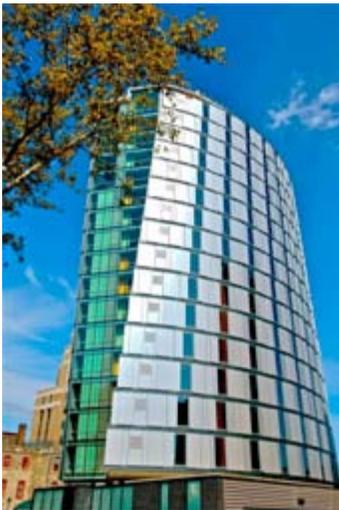


# The Honor Roll

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

Winter 2010: Issue 2

## The Honors College Living Learning Community Has a New Home



The Living Learning Community is an integral part of the Pennoni Honors College experience. We aim to create a solid Honors community by building continuity between curricular and co-curricular experiences. Working closely with the learning community's Assistant Director/Resident

Director and Resident Advisor staff, the Honors Program facilitates social and academic gatherings that provide important links to programs and services offered by the Pennoni Honors College.

The Honors College Living Learning Community will be moving to Drexel University's newest Residence Hall, Millennium Hall, in Fall 2010. As a part of this change, a new honors advisor, to be hired this spring, will be sited within the residence hall providing even closer access to honors programming for honors students. Millennium Hall is a modern, state-of-the-art building designed by Erdy McHenry Architecture. The Hall is the tallest building on Drexel's campus with 17 floors and has sweeping views of the Philadelphia skyline. This hybrid hall combines both traditional residence-hall and suite-style community living. While residents will live two per room, everyone will enjoy the privacy of individual-use showers and toilets. Each

## Around the world with the Honors College: Reflections on a trip to Bulgaria, by Audrey Diestelkamp



*Diestelkamp The Pennoni Honors College sponsored a twelve-day student trip to Bulgaria in September 2009 as part of the Honors course "Emerging Democracies." This is one student's perspective on the experience...*

In my two week crash-course in all things Bulgarian, I learned more than I thought possible in that short time, and also gained important insight into the current state of affairs in the country. By venturing into this country, speaking to its people, and seeing daily life there first hand, I not only have great memories, but an informed understanding of life in Bulgaria, and a more rounded opinion of the current global political climate as a whole.

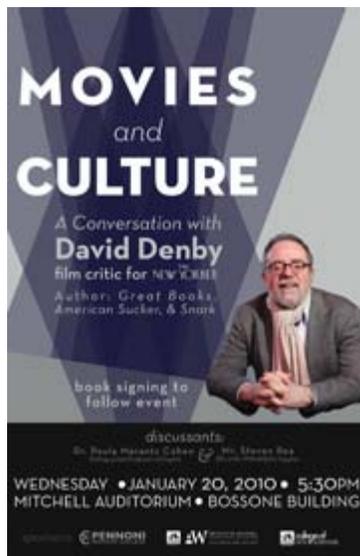
The opportunity to interact with professors and experts at the University of Sofia served as a great springboard for our travels throughout Bulgaria. The background they gave us into national history as well as the current state of affairs in sectors as diverse as journalistic freedom and international crime, provided further insight into the climate of the nation. During our stay in Sofia, Bulgaria's capitol, we had the opportunity to discuss what we had learned, and to share our perceptions and questions with

floor of the hall is equipped with a flat panel television and small kitchenette for student use. There are seven study rooms throughout the building. The two on the Honors-restricted floors are "Smart Study Lounges" equipped with Media:Scape technology. As with most Drexel residence halls there is a multipurpose room featuring a television and gaming, as well as laundry facilities, on the first floor. Millennium Hall has many environmentally sustainable features, including a 3,000 square foot green roof to reduce storm water run-off and heat-island effect, as well as a rain screen panel system envelop to provide solar shading.

We are excited about the Honors Living Learning Community's new home and look forward to welcoming our newest class to Millennium Hall.



## Pennington Honors College Hosts New Yorker Film Critic



For two busy days in January, David Denby, the film critic for *The New Yorker* and the author of several books on cultural issues, visited Drexel as the guest of the Pennington Honors College, cosponsored by the College of Arts & Sciences and the Westphal College of Media Arts & Design. In the course of his visit,

Mr. Denby visited six classes in journalism, film, and literature, and he sat for a two-part interview with Dr. Paula Marantz Cohen for The Drexel Interview, Drexel's widely syndicated television interview program. On the evening of January 20, in an event facilitated by Dr. Cohen and Philadelphia *Inquirer* film critic Steven Rea, Denby discussed film and culture to a large and responsive audience. Afterwards, eleven Honors students joined the Dean and several faculty in a dinner for Mr. Denby. Each Honors student received a signed copy of Mr. Denby's widely acclaimed *Great Books*. When he boarded the train back to New York, Mr. Denby said we worked him hard but that he had a great time and a very favorable impression of Drexel.

academics, college students in Sofia, as well as with a group of graduate students from the United States. These diverse interactions personalized the experience and gave me an idea of what it must be like to be Bulgarian, to go through this interesting point of your nation's evolution first-hand.

Through our travels to Gabrovo, Plovdiv, and finally back again to Sofia, we were able to see a great deal of the nation's historic monuments, and much beautiful scenery. From a medieval monastery deep in the tree-covered mountains to the fortress and grounds of the capitol of Bulgaria's Second Kingdom, there was no shortage of exploration (and climbing) during our two week stay. The more I came to appreciate the beauty of the country, the more interested I became in its current transition into an established, stable democracy and member of the European Union.

