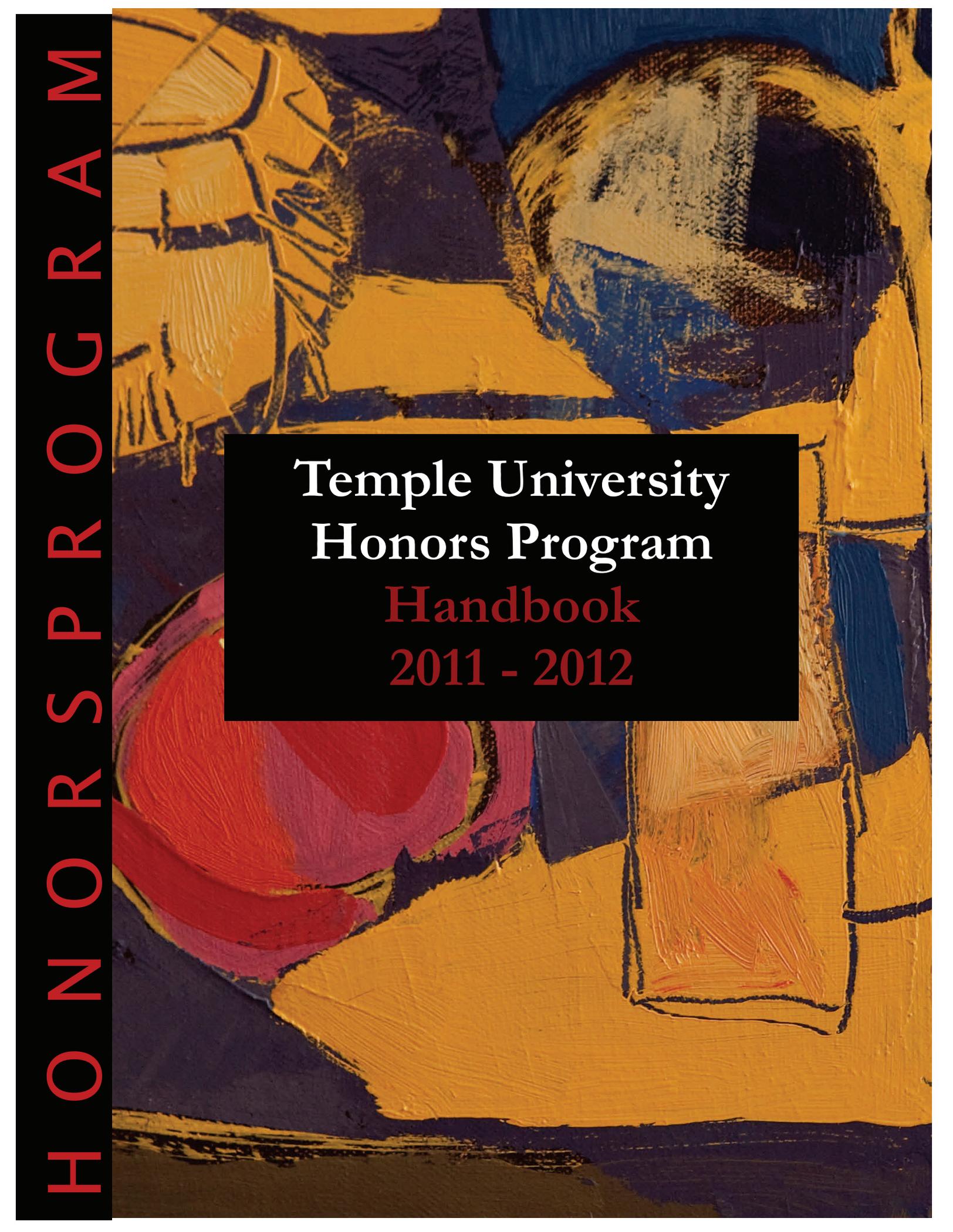


H O N O R S P R O G R A M



Temple University  
Honors Program  
**Handbook**  
2011 - 2012

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## Honors Program Contact Information

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# A Letter from the Director

Welcome to Temple! By the end of Orientation you will have been told so many things, given so much advice, and had so little sleep that we thought we'd supply you with this Honors Handbook, our version of a flash drive loaded with critical information. We expect you to read it cover to cover (eventually) and refer to it when you have questions about rules, regulations and best practices for a successful Honors undergraduate experience.

