

Collegium Vitae

NOVEMBER 2012

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From the Director's Desk

Honors classes are meant to broaden your educational experiences at UT Dallas. I thought some information on new spring classes and instructors might be useful to everyone.

A number of classes in the spring schedule have been offered frequently over the years including Exploring the Humanities, American Studies, American Government, Psychology, Public Health and Society, the Innocence Project, and Physics. But there are some new classes and some new instructors that have been added to the mix this spring.



Dr. Maxwell will be teaching *Health and Social Policy*. She is an Associate Professor in Public Affairs and just completed a stint as Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education in EPPS. She is a dynamic individual and very student oriented. The course should be of interest to pre-med students as well as EPPS majors interested in the broader issues of health and social policy in the 21st century.

Dr. Kratz and Dr. Evans are teaching *Science Fiction and Fantasy*. Before he became the Dean of Arts and Humanities, Dr. Kratz was one of the most popular (and dynamic) professors at UT Dallas. Dr. Evans is an assistant professor in Arts and Technology whose work pulls together literature and technology. LIT 3311 may be repeated for credit (6 hours maximum).

I will be offering *Modern Individualism* as a philosophical inquiry into the idea of the modern individual. Beginning with Descartes "I think therefore I am" and ending with work in 21st century psychology and neuroscience the course explores how we have come to think about the modern individual from a modern scientific viewpoint. A good class for liberal arts majors and scientists/ pre-med students who want to think about the assumptions we make about who we are and how we fit in to the natural world.

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**“The Honors
Tutorial (UNIV
2V99) offering
have been
expanded this
semester”**

Director’s Desk (continued)

Dr. Dow will be offering his course on *Human Rights*. This is an excellent course for students interested in broader questions about rights and their place in legal theory and practice. The course should be of interests to liberal arts and social science majors and to engineers and computer scientists who were intrigued by the questions raised in Dow’s professional ethics class.

The Honors Tutorial (UNIV 2V99) offerings have been expanded this semester. Dr. Dow and I will be teaching following up courses to the tutorials offered this semester in medicine and film. Note that my course begins the sequence again with “I” while Dr. Dow’s is labeled “II”.

Dr. Worrall (Professor of Criminology and the Chair of the Criminology Program) will be teaching a 1-credit honors tutorial on *Biology, Culture and Crime*. The roles that biology and culture play in criminology are hot topics across the country and should be of interest to anyone with a scientific or a liberal arts bent.

Dr. Elliott (Professor of Political Science and former associate Dean of EPPS) will be offering an Honors Tutorial exploring Libertarian Thought. Anyone who has been wondering what all the fuss is about regarding Ann Rand, Ron Paul, and the CATO Institute would enjoy this course.

Mr. Seeligson will be offering a 1-credit Honors Tutorial on *Logic in the Law*. Mr. Seeligson’s background in math and law make him an ideal person to investigate a subject that hasn’t been offered at UTD before and is a required course at many other universities for pre-law majors.



Scholarship Opportunities

The deadline for submitting applications for the Critical Language Scholarship has been extended to Tuesday, November 20, 2012.

Three important upcoming scholarships to think about:

1. **Goldwater Scholarships** are for sophomores or juniors majoring in one of the STEMS fields with a goal of obtaining a Ph.D. and pursuing a career in scientific research.

2. **Truman Scholarships** are applicable for juniors in any discipline who are committed to a career in public service and leadership.

3. **Boren Scholarships** offer current freshmen, sophomores, and juniors the opportunity for up to a year of study abroad opportunities.

Collegium V students have been recipients of all three of these scholarships. If you are interested in more information, please contact Dr. Dow at dougdown@utdallas.edu.

In early February, applications will be due for the Bill Archer Fellows internship program. We consider the Archer to be one of the most prestigious internship programs in the nation. If you are interested in spending a full semester in Washington D.C., please take a look at the following website: <http://www.archercenter.org/>. Dr. Harpham and Dr. Dow are both happy to follow up with answers to any questions you may have.

*"If you are
interested...
please contact
Dr. Dow at
dougdown@utd
allas.edu"*

Field Day Play

Mikaela McMurtry

If you spend any time in the Lounge—other than those mad dashes to get something printed—you’ll likely have noticed that Collegium V hosted a field day on Saturday, October 20.

We had a CV Field Day, which was set at a reasonable time for a college student on the weekend (not until 1pm). Your esteemed CV Council came up with activities they believed would get us up and moving but also be accessible, because, believe me, I am like most of you— not a jock (no disrespect to our more athletically-inclined members!).

Your Council settled on kickball—a simple game, requiring only a modicum of bodily coordination and employing the use of a ball that is squishy and not likely to crack a cranium.

