

**Fall 2013**

***Stories from Students-Ethnographic Field Study***



**The Prospect Park Research Team**

Under the leadership of Dr. Ronald Verdicchio, Associate Professor of Education and Anthropology, Honors students, Eman Al-Jayeh, Bria Barnes, Abraham Elgindy, Jean Gervais, Kelly Ginart, Philip Gorokhovsky, Sara Johnson, Amani Kattaya, Megan Perry, Paige Rainville, and Rita VanderStad have been working on a two-year ethnographic field study of Prospect Park, New Jersey.

Prospect Park was founded in 1901 by Dutch settlers who heavily influenced the town's early structure as well as its cultural and religious practices and observances. In time, however, immigration and migration patterns have brought great diversity to the Borough of Prospect Park. The research team has been investigating the impact social change has had on the community as well as how these changes have impacted its school.

The first year of the study was dedicated to gaining entry into the community and learning about history. The research team engaged in volunteer activities and participant observation as well as conducted oral histories and formal interviews with community residents and leaders. Currently, the team is focusing its attention on studying Prospect Park School. In observing and interviewing teachers, students, and parents, the team hopes to gain a better understanding of the degree of cultural change the community has undergone and how that change affected education.

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**Fall 2013**

**Time for Honors Alumni-Meridian Evidence Based Practice Research Conference**



### **Christopher Klobus '12**

Nursing major, Christopher Klobus, completed the Honors Nursing Track and graduated from William Paterson University last May. He presented his Honors thesis entitled *The Effectiveness of Electronic Medical Record System and Its Correlation with the Quality of Nursing Care* during Honors Week last Spring. Christopher may have left campus, but he certainly has not abandoned the work he began as an undergraduate in the Honors College.

While in the process of submitting his research for publication, Christopher was invited to attend the Meridian Evidence Based Practice Research Conference held in West Long Branch, New Jersey. Christopher accepted the invitation and attended the conference with his thesis supervisor and director of the Honors Nursing Track, Dr. Christina McSherry.

The Meridian E.B.P. and Research Conference is associated with a variety of healthcare organizations, hospitals, and universities, and aims to present current and relevant evidence-based studies to those in attendance. At the conference, Christopher entered his research into a poster contest, competing with graduate students and experienced R.N.s. The judges were impressed with his articulacy and knowledge of the subject, and presented him with the Nursing Research Poster Award and the opportunity to attend another Meridian Conference. In the meantime, Christopher plans to continue to expand his pilot study as well as gain nursing experience in the field. He admits that working to complete and Honors thesis wasn't easy, but it certainly was a life-changing experience that was worth the effort. Congratulations to Christopher on his wonderful accomplishments!

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*Fall 2013*

*Stories from Students-Internships*



### **Gordon Kessler**

If you are looking to broaden your college experience, why not consider study abroad and internship opportunities? When you take the chance to think about it, you'll quickly realize that there are plenty of programs and opportunities open to students who want more than a seat in a classroom.

Gordon Kessler is an example of an Honors student whose initiative and persistence guided him in creating a memorable and educational experience this past summer. He is currently a senior majoring in political science and has chosen to complete his Honors thesis in the Social Sciences Track.

Last year, Gordon applied for an internship through the University and was accepted to work alongside Congressman Bill Pascrell as a part of his campaign team. Enjoying his work and eager to experience the legislative side of politics, Gordon decided to apply for a second program at the completion of his first. The second internship brought Gordon to Washington D.D. where he was housed at American University. He spent nine weeks working in Congressman Pascrell's office and absorbing the rich culture and historical heritage of the area. Gordon enjoyed giving tours of the Capital Complex, preparing material for Congressman Pascrell, standing on the floor of the House and Senate Chambers, watching a Congressional baseball game, and bumping into politicians on a daily basis among all of the opportunities the program facilitated. Most important, however, is what he was able to take away from the experience.

Gordon walked away from the internship with a greater understanding and appreciation for the passion and persistence of our policy makers in Washington, as well as University credits for all of his hard work. He is thankful for all he has learned in the process and urges all students considering an internship program to go for it without question. Gordon says that opportunities like internships give you practical experience that can provide insight and direction when planning for the future.

*“Measure Twice, Cut Once”*



**Gabriela Salvador**

Gabriela Salvador is an ambitious Honors student with a creative hobby. From the moment she began making clothing for her dolls, she has had a passion for sewing. That passion, along with a love and understanding of the connections of art and history, led Gabriela to take on historical sewing projects.

With artistic inspiration, Gabriela designs her own patterns, takes measurements, and cuts and divides fabric to make intricate and beautiful representations of historical clothing such as the “Bronzino” Italian Renaissance gown pictures here. She used period accurate techniques in sewing and never loses an opportunity to learn about the history of the period in which she is working.

Aside from pursuing a double major in Journalism and Writing, Gabriela is also the curator of the Kearny History Museum and the creator of a sewing blog that chronicles her work and experiences. At the museum, Gabriela has been working to clean up and organize displays of antique Victorian and Edwardian clothing in assuring that the articles are displayed appropriately and accurately. Her blog, [pourelavictoire.blogspot.com](http://pourelavictoire.blogspot.com), documents her learning experiences, projects, and even includes informative tutorials.

In the future, Gabriela plans to continue her work with historical sewing. Her plans include creating an 1870 Bustle and Florentine dress that would have been worn by a lower class woman.

“Measure Twice, Cut Once,” says Gabriela when asked for advice she would give to those pursuing similar projects. Her dedication to historical sewing and learning and skillful handiwork prove that she has done just that.