

The Honorable Mention

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Fall 2008

Capital University Honors Program

Experience a frightfully good time at Terror Park

By Ryan Stillion

What's your biggest fear? Do you hate rats and spiders? Maybe you can't stand zombies, clowns, or monsters? If you like haunted houses, spend the night before Halloween with the Honors Program at Columbus' own Terror Park.

Built in 1932, Cooper Stadium transforms into Terror Park during the nights for its 10th and final year of haunting good times. Visitors must find their way around the perimeter of the stadium, built between two cemeteries, and through the stadium's subterranean passages.

Meet at the Honors House at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 30th. Students will carpool from there. Admission is \$11.

Groups of students wishing to attend must RSVP to Ryan Stillion at rstillio@capital.edu by Monday, October 28th to attend. Please inform Ryan if you are available to drive.



Andy Warhol Art Exhibit

By Bethany Rowles

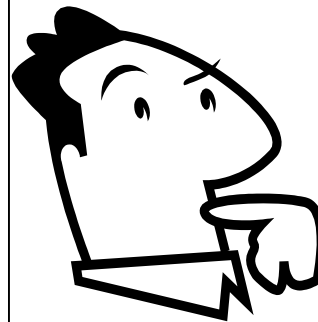
The Andy Warhol Other Voices, Other Rooms art exhibit has come to town! Join the Honors Program for a night of fun, viewing famous works of art. You'll probably never get the chance to see this again, and you can do it all for free! Meet at the Honors House at 5:45pm, where there will be rides available; we will be there from about 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The exhibit is located at the Wexner Center on the OSU campus. Everyone is welcome, so bring your friends, and spread the word!

Pumpkin Painting

By Anna Kyaio



The wind is getting colder and the leaves are turning colors. It's almost time for candy, pumpkins, screams and costumes! Want to get into the Halloween mood? Join the Honors' Program on Oct 20th at the Honors House for a pumpkin painting contest! Snacks, prizes and fun!



Food for Thought with Dr. Joy A. Schroeder

Join the Honors Council and Dr. Schroeder on Tuesday, October 14 at 7:00PM at the Honors House as they discuss the topic "*Mary Magdelene in Scripture, Myth, and History*". Legend says she was a prostitute. A recent popular novel says she was Jesus' wife. There was even a "Gospel of Mary" written around 100 A.D. Learn more about what historical sources say about this companion of Jesus of Nazareth. Great discussion and refreshments will be provided.

Capital University Honors Program

We are located at:
2373 East Mound Street,
On the corner of Francis and Mound, across from the
Capital Center.

Phone: 614-338-8104

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What Are You Reading?

By Michael Herold

***The Last Lecture*, Randy Pausch & J. Zaslow (Hyperion), 2008.**

The average person does not often recognize computer science professors, either upon seeing them or hearing their name. This used to be true for Carnegie Mellon professor Randy Pausch. That is, it was true until his inspirational speech and book, aptly titled *The Last Lecture*, became an international phenomenon. The lecture, entitled “Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams”, was a featured video on YouTube from December 2007 till just recently. It’s not often that one sees a lecture as a top YouTube video ... especially when that ranking lasts for nine months.

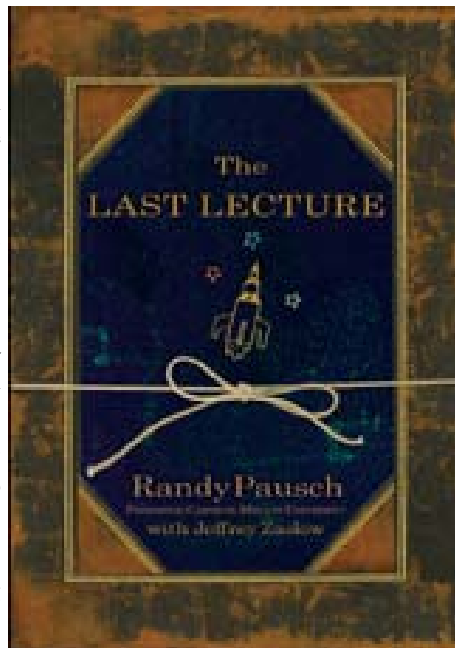
The book is based on what he taught in his last lecture. It recounts how he achieved his childhood dreams and what that meant to him. Randy writes and speaks as if he is trying to impart his philosophy to his audience. This is to be expected from a “last lecture” of any professor; after all, these lectures tend to be at the end of a career for the speaking professor, which is usually after many long, fulfilling years. At the time, however, Randy was only 46 years old; it was his last lecture. An important fact, one that was not visible to the audience at the time he gave the lecture, is that Randy had terminal pancreatic cancer and was only given three months to live. You see, the lecture wasn’t actually for the students and fellow faculty members. It was for his three children, who were destined to grow up without their father.

