

HONORS COLLEGE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



Vol. 2 Issue 1

2018 GRADUATES

The Honors College had its largest graduating class ever, 48 students, of which 11 graduated in December 2017 and 37 in May 2018. Our recent graduates are going far afield: **Banusa Sivanesathasan '17** is in Dubai! **Ahmed Idrees '16** is attending the Harvard School of Business and **Michael Quinones '14** is at the Thomas Jefferson School of Medicine, ranked as the eleventh best medical school in the United States. **Ronald Spinelli** is attending Lincoln Memorial School of Medicine DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine in Tennessee and **Jeanette Adelson '18** will be studying law at Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, MA. **Sharon**



Thomas '17 was accepted to New York Medical College of Medicine, and **Alyssa Strassburg '18** is at Temple University's Post Baccalaureate Program in Pre-Medical Studies.

Students Present Research at Annual NRHC Conference

Honors College students presented their research at the Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC) Research Conference in Providence, Rhode Island from April 12 to April 15. The topics of their research ranged from micro-molecular biology to shedding new light on Islamic cultures. Six of the nine students were awarded scholarships which assisted in sponsoring their conference fees. The students presented on the following topics:



Kinza Mirza and Asma Iqbal:

"The Rebirth of Islam in the West and the East"

Melody Young and Jalen Bonitto:

"A Renaissance in Treatment and Protocols for Alzheimer's Disease"

Zarrin Mahmud and Maheen Khan:

"A Lively Experiment: Seeing Humanity Anew Through the Renaissance Occurring in Genetic Engineering and Phenotypic Research"

Iffera Zahid and Anum Mahmood:

"SUNY Old Westbury" "The Y Chromosome's Role in South Asian MisogYnY"

Honors College Initiatives

Sessions of Hope is a support group which aspires to "Help Other People Every Day." **Jakyra McLeod** created the group to spread hope to college students who may be dealing with difficult life issues and dilemmas.

The **Undocumented Student Alliance** is a new club that sheds light on the stories of *immigrant youth in America*. Founded by five SUNY Old Westbury Honors College students, **Manuela Hurtado, Josselin Paz, Priscial Ortega, Joselyn Buestan, and Gissel Marquez**, the club advocates for change, respect, and most of all, human rights for all undocumented people in the United States.

The **Hillel Club** at SUNY Old Westbury, founded this past semester by Honors College student **Rivka Mullokandova** focuses on educating students about the Jewish faith and preserving this religion's rich heritage and traditions. The establishment of the Hillel club contributes to the diversity for which SUNY Old Westbury is famous.

The Honors College is very proud to have its students creating organizations that represent the great diversity of SUNY Old Westbury and that serve all of the College's students whether or not they are members of the Honors College.

2018 Student Chancellor's Award



SUNY Old Westbury student **Brianna Levy** was awarded the 2018 State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. She was among the 249 students from 64 campuses throughout the State of New York that received the distinction – the highest honor bestowed upon students in the system.

Brianna is the fifth Honors College student in four consecutive years to receive this honor. Previous recipients were, **Sara Bey '17**, **Nadia Hameed '17**, **Jawad Chaudhry '16**, and **Yuvraj Singh '15**.

Special note: In addition to Brianna Levy, Old Westbury student **Joshua Stickell** was also awarded the honor.

Research at the National Archives

In an Honors section of *Biological Sciences I*, 24 Honors College students performed original research regarding previously undiscovered soil viruses under the direction of **Dr. Fernando Nieto**. Twenty-one of the findings (action-bacteriophages) are now archived in the National Action-bacteriophage Database. **Karthik Madhira** and **Adwoa Lewis** also presented at the SEA-PHAGES Symposium at the HHMI, Virginia Campus. The students represented their colleagues' work in two poster presentations.

Reconnecting with Honors College

You made the Honors College what it is today, a shining example of academic success and community engagement at SUNY Old Westbury. Current HC students need your guidance and advice. Please let us know if you are willing to give your time and attention to speak with current students. Give back. Feel proud. Help build an even better Honors College for the future!

Please do not forget to send your news for the bi-annual Honors College newsletter. Graduating? Relocating? Getting married? Promotion? New career? Please let us know. Don't be shy. Revisit your Honors College friendship.

Look at the Honors College webpage on the SUNY Old Westbury website for the latest HC news and see what is going on with your former classmates.

Instagram: [ow_honors](#)
YouTube



Honors College 10th Anniversary

This fall semester, the Honors College will celebrate its 10th Anniversary since its founding in 2008. Come celebrate with us in October by attending the HC Alumni Brunch during Panther Pride Week, the HC Alumni Roundtable and the Alumni Reunion and Networking Reception. Dates and times to be announced.

Let current HC students interview you for a two-minute "snapshot interview" for the Honors College Decade Historical Project. We will collect the interviews and archive your memories on the HC webpage. Please contact me, Dr. Anthony DeLuca, at delucaa@oldwestbury.edu if you wish to participate.

Alumni Spotlight

Michael Bayne, '14 Accounting, is currently an audit senior for Citrin Cooperman headquartered in NYC. During his time as an Honors College student, Michael was very involved with Old Westbury as a resident assistant, and captain of the soccer team. He participated on the swim and cross country teams, and was a member of the Accounting Society and a student ambassador for Old Westbury.



To this day, Michael remains committed to the College by volunteering his time as a student mentor, serving as a board member for the Executive Leadership Forum, Young Alumni Club and as a financial donor.

When asked why he remains committed, this is what Mike had to say, *Old Westbury helped me build my educational foundation and evolved me from a high school student to a well-round professional by providing me the opportunity to become involved in various aspects of college life. Learning in a diverse environment, studying abroad in Spain, connecting with faculty on a developmental level and, of course, allowing me to compete at the collegiate level in multiple sports, helped mold my personality, skills and work ethics, and provided me opportunities to showcase what I've learned.*

The school is a hidden gem for those who take advantage of what is in front of them. There is much potential in the students/professionals produced at Old Westbury.