*“Um... where
was
everyone?”*

We also *planned* to play Obtain the Pennant (an activity to whose resemblance to the now-banned Capture the Flag I am not going to elaborate on). Then, to wrap up our activities, we would have split into groups and set off on an ingeniously-riddled scavenger hunt. The activities were all winners! We told people, we wrote it on the board, we sent out notices via email—so people, would come, right?

Right?

Um... where was everyone? I can understand losing people. We were out in the old multipurpose field, a pretty green area that I had to follow another Council member to find. I heard a couple stories of CVers stalwartly heading out to the Field Day but apparently not quite making it there. When we recognized our attendance at its maximum point, we had five people: Four Council members and one fabulous freshman. The issue here is not the location, but rather that there wasn’t enough momentum to get the people all the way out there. We tried to hype it up, but whatever people’s expectations or other obligations, they did not attend.

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Field Day Play

Mikaela McMurtry

Do you see the problem with this scenario? It's like, you don't go because you can't get "into the spirit" of the thing, but there is no spirit to get into until you give it! It's a vicious, self-perpetuating cycle. The point is, it is in our power to *change* things, to engage in activity, or to perpetuate the humdrum. Let's take this to heart and be as dynamic as we want to be.

Still, Field Day was fun. We pulled out the classic four square and played with laughter and abandon in the sun and breeze of that Saturday. Then we grabbed some scavenger clues, got some whooshing pictures, and found our way back home, settling into the lounge with hot pizza, soft donuts, and good company. It wasn't the turn out we "wanted," but the way it turned out wasn't unwanted at all.

"...the point is
that it is in our
power to
change things"

-edited by: Carter Plotkin

An Unexpected Connection

Katelyn McWilliams

Though I have lived in Richardson for a relatively short time, I have realized it is a fabulous place to both study and play. Apart from our accredited and ever-growing university, UTD students can access a variety of unique activities in town and the surrounding areas. I find the cultural and artistic venues to be a true blessing to students. The Thomsen Fund Tickets, now supplemented by the new CV and National Merit Tickets, allow aspiring students to access a wealth of art and culture available in our own backyard.

I must admit, I first used Thomsen Fund tickets for my own personal amusement. Lured by the word “free,” I eagerly traipsed up to the McDermott Scholars Office to explore the available possibilities. To my surprise, the office had two tickets available for Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* at the AT&T Performing Arts Center. I’d seen several shows there before through my high school theatre department and eagerly anticipated the talent I knew would be onstage. And so, one Saturday when surprisingly nothing was due, I drove the 30 minutes to Dallas to experience the Bard.

I was not disappointed: the costumes, the set, the artistic interpretation—all exceeded my expectations. I could not wait for the next opportunity to experience the next play! Yet fate stymied my plans. My haphazard calendar skills took me to the ticket office several days late, and others had claimed the theatre tickets by the time I arrived. However, my disorganization proved to my benefit because it allowed me to experience my first symphony. *The Music of Scheherazade* sounded too good to pass up, and I was thrilled by the musical genius I was able to experience. Opera soon followed, and after a shaky introduction with *Tristan and Isolde* (Watch your first Wagner with a good night’s sleep and an open mind; he is LONG!), *The Magic Flute* and *La Traviata* inspired an unexpected love of opera and a profound respect for the singers the Winspear attracts.

Yet I realized the true value of the Thomsen Fund tickets when I was blessed to see both *Aida* and *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* last weekend. On the surface, these two performances could not be more different. Verdi wrote of a beautiful Ethiopian princess torn between her love of country and her love for the conquering general Ramades, while Diaz told a story about wrestlers and their televised performances. Both performances were highly enjoyable, and although I did not see the similarities at first, gradually, the overarching themes became clear.

“Watch your first Wagner with a good night’s sleep and an open mind...”

(continued on next page)

An Unexpected Connection

Katelyn McWilliams

While researching for a history paper, I came across the works of Edward Said. A prominent literary scholar, Said proposed that the Western world looked at and wrote on the Eastern world through an imperialistic frame of mind. He specifically referenced *Aida*, and I could see hints of the Eastern “other” Said alludes to in his work. However, I found surprising references to orientalism in *Chad Deity* as well. Though ostensibly about boxers, *Chad Deity* addresses cultural stereotypes and the inaccurate way Westerners view eastern culture. Imagine my surprise when I drew parallels between a nineteenth century opera and a 2010 Pulitzer Prize nominee!

My experience with *Aida* and *Chad Deity* made me realize just how much the arts have advanced my mind. I could not have made the connections I did between the two pieces a few years ago. I lacked both the education and the opportunity to view the performances. While I enjoyed both pieces for their entertainment value, their educational merit cannot be overlooked. I am so thankful that I attend a university where the arts are not only appreciated but actively encouraged!