The wonderful thing about the book – and Randy in general – is that he wrote it while dealing with pancreatic cancer, yet it is still uplifting. Pancreatic cancer has the highest mortality rate of all cancers and people suffering from it commonly lose hope and become depressed. Randy, however, refused to succumb to the despair of

losing his health and life and focused on creating the best environment for his wife and children. In his words, he was more of a “Tigger” than an “Eeyore”. It is truly astounding to read his book; one forgets that a dying man wrote it. He has such a positive outlook on life that the reader cannot help but be infected by it.

Sadly, Randy passed away on July 25, 2008. However, he lives on in several ways. Firstly, he lives on through his book and lecture. Carnegie Mellon has posted his last lecture on YouTube, as well as providing DVDs and downloads on its website. Randy’s other legacy is Alice (www.alice.org), an educational environment that helps children learn to program. Coupled with this is his program at Carnegie Mellon, the Entertainment Technology Center, which is a top department for entertainment technology.

To watch Randy’s last lecture, “Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams”, visit <http://www.cmu.edu/randyslecture/index.shtml>.



Want a place to hang out? A quiet place to study? Or a great place to bake? Come visit the Honors House!

Do you have a movie or book review? Please submit them to the Honors Council by emailing Kate Sheehan at ksheehan@capital.edu.

Choosing a Major: Tips from Dr. Baker

At this time of year many students choose a major. If you have not decided on your major yet, how do you select one? There are many questions to consider and no simple answers.

Most students begin by asking: What do I enjoy? This makes sense. You do not want to get stuck doing something that you do not like. But consider carefully whether your enjoyment will continue. Often students are impressed by a professor's knowledge or personality and choose to take more courses with that professor. This is inevitable. However, try to remember that your major will be there when the professor isn't. It's *your* major. Talk with more than one professor. Talk with your family and friends. Go online and research what happens to people with majors in areas that interest you. Look at all the opportunities, including further study.

We all enjoy doing well, but it is probably not a good idea to choose a major on that basis alone. If it's easy for you, is it easy for others? Will your choices be respected by people who look at your qualifications? Does choosing the easy option stimulate your development and add to your knowledge? Although it might take more work, taking challenging courses

and risking a slightly lower GPA may well be more sensible than looking for the easiest way through.

Consider how you might distinguish yourself. For example, can you pursue study abroad? Is a double major possible? Again, don't jump at the easy option. If you can combine two very different areas, such as mathematics and art, you will demonstrate much greater flexibility than someone who has two majors with very similar content and methodology. Students often "pick up" a second major in a similar area by double counting courses. What is the point? Does adding a second major in virtually the same area really show additional knowledge?

If you have already decided on a career that requires a particular undergraduate degree, your choice of major is given, but that does not mean that all the choices have been made. You can still differentiate yourself. You may be able add courses in another area (such as a foreign language), even if you can't double major. Perhaps you can add a minor. Do what you can do, not just what you have to do. And if a possible major requires so many hours that it stops you pursuing other options, think carefully about whether the major is really

what you want or need.

If you have not decided what you would like to do, keep your options open. While considering different majors, try to make sure that you have the foundation

courses needed so that you don't inadvertently remove an option. Find out if a graduate degree is required to succeed with the major you have chosen; look at grad school requirements online.

