

A Changing Year in Fox Honors Program

Entrance requirements, curriculum, Research Scholars all revamped

After years of input, and redesign, several new initiatives are being rolled out this fall that will only enhance the reputation of the Fox Honors Program. We are excited to be able to finally share them with you.

First, the last few years have seen the program grow to a record size. Our annual freshman class was bringing in anywhere from 55-70 students. While these students continued to raise the academic bar each year, it placed strain on resources, staffing, and the ability to get seats in honors classes. Now, admission to the program has never been more challenging. This year we will only admit 30-35 freshmen directly in the fall, and we expect the SAT average for those students to be in the 1390-range. Continuing and transfer students will still be considered for admission with each new semester, but the application process will be competitive.

The Fox Honors curriculum has changed as well. Spearheaded by Dr. Jonathan Scott, a revised curriculum was submitted and approved that does away with the lower and upper division certificates. In the past, stu-

dents needed seven lower division courses and four upper division courses. Now, students will have more flexibility in choosing which classes they want to take in honors. Completing nine classes by the time



they graduate, including one upper level University Honors course, will reduce the stress to get particular classes by a certain point. It will now leave students needing only one certificate.

We have added a leadership component to our program requirements. In addition to excelling in the classroom, we want to see our students actively developing their personal and professional skills. Students will be required to participate

in a certain amount of events each year (from SPO to professional development to community service) to enhance their overall marketability. We are excited to be partnering with the university's Office of Leadership Development for this component.

Finally, the Alter Research Scholars Program has been reduced from four years to two. Now, students can apply prior to the start of their junior year, be actively involved in the process of selecting a mentor, and finish the bulk of their work before the start of their final semester. Seven students have been selected to start this fall. All will receive two-year scholarships.

After looking at dozens of other business honors programs, we felt these changes were needed to remain competitive. We feel these changes are reflective of the current and future needs of business honors students. With support from both the Dean's Office and the honors faculty, we believe these changes will also help establish our program as one of the outstanding business honors programs in the country.

We now have Fox Honors courses in...

- Business Communications**
- Integrative Business Applications**
- Intro to International Business**
- Information Systems**

He helped build it...and they still come

Stops in Ann Arbor and Japan haven't kept Mike Leeds from Honors

As the former Director of the Honors Program, how did you go about building it up?

Building the Fox School Honors Program was always a group effort. At every step of the way, I worked with – relied on – extremely talented, dedicated people. Debbie Campbell, Chuck Allen, and Ruth Ost have contributed at least as much to Fox Honors as I have, and they made it a pleasure to come to work each day. My central philosophy was taken from baseball executive Bill Veeck, who once wrote that the key to marketing is to have a good product. No scholarship program or special bells and whistles will do any good unless you offer interesting classes with dedicated faculty. At Fox, we were lucky enough to have a core of outstanding instructors and administrators who were willing to commit to Honors. Once that was in place, it was just a matter of showing off what we had to offer.

What do you remember most about teaching in the Honors program? (Favorite memories?)

There are so many good memories! It is so wonderful to walk into class knowing that the students are prepared and engaged. There were times – whether it was discussing articles from the *Economist* on the R-5 with Michael DiCristino or watching Brooke Huttner charm a table-full of sports economists at a conference and leave them convinced that she was a Ph.D.

student – that I felt I was dealing with colleagues rather than students.

What do you like best about teaching honors students?

I particularly liked – and continue to like – two contradictory features of Honors classes. First, you have to bring your “A-game” to the



classroom. A lack of preparation or a lack of enthusiasm will show very quickly. At the same time, Honors classes offer a bit of a safety net. I can experiment with how I approach the course, confident that my students have the talent to carry the course through any rough spots I encounter. This has allowed me to push the envelope pedagogically, such as assigning novels in class or basing an entire course on economic experiments.

What is your greatest achievement in Fox?

I like to think that I helped create a foundation on which the Honors Program and the Fox School can grow and improve.

So, outside the Fox School, do you have any news or stories to share?

My wife, Eva, and I have been on a series of adventures. We left Temple in August 2006 for a year at the University of Michigan. Eva was on sabbatical from her position at Moravian College, and I got a year-long post there as a visiting professor. Life in a midwestern “university town” was completely different from life in Philadelphia. Everything centered on the college. As a result, all events, from Gilbert and Sullivan operettas to gymnastics meets, were well attended, and you always met someone you knew. On Saturdays in the fall, it seemed that the entire town

walked down State Street to Michigan Stadium for the football game. My teaching load at UM consisted of large sections of introductory macroeconomics. By large, I mean 350 students! It was rough at times, but I am now putting that experience to work in a 300-person class this semester.