-edited by: Mikaela McMurtry

“Imagine my surprise when I drew parallels between a nineteenth century opera and a 2010 Pulitzer Prize nominee!”

Space Jump and Nobel Prizes

Husain Mogri

The month of October brought many of us an array of midterms and projects. As we delve deeper into the semester, we may begin to feel tired of working our fullest every day. One may begin to question whether the hard work is really worth it at all. I want to tell you that it is. You see, apart from the formidable deadlines and assignments, the month of October was also about world famous achievements.

In the middle of last month, the daredevil Felix Baumgartner made his grand space jump. By accomplishing this feat, he broke four mind-boggling records. His first feat was riding the highest manned balloon flight to the edge of space. The second record was going into free-fall from the highest altitude at approximately 36,500m. One can only imagine the courage this man needed to muster before stepping out of his capsule looking over Earth. Once he was falling, the flight itself was long compared to regular sky dives. For about five and half minutes, Baumgartner was dropping like a rock through the air, which set the record for the longest free fall. He was dropping long enough to hit terminal speed due to air resistance, and set the record for breaking the sound barrier without a vehicle. The risks of diving at Mach 1 are unbelievable. Had any malfunction occurred with his suit, the lack of pressure and oxygen would have killed him instantly. These were a part of the many uncertainties that he simply could not eliminate before his stunt.

“... the month of October was also about world famous achievements”

John Gurdon and Shinya Yamanaka are also two more names that became famous this month. But the achievements of these two people were academic rather than physical. Dr. Gurdon and Dr. Yamanka both received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their work with stem cells. They have been able to show that mature cells can be taken back to the stem cell stage in order to make “pluripotent” cells that could theoretically grow into any kind of body tissue. The ramifications of their findings in the medical field are remarkable, posing a host of new solutions in battling degenerative diseases and organ damages. But these scientists did not travel on their path to success without bumps along the way. In Dr. Gurdon’s case, his school biology teacher expressed a lack of faith in his scientific capabilities from a young age. According to the teacher, “Gurdon has ideas about becoming a scientist; on his present showing this is quite ridiculous... If he can’t learn simple biological facts he would have no chance of doing the work of a specialist, and it would be a sheer waste of time, both on his part and of those who would have to teach him.”

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Space Jump and Nobel Prizes

Husain Mogri

It would be 50 years of work in the field of biology before Gurdon would receive his Nobel. In Dr. Yamanaka's case, he started out training as a surgeon, and had to switch occupations because of his lack of talent for the career.

The moral of the story is to be persistent. Whether we think of stuntmen or Nobel recipients, their stories show us that the road to success always has obstacles in it. Like Baumgartner's epic jump, there will always be uncertainties that taint our vision of the future. We must march on towards our goals despite risks and obstacles. For CV students that could mean a lot of things. That could mean preparing for your midterms. That could mean finding the perfect internship. Or that could simply mean to motivate yourself to be the best that you can be every day without accepting failure.

*"The moral of the
story is to be
persistent"*

- edited by: Kinsey Cline

NOVEMBER 2012

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 Election Day | 7 CV Registration begins | 8 Archer Internship info session | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Cardboard Regatta Race | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 CLS applications due | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

CV Cardboard Regatta: Signups are starting for the cardboard boat regatta team! The race is on November 15th, and we will be constructing the boat on the 11th-14th. Signup on the CV lounge board or email ajh091020@utdallas.edu.

Archer Internship Info Session: Thursday, November 8th

12:00-1:00 p.m. Booth in Student Union

2:00-4:00 p.m. CV Library

<http://www.archercenter.org/index.php>

CV Registration: begins 9 am on November 7

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Announcements:

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Special Thanks To:

Dr. Harpham

Dr. Dow

Valerie Brunell

Dr. Scotch

Dr. Champagne

Collegium V: Learning That Never Sleeps



The Collegium V Honors Program at The University of Texas at Dallas was established in 1997 to provide an undergraduate honors experience that extends beyond the classroom. Small classes, innovative instruction, world class faculty, bright and inquisitive colleagues, and an array of extracurricular events offer Collegium V members special opportunities for professional and personal growth at the university.

If you are interested in learning more about Collegium V, please visit our website at cv.utdallas.edu or contact us for an application or to set up a tour.

CV Contact Information

CV Council

events@collegiumv.org

CV Network Administrators

cvadmins@utdallas.edu

CV Lounge Phone

972-883-6605

The CV Lounge (GC 1.202) is located on the 1st floor of the Green Center between the McDermott Library and Green Hall

If you have any questions/comments about the CV newsletter, please email Shravik Sethi at sps092020@utdallas.edu.