Finally, don't panic. You may have to do some more work, but educational opportunities do not end with the declaration of a major. You can change your mind. When you graduate, no matter what your major, if you are a good student you will find plenty of graduate programs from which to choose. You will also have plenty of employment choices because most positions involve some training, and most people will change their careers. Your major is important, but it is only part of what determines your future.



The Four-year Plan

The Honors Program has folders to help students plan their academic careers. I distributed these in first-year classes at the beginning of the semester. Some students have dropped in for help. Others have completed the plans with the help of advisers or other students. It's worth doing. The process has helped some students avoid problems that would have prevented study abroad or a second major. If you haven't done a plan yet, please stop by the house and pick up a folder. It's your future!

Honors House Office Hours:
 Monday & Wednesday
 9:00 AM-1:00 PM, 2:00-4:00PM
 Tuesday & Thursday
 9:00 -11:00 AM, 2:00-4:00PM
 Dr. Baker's Office Hours:
 Monday 9:00-10:00 AM
 Tuesday & Thursday 10:00-11:00 AM

Honorable Mentions

Capital's Honors students have always been involved in research, presenting at Capital's Undergraduate Symposium as well as working on their research projects in their majors and for Honors 310 and 410. Two Honors students, sophomore Heidi Bretz and junior Samantha Tracht, were chosen to present their work at the 43rd Annual National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in San Antonio, Texas. The abstracts to their poster presentations are below. Junior Kate Sheehan is having her first article published with co-authors Robert Lawson, Associate Professor of Finance at Auburn University, and E. Frank Stephenson, Associate Professor of Economics at Berry College, in the *International Journal of Sports Finance*. Congratulations to Heidi, Samantha, and Kate!

Colombia: Entrepreneurship & Economic Growth

Samantha Tracht

This case study addresses the issues of economic freedom, economic growth, and the policy environments conducive to entrepreneurship in Colombia. Colombia is located in northern South America and has approximately 44.3 million people. Currently Colombia is ranked 112 out of 141 countries in the Economic Freedom of the World index done by the Fraser Institute. This is just one of the many sources for the statistics presented in the paper, other sources include: the World Bank website and the CIA's World Factbook. This paper looks at the economic history of Colombia past and present along with the policies and institutions present during those times in which Colombia experienced economic growth and economic decline. It addresses the causes of their economic struggles as well as the possible economic future of Columbia if continues on its current trend. Some of the other items covered are: Colombia's large underground economy in the narcotics industry, the corruption in their government and their problems with guerilla forces.

October Calendar:

Thursday, 9 5:45 pm: Andy Warhol Exhibit

Tuesday, 14 7:00 pm: Food For Thought

Monday, 20: Pumpkin Painting

Thursday, 30 7:30 pm: Terror Park

Vend It Like Beckham: David Beckham's Effect on MLS Ticket Sales

Kate Sheehan

In January 2007, Major League Soccer (MLS) announced that international soccer sensation David Beckham would be joining the league playing for the LA Galaxy. This paper examines Beckham's effect on MLS ticket sales for the 2007 season. Depending on specification, our results indicate that Beckham increased ticket sales as a share of stadium capacity by about 55 percentage points. We then use these results to evaluate MLS's Designated Player Rule and to perform a back-of-the-envelope calculation of Beckham's benefit to the LA Galaxy.

Surviving Columbus: the Challenges of Immigrant Business Owners Adapting to American Business Culture

Heidi Bretz

This study looks at the challenges immigrants face as they integrate into American business culture. The research is mainly focused in Columbus, OH, but the findings are representative of the obstacles immigrants face throughout the United States. The data will primarily be gathered through surveys of immigrant business owners, immigrant employment services, and government census information. The questionnaires that were used focused on several aspects of business culture that can be difficult for immigrants to adapt to, such as: business etiquette, dress code, developing business plans, and business communication. Many business owners found that communication was the greatest challenge as they sought to develop their own companies. Adapting to the wants and needs of their American clients was also an obstacle that was necessary to overcome. The key to success in an American business environment is a willingness to continually modify the products and services offered to meet the ever-changing needs of American consumerism and learning to communicate with Americans in their own cultural language.

If you notice a mistake in this newsletter, please let an Honors Program representative know by calling: **614-338-8104**