What else to tell you? You have all been successful in high school, both in and out of class. You know how to earn good grades while balancing athletics, student government, theater, etc., etc., etc. Chances are good that you'll do equally well here, but there are some differences worth noting.

- **Classes.** You have tremendous choice. We have something like 123 majors at Temple. Major in what you love. Double major and minor in what you come to love because you took classes that looked interesting. If you take this advice, you'll want to go to class, study, do well—and net a beautiful transcript (and that transcript will travel with you—often ahead of you—for the rest of your life...so you know). We will help make sure you don't get too carried away—we do want you to graduate eventually.
- **Time.** You'll have a lot of it. This will be new, given how your high school lives were structured. Our staff has a pretty good idea of how distracting life in the residence hall can be (we had that experience ourselves) what with so many fascinating new people living next door (commuters, you'll find your new friends will be distracting, too!). Find friends who want to help you with calculus or with English. Get yourself on some schedule. Above all, do something creative with your time along with studying: join a club—or start one; run for office; write for *Temple News*; join the Gospel Choir; do outreach in the community; go with Amanda to Appalachia; play a sport; go to the IBC; discover Philadelphia. Use your PEX Passport. Do something to remind yourself that you are leading a fascinating life!
- **Professors.** Your high school teachers knew you well—you were probably their favorite, at least some of you. Get to know your professors here. At the most you'll only see them three times a week in class, maybe only twice, maybe only once. Go visit them in office hours. It is never too soon to drop by. If you are an introvert, know that all you have to do is express a scintilla of interest in whatever they teach, and they will be off and running on their topic. If they get to know you, when something cool comes along, your name will be the one they remember for a job, a research assignment, a scholarship. This can happen your first year at Temple. I might add that if you get to know us well we can be useful to you.
- **Wins.** Just to remind you, our students have had tremendous success winning local and national competitions in a wide variety of fields. (Check out our web site.) Here's the trick: you have to apply. And while I'm on the subject of successful applications, just know that our students do well getting into great summer programs, the best graduate and professional schools, and landing terrific jobs. All majors lead to success. And if you want data, I have data!
- **Go Away.** Okay, maybe that isn't what you expect to hear—you just arrived on campus. But we think you all would benefit from studying abroad, whether at one of our own campuses, say in Rome or Tokyo, or with other programs. Start talking about it with your families now so when the time comes, they will wish you *buon viaggio*. (Remind them that they can come and visit!)

I have much more to say, as does the rest of the Honorable staff—Amanda, Brad and Jackie—stop by anytime and just ask us for advice and we'll be on the case! Meanwhile, I'll leave you with this cutting from Larry Page's graduation speech, albeit at another university (Page co-founded Google—and had the seed idea for it when he was 23):

*Always work on something uncomfortably exciting.<sup>1</sup>*

Have a great Temple experience! We are here to help you however we can.  
Best,

*Ruth Tai Ost*

Dr. Ost, aka Ruth



<sup>1</sup>Tina Reed, "Googling New Things." *Ann Arbor News*, 3 May 2009: A 1.

# About the Honors Program

*From a current student...*

So you've been accepted into the Honors Program. Now you may be wondering – who are we? What are we? And more importantly, what does it mean for you? As an Honors student, I've come to recognize the extensive benefits of the Honors Program. Honors offers academically-driven students access to appealing classes, personalized advising, a vibrant community, and an excess of opportunities.

Honors classes are the definitive component of the program. While they aren't necessarily harder than other classes, they challenge students to dig into complex issues and think outside the box. They're taught by the university's best professors and are small—around 20-25 students—so there's a more seminar quality to them. Honors classes are offered throughout the university, so students can fulfill Gen Ed requirements, take classes within their major or explore exciting electives like “The Beat Generation and the Angry Young Men” (English 2900), “Reform Strategies in Criminal Justice: An Inside Out Prison Exchange” (Criminal Justice 4901) and “The Body, Meditation & Healing” (Asian Studies 3900).

Navigating the complexities of coursework, majors, and transitioning to college in general can be overwhelming. That's where the Honors advisors come in. They help students through every step. Selecting classes, choosing a major, finding an internship, applying for a scholarship...the advisors' doors are always open and they're always ready to listen.

