

## Summer 2010

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## 2009-2010 Capstone Projects

Capstones from the class of 2009-10 are now on display in the Honors Center in Hurst Hall, suite 206.

Stop by and check out the wide variety of topics, genres and projects completed by our most recent class of Honors graduates.

Interested in a particular Capstone? Ask an Honors staff member for assistance.

### How to contact us:

Phone	202-885-6194
E-mail	honors@american.edu
Walk-in	Hurst Hall 206 American University 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW Washington, DC 20016
Hours	Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Online	www.american.edu/honors

## Annual Convocation celebrates achievements of Honors graduates

The University Honors Program Convocation was held Friday, May 7, 2010, in the memorable Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church near the American University campus.

The ceremony recognizes Honors graduates for their accomplishments during their time at AU, and includes a presentation of the Honors medallion that represents each student's commitment to academic excellence. The medal becomes part of graduates' regalia worn at their school or college Commencement. Students who have won an Honors Capstone Research Conference Award or Honorable Mention are also recognized.



Rachel Cannon

For the second year, the ceremony incorporated a student speaker. This year, Rachel Cannon (SIS '10) was selected from the Honors seniors who competed to write and deliver the Convocation's student speech. Rachel's speech described the many definitions of power, reminding graduates that, while individual power may carry wealth and influence, the collective power of community may be a more important form of power, given its ability to shape each of its individual members. In her well-delivered remarks, Rachel challenged graduates to remember the Honors community they were a part of during their time at American, and to recall these roots while striving for excellence in the future. The message was inspiring and will likely resonate for years to come.



Honors graduates were recognized during Convocation.

The 2010 Honors Convocation preserved the tradition of celebrating the collective achievements of Honors graduates, who this year numbered more than 200. A new addition to the festivities was the increased involvement of the deans of each American University school or college. While the deans have always participated in the ceremony as part of the procession and

platform party, this year they personally congratulated their students after they received their Honors medal. This special gesture allowed the deans to show their support for both the Honors community as well as their school or college's students. It was a welcome addition to Honors Convocation.

Congratulations to the Honors Program's class of 2010!

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## Honors alum tells of applying AU learning in role as assistant district attorney

After graduating from the School of International Service at American University in 2003, I spent six years obtaining a master's degree (Harvard University, '06) and a juris doctor (University of Wisconsin, '09). While I was completing my master's degree, my work focused on South Asian religions, particularly Hinduism, Islam, and Buddhism. I entered law school planning to do a concentration in international law. After one year of law school, an internship at an international corporate law firm in Bangkok and studying abroad in the Netherlands, I realized that while I love to travel and experience other cultures, my professional passion lay in a very different area: prosecution. Ultimately, I finished law school with a concentration in criminal law and am now an assistant district attorney at the Wood County District Attorney's Office in Wausau, Wisconsin. My caseload, which includes felonies, as well as misdemeanors and traffic violations, is challenging but also quite engaging.



*Elizabeth did volunteer work for Hurricane Katrina relief with the Student Hurricane Network.*

When I graduated from SIS, I believed my career would eventually lead to international law in the public sector. In the future, I hope my work leads back to the international sphere, perhaps



*As part of a group, Elizabeth visited India and met the Dalai Lama.*

combining my interest in South Asia with my experience in prosecution. For the time being, my knowledge of international relations and cross-cultural dialogue is most readily applied in criminal cases with defendants who are immigrants, Hmong, and Native Americans.

Life is full of surprises, though there are some constants. I still enjoy traveling, learning new languages (I'm about to tackle Spanish), and keeping up with the world news. I know that regardless where life takes me, the time I spent studying the world at AU's culturally diverse campus has shaped the way that I view the world and the individual circumstances of each person with whom I interact.

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## From Director Michael Mass ...

It's hard to believe that the 2009-2010 school year is over and that summer vacation is upon us. It's been about a month since some of you walked across the stage at one of AU's commencement ceremonies, almost five weeks since all of you finished up your last final exam, and close to six weeks since we shared a meal at the Student Honors Board's annual spring barbecue. Cliché as it is, time does fly when you're having fun!

I know that some of you are heading off to exciting summer studies, jobs, internships or research opportunities, and that others of you are relaxing after finishing four (or maybe three, or five) long years of undergraduate work. Some of you will be returning to AU and to Honors this fall, while the

members of the class of 2009-10 will be heading to "real" jobs or preparing to enter professional or graduate school. Looking at our recent graduates, it's pretty impressive to see where they are heading. While most plan to work full-time – at places like the National Park Service, the non-profit Clean Air Cool Planet, Deloitte Consulting and the Federal Bureau of Investigation – other grads will be entering prestigious graduate programs at institutions such as Yale Divinity School, George Washington University Law School, University of Maryland School of Medicine and even St. Andrew's University in Scotland. We have other graduates who will be heading into service with the Peace Corps and Teach for America.