Eva and I had anticipated coming back to Philadelphia after one year away, but our travels were just beginning. I returned from Michigan in May 2007 only to leave five weeks later for Temple University Japan. I spent two years there as an Assistant Dean and Director of TUJ’s EMBA Program. I cannot

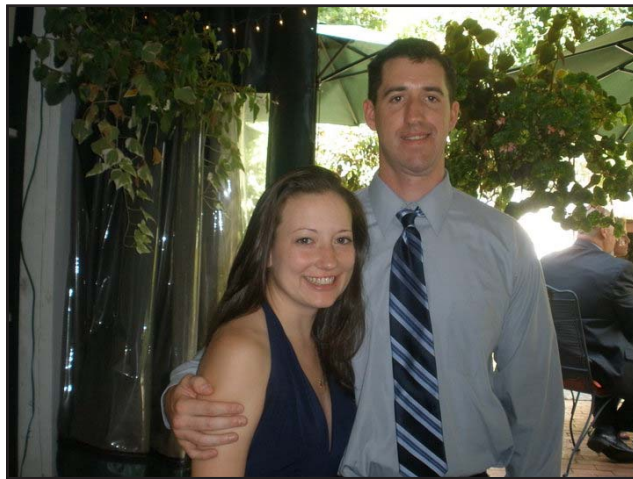
see LEEDS on page 4

Alumni Spotlight: Timothy Williams

Former BHSA President on Honors memories, teaching in Fox

What were some of your early experiences in BHSA?

I joined BHSA in my freshman year at Temple in the Fall of 2001. Getting involved in BHSA early introduced me to many other BHSA members, both upperclassmen and my peers. I was then able to serve as Treasurer for the organization in just my second year.



Lessons that resonate?

The most important lesson I learned at Fox has definitely been to network. It is never too early to start networking.

What are you up to now (life, career, etc)?

Since November 2008, I have been working at a company called Globus Medical, Inc. It is a company that designs, develops,

What is your favorite memory of BHSA and the Honors Program?

I have many great memories from my time in BHSA and the Honors program. There were so many great banquets and social events over my years involved in the organization. I had the opportunity to be on the first team of BHSA presenters in New Orleans at the National Collegiate Honors Conference in November 2003.

Is there anything you accomplished as a member of BHSA that you are most proud of?

I was very proud to be able to serve as President of BHSA in the 2004-2005 school year. All of the officers that year did an outstanding

job representing the organization.

What have you done since graduating?

After graduation I began working at Ernst & Young in Philadelphia where I interned while I was at Temple. I was in the audit practice where I worked on a variety of clients. My main concentration was in the gaming industry and I was on the audit team for clients like Trump Entertainment Resorts and Penn National Gaming. Working in public accounting gave me the work experience needed to fulfill the requirement for being a CPA.

All these years later, is there one thing you learned in the Fox School that you still carry? Any

and distributes spinal medical devices located in Audubon, PA. I work in the accounting department mainly performing monthly financial statement consolidations.

Outside of the normal 9-5, I have had the opportunity to come back to the Fox School and teach a few accounting classes as an adjunct professor. Teaching has been an enjoyable experience for me. Being on the other side of the classroom, is a much different perspective

I bought a house with my girlfriend of over 6 years, Elizabeth Melervey, who is also a BHSA alum, in Feasterville, PA. I can also be found every New Year's Day in Philadelphia in the annual Mummers Parade. I play saxophone in the Fralinger String Band.

Officer Bios. Event Pictures. Alumni Corner.

Visit the bhsa website.

www.foxbhsa.com

*It's coming!
The 1st
Fox Honors
Alumni
Reunion
in Spring 2011!
More details to
follow!*

LEEDS *from page 2*

say enough about our life in Japan. It is both thoroughly modern – the subways and trains put our transit systems to shame – and completely exotic. We tried to see and experience as much as we could. We climbed volcanoes in the southern island of Kyushu, visited Sapporo's famous snow festival on the northern island of Hokkaido, and spent Thanksgiving on a tiny island called Naoshima, which is

completely devoted to art. The food, sights, and people, were all amazing. It was also delightful to see a couple of Fox Honors alumni while there. We went to the Tsukiji Fish Market Haomiao Zhang while she was in Japan on business for GE, and we did all sorts of things with Paul Gaspari, who was finishing up a Masters degree at Sophia University in Tokyo while working part-time at TUJ.

Kudos to Laura Connors!