Whether it's residing in the Honors Living Learning Community (LLC) or hanging out in the Honors Lounge, being surrounded by students who share similar values and interests is a wonderful benefit of Honors. Studying for a physics test together, playing Scrabble at 3:00 AM in the hallways of 1300, or exploring South Street, camaraderie is evident among Honors students. We are well-rounded—we study abroad, serve in student government, play sports, and volunteer in the community through opportunities like the Honors Immersion Programs (HIP) and the Mentoring Network. And we know how to have fun. Group trips to Phillies games, the Honors Ball and other events are planned throughout the semester by the student-run Honors Activities Board.

From graduate student privileges in the library to free opera tickets to priority registration, there are many other perks that come with being in Honors. Honors also opens many doors for students by helping them obtain exciting jobs and internships and coaching them to win prestigious scholarships and awards.

In the Temple University Honors Program, all the advantages of a large, research university are combined with the benefits of a close-knit community. It encourages and enables students to excel during their college career and beyond. Honors has been a vital part of my college experience so far. I've taken fascinating classes and gotten to know incredible professors. The advisors helped me figure out a way to double major in two different colleges, study abroad in Rome, and still graduate on time. Some of my closest friends are my roommates from the Honors LLC. And this is just my Honors story. I'm excited for you to experience it all for yourself.

Best,

Summer Beckley, '12  
History and Communications



# Honors Program Requirements

To complete the Honors Program, and thus receive Honors designation on your transcript, follow the prescribed requirements below. **Note:** requirements change depending on the amount of credits you have when you enter the Honors Program.

## For all freshmen & transfers with fewer than 45 Credits

**You must complete 10 Honors Courses, maintain a 3.25 GPA, & complete your undergraduate degree at Temple University. The courses must be distributed as follows:**

### **English 0902**

If you exempted from English 0902 through placement testing or transfer credit, you must take one additional Honors class at any level to fulfill the 10-course requirement.

### **Mosaic 0951 and 0952**

If you already have credit for one or both of the Mosaic courses, you must take other Honors courses at any level to fulfill the 10-course requirement

### **Three additional Honors courses at any level**

### **Four upper-level Honors courses numbered 2900 or above\***

## For transfers who enter Honors with 45-59 credits

**You must complete eight Honors Courses, maintain a 3.25 GPA, & complete your undergraduate degree at Temple University. The courses must be distributed as follows:**

### **Four Honors courses at any level**

If you do not have credit for any of the following classes, they must be taken in Honors:

English 0902; Mosaic 0951; or Mosaic 0952

### **Four upper-level courses numbered 2900 or above\***

## For transfers who enter Honors with 60+ credits

**You must complete six Honors Courses, maintain a 3.25 GPA, & complete your undergraduate degree at Temple University. The courses must be distributed as follows:**

### **Two Honors courses at any level**

If you do not have credit for any of the following classes, they must be taken in Honors.:

English 0902; Mosaic 0951; or Mosaic 0952

### **Four upper-level courses numbered 2900 or above\***

**\*Upper-level Honors requirements can be met through contracts, graduate courses, and independent studies as well. See “Notes on Meeting Program Requirements” for more information.**

# Notes on Meeting Program Requirements

For students in some majors, finding the academic space in their schedule to graduate on time and complete the Honors Program is intimidating. Because we are committed to working with all students in all fields, we have developed a few methods to help students in even the most inflexible majors complete the program and graduate in a timely fashion.

**Note:** You are allowed to meet up to two of your upper-level Honors requirements through any combination of the options listed below: contracts, graduate courses or independent studies.

**Contracts:** You can turn non-Honors courses into Honors courses through **contracts**. A contract is an agreement to do something extra in the course—an extra paper, research project, journaling assignment, etc.—anything that adds a qualitative dimension to the course or helps you understand course material at a deeper level. Courses that are contracted into Honors must be numbered 2000 or higher, be at least three credits, and you must receive at least a B+ in the course. Contract proposal forms must be turned in before the end of the add/drop period of the semester with student and professor signatures.

**Graduate Courses and Independent Studies:** If you decide to take a graduate course or do an independent study to meet upper-level Honors Program requirements you must submit a form to our office at the beginning of the semester that alerts us to the fact that you intend to use a graduate course or independent study towards your Honors Program requirements. Acceptable courses must be at least three credits, and you must receive at least a B+.