Though we'll definitely miss this year's seniors, we have a great class of freshmen coming in. They've distinguished themselves in high school as academic leaders, class presidents and members of a wide range of extracurricular activities, which means they'll fit right into our Honors community. I had a great time meeting them at Admissions events this spring, and I know that you'll enjoy getting to know them this fall.

If you're in D.C. this summer, stop by the Honors Center and say "hello!" If you're traveling the world, interning in a new city or just hanging by the pool in your hometown, send an e-mail to [honors@american.edu](mailto:honors@american.edu) or post a note on our Facebook page to let us know how you're doing!

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## New president of Student Honors Board shares his vision of SHB – and Honors

If there is one thing I have come to appreciate about Honors, it is the community. First, Honors 101 provides you with mentors and friends that you will keep throughout your college experience, and then Student Honors Board (SHB) builds on that and plans events that the Honors community would like to see. Input from Honors students this year led SHB to create an internship panel where students heard about their peers' experiences and asked questions.

Aside from planning community events, the role of Student Honors Board is to encourage all students to strive to join

this Honors community, because of all the wonderful resources it can provide, from alumni networking to smaller classes. We invite you to bring all your friends, Honors or not, to our events and programs so that they can see what SHB and Honors have to offer. In short – we want to make Honors work for you and others who would benefit from it.

This fall, I'll begin my third year of service on Student Honors Board, this time as its president. I am excited to help make this year the best yet. I am open to hearing any suggestions you have for events and I am available for

questions either at events or by e-mail. Your questions or comments may be about SHB, Honors, AU, or just D.C., but we are here for you, so please feel free to contact us at [austudenthonors-board@gmail.com](mailto:austudenthonors-board@gmail.com). The members of SHB want to make your experience at AU the best it can be and we feel that the Honors Program has something to offer to anyone who is willing to apply themselves. My fellow board members and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

*Ayal Chen-Zion (CAS '11)  
President, Student Honors Board*

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## Honors conference showcases range of student research

Academic excellence, wide-ranging research and innovative presentations were on full display at this year's Honors Capstone Research Conference. It's the only student research conference on campus where undergraduates from all disciplines and all schools can – and do – participate, and the 2010 conference was bigger and better than ever.

Each spring, Honors students who have completed or are finalizing a Capstone project are invited to apply to present at this day-long conference, held this year on April 14. A field of more than 80 applicants – the largest ever – was narrowed to 40 presentations, 20 of which were given orally and another 20 in poster formats.

From a board game designed to teach players about U.S. presidential elections to a Lego-inspired Chinese translation instruction video, the poster



*Bill Flynn (CAS '10) answers questions after presenting his Capstone research.*



*Meredith Jachowicz (CAS '10) presents her Capstone project to judges during the poster session.*

presentations represented a broad spectrum of student interests and academic disciplines, many using new and innovative presentation formats. Oral presentations ranged from highly scientific, such as CAS senior Bill Flynn's presentation, "Effective 4- and Higher-Body Interactions of Neutral Bosons in Optical Lattices," to creative works like Steven Tringali's (SOC '10) music video Capstone project.

Thirty AU faculty and administrators served as judges for the Honors Capstone Research Conference. After careful and difficult deliberations, they chose three oral and three poster presentations to receive the Honors Capstone Research Conference Award. They awarded six more students with an Honorable Mention. These students were each given special recognition at the 2010 Honors Convocation and on the Honors website.



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# Congratulations, Honors class of 2010

