disciplines. Successful completion of three writing-intensive courses is now a graduation requirement for Drexel students. The Program has done so well that, on July 1, 2009, it merged with the Writing Center in the Department of English & Philosophy. Their consolidation should strengthen both the Writing Center and the Writing Program.

Dr. Greenberg will be a tough act to follow. I hope to preserve and build upon his numerous achievements, as well as to initiate new programs beneficial to Drexel and particularly its Honors students. I welcome your input to this endeavor. Please feel free to offer suggestions as to how we can improve what we are doing, and for new initiatives that we might consider undertaking. And please know that I would love to meet any parents or alumni who are visiting campus. You're always welcome here.



Dave Jones

Without Borders-USA (EWB-USA).

What was your typical day like in Ecuador?

As a graduate student, I was in class three hours a day and spent about the same amount of time outside of class studying and preparing. I still found time to be engaged in the country around me, and to serve as a cultural ambassador—one of the central tenets of the Fulbright Fellowship.

What was the biggest adjustment you had to make to life in Ecuador?

Upon arriving in Quito, adjusting to the altitude was tricky (we're in the Andes mountain range at an elevation of over 9,000 ft.!) I just wanted to sleep all the time! I also had to navigate the transportation system and get accustomed to large family-oriented lunch meals instead of big American-style dinners.

What are your plans for the future?

I plan to work at the White House Council on Environmental Quality in DC this fall. It is exactly the post-Master's experience that will tie together everything I have learned in the Drexel engineering program and in Ecuador. Ultimately, I plan to return to academia to pursue a Ph.D. relating to public policy and the environment.

If you had to give words of advice to current students striving to achieve similar goals, what would you tell them?

Get involved! Take advantage of the brilliant minds and opportunities around you, like studying abroad and becoming active in civic engagement. In the end, it's most important that you have a passion and drive for everything you do—and the Pennoni Honors College really offers the structure to help you accomplish that!



Honors Graduates listen intently to President Pennoni's words of wisdom at the 2009 Honors Graduation Ceremony.

Dean
Pennoni Honors College

Interim President C.R. "Chuck" Pennoni

The Pennoni Honors College, named for Drexel alumnus and trustee Dr. C. R. "Chuck" Pennoni '63, '66, Hon. '92, and his wife Annette, was established in March 2003 when the Drexel Board of Trustees voted to rename the University's successful 12-year-old Honors Program in tribute to Pennoni's many contributions to Drexel.



Chuck Pennoni is one of the University's most successful alumni, a 2000 inductee into the National Academy of Engineering and an instrumental figure in Drexel governance. He is Chairman of Pennoni Associates, Inc., Consulting Engineers, a multidisciplinary engineering firm he founded in 1966. Focusing on civil infrastructure systems, Pennoni Associates today employs more

than 850 professionals and support staff with 20 offices in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York.

Dr. Pennoni received his Drexel bachelor's (1963) and master's (1966) degrees in Civil Engineering, and was recognized with an honorary doctorate from the University in 1992. He also served as a University Trustee (1993-2006) and Chairman of the Board (1997-2003); and previously served as Interim President once before (1994-95).

Dr. Pennoni currently serves as the Interim President of Drexel University, while an extensive national presidential search is underway.

Greetings from Delcho Ivanov, Senior in Business Administration

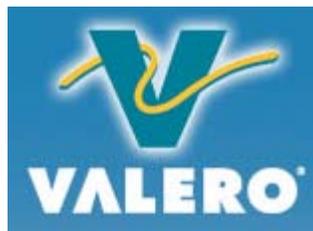


Student Speakers, Rob Falcone and Alyssa Wilson, smile proudly at the 2009 Honors Graduation Ceremony.



Honors Students Dress Up Mario the Dragon as a PHC graduate!

A Few Words from Haider Hassan, Junior in Mechanical Engineering and Mechanics



Tell us about your recent Co-op position.

My job as a Mechanical Engineer at Valero Delaware City Refinery

involved providing data-driven technical solutions to the mechanical problems arising in the refinery. I worked with mechanical, chemical, and electrical engineers in the Technical Services & Project Development Department as well as sister refineries, in order to produce solutions from a diverse pool of experience and expertise.



My name is Delcho Ivanov, and I'm from Bulgaria. I'm a Senior in the LeBow College of Business, concentrating in Finance and Accounting. I recently completed a Study and Intern Program (SIP) in Berlin, Germany. The goal of the program is to introduce American students to the German education system and work environment.

Technically, as an international student at Drexel, I'm already studying abroad. However, the business world demands substantial global experience. Germany was a great place to explore my special interest in international finance in emerging markets and to substantially improve my German language skills.

Being a member of the Honors College was an advantage in Germany, as it made me a well-rounded and easily adaptable person. The multidisciplinary approach of all of its programs enhanced my creative and analytical thinking skills and broadened my cultural and social horizons.

While in Berlin, I completed an internship at Enertrag Structured Finance. They are building a wind park in Bulgaria, and I assisted with financial analyses and legal research. I worked on the application for CO2 emissions reduction allowances under the European Trading Scheme, based on the Kyoto Protocol. I also conducted research for equity investments in emerging markets.

The academic year was relaxed. Germany's academic institutions do not have midterms and homework. From late September until December, I had the flexibility to explore Europe and search for the right post-graduate program. I attended amazing operas, concerts, and exhibitions. When I was not on the road, I was admiring Berlin! Every corner has its own history, and you don't need to go to the tourist attractions to feel the living history around you.

My best advice for current students who are thinking of studying or working abroad would be to go and do it! Experiment, find out what makes you happy in life, and make it your future.

What is the biggest difference between being a full-time student and working at a Co-op job full time?

As a full-time student, I'm responsible for the mastery of facts, concepts, and technical skills. Working full-time also demanded an attitude of constant professionalism. Engineers at Valero follow through in everything they do, no matter how small the detail. I would work cross-country over the phone with several engineers to solve severe technical problems common to all of our facilities. I also worked out in the field as part of a team with unit operators, crafts people, manufacturers, and vendors to make sure our project was a success.

How have your experiences shaped your plans for the future?

This Co-op has taught me what it means to be an engineer. The Pennoni Honors College provided me with a great deal of resources, which prepared me for the work I did at Valero. The Honors sections of the courses I've taken over the last two years gave me the chance to learn in small classes with well-respected professors—and to be closer to the education. The Honors College also made it possible for me to gain valuable presentation skills, giving me the necessary resources to present my work from Co-op at research conferences around the world.

What is your best advice for current students?

I think Drexel's greatest strength is its community. If you have a goal, share it with the right people—like the Pennoni Honors College—and you'll find a way to realize it! The Pennoni Honors College trailblazes paths for its students in order to help them achieve their goals. It's a great comfort as a student to know you have people who will support you.

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