**For Students on Accelerated Tracks:** If you are planning on graduating from Temple in fewer than 8 semesters you are still expected to meet all Honors Program requirements. However, if you are accepted to the accelerated track in Temple Health Scholars (3+4 Med, Dental, and Pharm), courses taken in your first year of professional school can count towards Honors Program requirements. A form on our web site will notify us of which courses in your professional school you wish to count towards your Honors Program requirements. **Note:** If you are on a non-degree granting accelerated track, you are eligible to take Honors classes, though the transcript notation (“Completed the University Honors Program”) is only awarded if you are granted a bachelor’s degree from Temple University.

**Petitions for Amended Honors Program Requirements:** If you believe that extenuating circumstances, or inflexible degree requirements, are preventing you from completing the Honors Program requirements as assigned, you are able to file a petition to the Honors Program for amended requirements, or additional contracts. Instructions for filing a petition can be found online.

All of the forms discussed above can be found at [www.temple.edu/honors/forms](http://www.temple.edu/honors/forms).

# Honors Scholar and Departmental Honors

Beyond the general Honors Program requirements, the Honors Program and various departments at Temple offer other ways to distinguish yourself in preparation for advanced studies or graduate school, or if you are just interested in doing independent research.

## Honors Scholar Project

As an Honors student, you have the option to complete a senior **Honors Scholar Project** in addition to the general Honors Program requirements. The project can be a thesis, creative work, or other project appropriate to your major or related field. The project can be completed in conjunction with an independent study, research methods course, or capstone but must meet all of the requirements set out on the Honors Scholar Project proposal form (see [www.temple.edu/honors/forms](http://www.temple.edu/honors/forms)).

- During your junior year, find a mentor who will work with you to design and oversee your project. With your mentor, complete the proposal form, which will include an abstract, a general timeline, and your plans for presenting the project. Submit the completed proposal form to the Honors office.
- We highly recommend presenting your project at TURF/CreWS—the Temple undergraduate research conference. We also strongly recommend that you consider entering your project in the Library Prize competition (\$1000 prize).
- Upon its completion, you will submit your project for approval by your mentor and an additional faculty member. They may plan a project defense, which is recommended (and good experience for grad school/law school, etc.) Both readers must notify the Honors Program whether or not your project warrants the Honors Scholar designation.
- You will submit your finished project to the Honors office, along with an electronic copy of your final abstract and evidence of where the project was presented.

*For more information on proposing an Honors Scholar Project, see an Honors advisor.*

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## Departmental Honors

If you are in Fox or are one of the majors listed below, you can receive Departmental Honors in addition to recognition from University Honors. Contact the professor below to learn more about Departmental Honors:

**Fox School of Business (for Alter Research Scholars):** Jon Scott, [scottjon@temple.edu](mailto:scottjon@temple.edu)

**History:** Jay Lockenour, [jay.lockenour@temple.edu](mailto:jay.lockenour@temple.edu)

**Criminal Justice:** Matt Hiller, [mhiller@temple.edu](mailto:mhiller@temple.edu)

**Political Science:** Kevin Arceneaux, [kevin.arceneaux@temple.edu](mailto:kevin.arceneaux@temple.edu)

**Psychology:** Kathy Hirsh Pasek, [khirshpa@temple.edu](mailto:khirshpa@temple.edu)

# Honors Probation and Dismissal

It is possible to be dismissed from the Honors Program—though it isn't likely. On average, we have to demit about 1% of our students each semester. Ensuring you know the following information will help you stay in good standing with the Honors Program and avoid dismissal.

## Unsatisfactory Grade Point Average

- You will be on Honors probation if your **cumulative GPA falls below 3.25**.
- Once your cumulative GPA is back to at least 3.25 you will be back in good standing with the Honors Program.
- If you are unable to bring your cumulative GPA back to a 3.25 yet you earn a semester GPA of at least 3.25, you will remain on probation while you continue to bring your cumulative GPA back up to at least a 3.25.
- If you do not earn a semester GPA of at least 3.25 while on probation, you will be dismissed from the Honors Program
- To graduate with the Honors designation on your transcript, you must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 at the time of graduation.

**Note:** No one will be dismissed from the Honors Program without at least one semester of probation

**Good news for freshmen:** You have a grace period. You will not be eligible for dismissal until after first semester of your sophomore year .We know first-year students often change direction once they have taken a few college courses. We don't want you to worry about being dismissed from Honors while you are trying to adjust to college life.

## Satisfactory Academic Progress in the Honors Program

Students in Honors must complete at least:

- 3 Honors classes by end of freshman year
- 6 Honors classes by end of sophomore year
- 8 Honors classes by end of junior year

If you are not meeting satisfactory academic progress for Honors **regardless of your GPA** , you will be notified and asked to communicate back to the program. If you do not respond by the date indicated in the correspondence, you will be dismissed from the Honors Program.