Lisa E. Ailloud	Michelle S. Dromgold	Emma S. Lepore	Talla Saghafi
Laura Katherine Anderson	Allison N. Dunatchik	Michael J. Levy	Molly Anne Sauer
Alexa M. Antonuk	Samantha E. Dunn	Graciela Raquel Sedillo Lopez	April C. Saylor
Elena Rose Atkinson	Richard M. Emerson	Camille Bowling Stone March	Michael Edward Schapiro
Amanda A. Augustine	Karolina M. Epple	Adam Q. Ma'ruf	Samantha Christine Schiro
Stephanie Bunmi Odarkor Ayeh	Ivelina A. Erinina	Natalie N. Matthews	Rosemarie P.B. Scott
Kathryn A. Bailey	Lisa M. Espinosa	Melanie L. McCarty	Eli B. Sellinger-Liebman
Brian L. Banks	Joshua Isaac Faden	Jared B. McCoy	Ayse Eren Sengueler
Kyrie McCauley Bannar	Allison L. Feras	Mary D.O. McKee	Amanda D. Sewell
Aaron H. Barnard-Luce	Meghan R. Finney	Alexander M. Mensing	Jake M. Silva
Andrew Robert Barron	Evelyn L. Fisher	Stephanie M. Merwin	Krista May Simmons
Heather S. Bauer	Jacob William Fitzpatrick	Katelyn Marie Miller	Robert L. Sitter III
Nicole Ann Bazik	William F. Flynn	Suzanne Rochelle Monsivais	David Green Smedick
Anjali M. Bean	Andrew G. Fogle	Aaron A. Montenegro	Amanda K. Smith
Elsbeth Jane Bennett	Vera M. Forster	Timmy F. Moore, Jr.	Laura R. Snedeker
Jessica E. Berardinucci	Michael J. Fowler	Ravenna E. Motil-McGuire	Georgette Michel Spanjich
Lauren M. Bernhardt	Jennifer L. Frank	Carlos Xavier Munoz Burgos	Jennifer S. Sparks
Karina C. Berrospi	Yelena Galperina	Julie Elizabeth Munro	Amanda L. Spielberg
Anastassia Bogosian-Scissor	Philip Gartland	Alexis Katherine Nadin	Danielle Elise Spiker
Traci J. Brooks	Vanessa C. Gatskie	Stephen J. Nagle	Dania Maria Valenzuela
Sarah E. Brown	Alyssa Joan Geisler	Thyra Elise Nast	Straughan
Jennifer Laura Bryer	Theresa Lynn George	Tram T. Nguyen	Samuel R. Swoyer
Trent C. Buatte	Michael Jack Ginsberg	Casey Marie Nitsch	Sonia Tabriz
Olivia M. Buck	Allison C. Gold	John Matthew Robert Noreika	Catherine J. Taegel
George Tyler Budde	Victoria R. Golden	Samantha A. Norling	Jonathan E. Terrell
Jacqueline Brown Buente	Valerie Lynne Goldman	Zarina N. Nurmukhambetova	Jenelle K. Thomas
Catherine M. Bullard	Ali M. Goldstein	Caitlin O'Brien Ochs	Luah Batina Tomas
Dana Leigh Burns	Gabrielle Vail Gorder	Julie A. Oswald	Emily J. Tompkins
Justin K. Butler	Robert A. Green	Katrina D. Otero	Christopher J. Trice
Shea E. Cadrin	David E. Greenberg	Kera M. Package	Stephen M. Tringali
Elizabeth L. Cameron	Hanna L. Grene	Hannah Pakray	Rita Marie Turpin
Lucia Campero	Erica N. Grodin	Carolina Peguero	Rachel Nicole Urban
Elana A. Canetti	Rosie Beth Haimm	Mary J. Penfield	Alex C. Ussia
Rachel Lynne Cannon	Morgan E. Halvorsen	Howard Eric Perlman	Ryan M. Van Parys
Charlie C. Carroll, Jr.	Martha Leigh Hanna	Kaitlan Alexandra McCartney	Luke G. Van Wagenen
Kathryn E. Carroll	Gabriel B. Herman	Peterson	Christopher M. Veasey
Lauren Michele Cater	Brandon Michael Herring	Annika Olga Pettitt	Kaia A. Vereide
Leah J. Chavla	Michelle K. Holleran	Francesca Phipps	Andrew Stephen Veysey
Han Chen	Meredith Lesley Jachowicz	Aleksandra Piletic	Dagny Elizabeth von Ahrens
Alyssa Rea Christenson	Benjamin D. Jardines	Kate E. Pinkerton	Rachel C. Voss
Emily Christine Conrad	Aditi D. Jhaveri	David R. Plassmann	Genevieve C. Vullo
Caitlin Susan Crotty	Katherine Beatrice Jurczyk	Kimberly Ann Polacek	Jana L. Warner
Hilary M. Crowe	Madeline Ivy Karp	Kelsey L. Poole	Jon Lloyd Weakley
Remle Patricia Crowe	Jennifer F. Keating	Ashley Kristyn Raker	Melissa M. Weeden
Darren T. Cunningham	Jacqueline M. Kemp	Corin Katherine Reade	Sarah F. Weinstein
Kathryn Elizabeth Daily	Emma C. Kerr	Joseph N. Rees	Greta Katherine Wicklund
John Thomas Danise	Jessica Lynn Killingley	Lauren Anne Renner	Rinske Annika Wijtmans
Alexandra Gordon Dart	Nicholas Keoki Kilstein	Michael Anton Repas	Laura Willett
Jennifer R. Dearden	Katherine E. Klausung	Cherie-Ann Richards	Jessica L. Williamson
Emily Clayton Decamillis	Ryan Louis Korn	Sarah Elizabeth Rigdon	Justin Lance Wilson
Heather Danielle Dewey	Stephen Joseph Kos	Michael James Roche	Peggy Wu
Stefania Di Mauro-Nava	Abigail Leavitt LaBella	Julie Anne Rogers	Fan Yang
Christopher Michael DiPrima	Carra S. Landa	Mariana Rita Roman	Jae Hyeon Yoo
Andrew P. Dobbyn	Jacqueline M. LaPorte	Tony Romm	Stephanie Elizabeth Young
John P. Douglass	Andreanna E. Lefton	Roman J. Ryan	Alan Jaan Yue Yu
Katherine G. Drake	Kristell G. Le Goff	Alina Hall Sabadish	Philip Javier Zakahi
Lauren Whiting Drew	Matthew A. Lehtonen	Jenna Rose Sablan	Colin H. Zizzi