A paper co-authored by former Alter Research Scholar Laura Connors (May 2009, Marketing/Risk Management), Susan M. Mudambi and David Schuff has been accepted to a major international academic conference. The paper is entitled, "Is it the Review or the Reviewer? A Multi-Method Approach to Determine the Antecedents of Online Review Helpfulness," and it built on research conducted by Laura for her honors undergraduate thesis.

The paper will be presented at the 44th annual Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS). HICSS is one of the longest-standing continuously running scientific conferences, and is ranked second in citation ranking among 18 Information Systems (IS) conferences.

Congrats Laura!

From the desk of the BHSA President...

Hope all of you had a great summer. Now is the time that all of the students are getting back into gear, and all of the members of the Business Honors Student Association are no exception. In fact BHSA is going to participate in our first event even before we have our first class, when we participate in Freshserve, helping to clean up areas surrounding campus. We are also going to continue giving back to the community throughout the semester by assisting Philabundance in September and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in October. We will help at a Philabundance warehouse where they collect, organize, package and distribute food to underprivileged members of the Philadelphia community. We will again take part in the Light the Night Walk which raises money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, an organization that we raised \$1,400 last year and hope to repeat, or even exceed that amount.

We are continuing to focus on creating a sense of community within the Business Honors Program. To start the year, we will travel to South Philly for some real Philly cuisine by visiting Tony Luke's for sandwiches. On September 22nd, we are heading to Citizen's Bank Park to watch the Phillies attempt to win a third consecutive division title. Along with these and all our other social events, we also continue to focus on the professional development of every one of our members. We have several meetings already set up with companies, and even some of you, that will allow our members to not only learn from people who have been in their shoes, but also will give them the opportunity to network as they search for internships and jobs.

Which leads into our third focus which is to build a strong alumni network that will not only help our current members but will ensure that this great organization that we have all been a part of will continue well into the future. Your continued volunteering and support to come back and provide your different personal insights is invaluable to developing all of us professionally. I hope that as time continues even more of you will become involved with this aspect of our organization. Your support in this manner will lead to BHSA members becoming synonymous with above average candidates for positions coming straight out of college.

Now is a time when we need your support more than ever. Our organization is going through both an exciting and challenging time. With the higher standards for freshmen to enter the Business Honors Program, we look forward to a gifted class, but this means we will have fewer newcomers. Considering fewer new members, we project a decrease in membership. Due to this decrease we will need to ramp up fundraising in order to continue to provide the opportunities and the benefits that I have stated above. I can assure you that all of the officers will be putting a strong effort in maintaining adequate funds to hold our events and avoid straining our members, already thin, budgets. You too can also help us with our effort to maintain this great organization that helped you through your college career and into your professional one. I ask that if you have the means to, please make a personal donation, at your discretion, which will maintain our ability to serve those in and around the Fox Honors community here at Temple. If this is not possible, perhaps a corporate sponsorship from your employer would be. As you know, our organization can provide direct exposure to some of the best candidates for your respective companies, as well as another outlet for advertising.

If you decide to support our fundraising efforts, and/or want to take part in a professional development event for our members, please contact me at nallegrini@temple.edu. I appreciate all of the support that you have given over the years, and look forward to building a stronger partnership with all of you.

Nicholas Allegrini



Fox Honors Leadership Retreat



On August 27-28, we took all incoming Fox Honors freshmen & BHSO Officers on an overnight retreat...

to Camp Ockanickon in Medford, New Jersey...



for low and high ropes courses, and other leadership activities...

and are happy to report that all enjoyed the two-day outdoor experience. We will do it again next year!



Alumni Happenings

Stephanie L. Soondar is living in Manhattan and now working as a loan modification attorney with NSS Financial Services.



Devon Maiorano (left, May 2010) was recently hired as an Accounting Associate at Bayada Nurses.

Elizabeth Melervey (May 2007) just began a new job as an Associate at Your Part-Time Controller, LLC, a company that provides accounting and controller services to non-profit organizations on a part-time basis.

She also bought a house last year with fellow alum, Tim Williams.

Chrissy Jagielski (right, May 2007) has earned her CPA License and is employed at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia as an Accounting Analyst A. She is beginning classes for her Masters in Business Administration, Concentration in Accounting, at LaSalle University in September.



Marianne Ball (May 2009) has earned her CPA license and is working at Amper, Politziner, and Mattia.

Nick Adelizzi (Amper, January 2009), Alison Digesere (PwC, January 2009), Christy Dunlap (Amper, May 2009), and Mike Slutsky (PwC, May 2009) have also passed all four CPA exams and are now licensed.