**Note:** These progress benchmarks do not apply to students who transfer into the Honors Program, though transfer students should be taking Honors courses at a similar pace.

# Honors Opportunities

The Honors Program is more than great classes and individualized advising. We are also a community of students, faculty, and staff devoted to enriching the Temple campus and surrounding areas. We offer a variety of ways to get involved, give back, and learn a little about yourself in the process.

**Honors Admissions and Transitions Team:** Serve as ambassadors to the Honors Program during the spring semester and help prospective students learn about Temple and the Honors Program by leading them on campus and residence hall tours and helping with Experience Temple Day. Applications will be sent out in November through the Honors listserv. See Amanda for more information.

**Honors Mentoring Network:** Work with new Honors students in their transition to Temple University, the Honors Program, and to Philadelphia! This program is open to outstanding upper-level students who have thrived in their undergraduate experience and wish to give back by helping other students do the same. Applications will be sent out in October through the Honors listserv. See Brad for more information.

**Honors Activities Board (HAB):** Work with fellow Honors students to program socially and culturally enlightening events each semester. Past events include a trip to the Philadelphia Zoo, a roundtable talk on graphic novels and comics, and a bike trip around Philadelphia! Visit [www.honorsactivitiesboard.com](http://www.honorsactivitiesboard.com) for more information.

**Honors Immersion Programs (HIP):** Spend time working with and for members of a different community and with fellow students. HIP seeks to engage and learn in an environment that integrates meaningful community service with reflection to enrich the experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. Our largest program is the Honors Appalachian Experience—each summer, we send students to the Appalachian region to work with equality housing alliances (ie: Habitat for Humanity). Applications will be sent out in November through the Honors listserv. See Amanda for more information.

# Temple Research Opportunities

Interested in research opportunities? Here's a few that are offered through the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies (OVPUS):

**Diamond Scholars:** The Diamond Research Scholars Program provides Temple undergraduates the opportunity to engage in a focused, mentored research or creative arts project during the summer and fall. The program requires that students participate in the three-day Diamond Research Program Institute and devote eight to ten weeks during the summer to develop a research project in their area of interest under the direction of their faculty mentor. Students who are accepted into the program will receive the "Conwell Undergraduate Research Award" of \$2750 and tuition remission for up to three credits fall term for independent study (credits that exceed 17 s.h.)

**CARAS:** The Creative Arts, Research and Scholarship Program (CARAS) provides undergraduate and professional students grants of up to \$3,000 in support of scholarly, research or creative arts projects undertaken with the supervision of a faculty mentor. Successful applications will provide a clearly focused project addressing a significant issue, concern, or aspect in the student's field of study, include a detailed budget proposal, and be endorsed by a faculty mentor and the dean of the student's school or college.

**URIF:** The Undergraduate Research Incentive Fund is available to any full-time undergraduate student enrolled at Temple who seeks financial support for research related activities such as undergraduate research projects or participation in professional conferences. Awards from the URIF are dependent on the availability of matching funds from the students' own Department, School and/or College.

**TURF-CreWS:** The Temple Undergraduate Research Forum - Creative Works Symposium (TURF-CreWS) provides ambitious, intellectually motivated undergraduate students the opportunity to present and defend their original research or creative work to a forum of colleagues, faculty, family, and friends. TURF/CreWS is open to all departments and all colleges. TURF/CreWS welcomes research from every discipline. All Schools, Colleges, Departments, and Programs in the University are eligible to nominate undergraduate student papers, posters, and works. TURF-CREWS participation is on a competitive basis.

**Diamond Peer Teachers:** The Diamond Peer Teacher Program offers a semester long funded teaching experiences under the direction of the faculty mentor. Participants receive a semester stipend of \$2,250, tuition remission for one hour of internship, and Honors credit for the pedagogical experience.

...And one more we want you to know about. This one is from Temple's Institute for Public Affairs:

**Harrisburg Capital Semester:** An internship semester in Harrisburg where students have the opportunity to explore government affairs, policymaking, and implementation first-hand while earning full-time credits and staying on track to graduation. Students with majors in any field are eligible, and encouraged to apply! Go to [www.temple.edu/ipa](http://www.temple.edu/ipa) for more information.