Bulgarians, it seems, have always had a hard road to travel, spanning centuries of occupation and hardship. However, I am optimistic about Bulgaria's democratic future. Bulgarians are proud to be Bulgarians, they believe in themselves as a people, acknowledge their accomplishments of the past as testaments to their abilities in the future, and seem interested in actively promoting to others their national achievements, both past and present. This attitude is what unites Bulgarians, and is also a necessary ingredient to positive change. Bulgaria is a nation of survivors, and presently they need only survive the corruption of their own government in hopes of adopting a true democratic system. After visiting this country, I have no doubt of their future success; the only real question is how long it will take this nation to achieve it.



*Honors Students in Bulgaria:* From l-r: front row: Deyan Morov '09, Stacy Litiz, Delcho Ivanov '09, 2nd row: Jesse Gormley, Stephen Cantando (with camera), Rashida Burnham '09 Standing: Maggie Deptola, Steffanie Altman, Audrey Diestelkamp '10



## Q & A with Stephen Cantando, Junior in Civil and Architectural Engineering Major

## Prestigious Learn and Serve Grant awarded to the Center for Civic Engagement



In August 2009, Drexel University's Center for Civic

Engagement (CCE), a vital department of the Pennoni Honors College, was awarded a \$1.3 million three-year Learn and Serve Higher Education Consortium grant through the Corporation for National and Community Service. The CCE is partnering with the Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development (PHENND) in an initiative involving economic recovery in the Philadelphia region.

PHENND, a consortium of higher education institutions across the region is developing and expanding regional campus-community partnerships focused on a spectrum of economic recovery activities: food stamp enrollment, income tax assistance for low-income families, financial savings clubs, and micro-entrepreneurship training. Through the use of sub-grants, the initiative also builds capacity of partnering nonprofits and their affiliates through a series of targeted programs: capacity-building workshops, student internships and student leadership development.

The initiative links higher educational institutions and non-profit organizations in southeastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, involving 1,200 college and university students, 6,000 low-income individuals and 500 non-profit organizations. The three-year project is expected to have an overall economic impact of \$2.6 million for the Philadelphia region.

## Fun facts: Did you know...

The Fall 2009 freshman Honors Class boasts students from nations as diverse and far away as China, Sri Lanka, Israel, Ghana, Egypt, and Guatemala. States such as Nevada, Hawaii, Tennessee, Texas and Washington are represented in our freshman class. Twenty-seven students earned a perfect 800 on their SAT math section and ten students earned a perfect 800 on their SAT verbal section.

Congratulations and welcome to this newest class of Drexel Honors students!

## Tell us about yourself and your co-op position...



Born in Philadelphia and raised in Pennsauken,

New Jersey, I am currently a junior at Drexel double majoring in Civil and Architectural Engineering. I am working a co-op position at Turner Construction Company, a construction management company that oversees projects at Drexel University and around the world. The project I am involved with is "10 Rittenhouse," a luxury condo located in Center City Philadelphia with views of Rittenhouse Square. The condo project is in its final phase and I am working with other Turner employees and contractors to make sure everything is completed correctly.

## What inspired you to consider this opportunity?

I have always been drawn to building things. From the time I was very little I loved building with LEGOS and K'NEX and watching shows about the construction of buildings and bridges. I knew I would like to be a part of this field some day. Whether it is a future in construction management, architectural design or development of construction methods, I know I want to be a part of building the future.

## What is the biggest difference between being a full time student versus working at a co-op job full time?

The biggest difference between these two is the amount of free time you have. Between classes, homework, labs and projects, being a full time student keeps you busy all day. While on co-op you work 8 hours a day and then you are free for the rest of the night. Drexel allows you to take up to 4 credits of classes over coop for no additional charge. So far I have taken a class over coop during all but one term. It's a great way to take a class you may not be able to fit in your regular academic year schedule.

## What do you enjoy most as a Pennoni Honors College student?

My favorite parts of the Pennoni Honors College are the additional course opportunities and the faculty, staff and fellow honors students that I have met through these courses. These courses have offered some great experiences that were a nice change in pace to the courses required for my major. The staff of the Pennoni Honors College have a positive, student-oriented outlook and are always willing to help students with any issue or question. They offer another outlet for both information and guidance throughout your college career. Additionally, I have made many lasting friendships with honors students I met freshman year while living in the honors dorm.

## What advice do you have for your fellow



## Next Steps...

The Pennoni Honors College is dedicated to the development of Drexel's best and brightest students. Your contribution of \$20 or more will help us defray the increasing costs of quality programming and fund the participation of students to cultural events and travel-integrated courses. We encourage you to visit our website, [www.drexel.edu/honors](http://www.drexel.edu/honors) to get more information about our programs. And always feel free to call the Pennoni Honors College at 215-895-1267 with questions.

**To support the important work of the Pennoni Honors College, please send donations to** — Pennoni Honors College, c/o John Keleher, Ed.D., Assistant Vice President 215-89-1387, Office of Institutional Advancement, 3141 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the Pennoni Honors College!

## honors students?

The best advice I can give is to ask questions. Ask them to anyone you think may have answers. You will be surprised at how much knowledge people are willing to offer to help you succeed. In asking questions, you will be able to make contacts which can lead to potential job opportunities. Lastly, try not to get discouraged if something you want doesn't go your way the first time around. Though I originally applied for a position with Turner last year and was turned down because other applicants had more experience, I re-applied to the company with an additional year of work experience and was hired!

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