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

Smart Stories
Fall Edition 2011/2012

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Smart...

...is just the start of who we are. There is more to our story, as we’re sure there’s more to yours.

You are not just an SAT score and a GPA.

Honors students are passionate. About what? About something. Actually, about many things.

Read on for some of their stories.

We look forward to hearing yours...
1,591
Total number of Honors students

356
Total number Honors freshmen

Total number of Temple students: 22,000

Total number of Temple freshmen: 4,323

Honors students by college:
Liberal Arts: 25%
Science & Technology: 20%
Fox School of Business: 17%
Communications and Theater: 12%
Tyler School of Art: 8%
All Other Schools/Colleges: 18%

3.7
Average Honors student cumulative GPA

87%
Of Honors Freshman choose to live in the Honors HLLC

Most Popular Honors majors:
Biology–9%
Psychology–6%
English–3%
Political Science–3%
Film & Media Arts–3%

(NOTE: We have honors students in EVERY major!)
Mercedes Lewis ‘12  
**Major:** Environmental Studies  
I'm interning at the SHARE Food Program in Tioga on their Nice Roots Farm. I have done everything from planting spinach to teaching child volunteers about tomatoes to helping pack Philabundance packages. Interacting with the neighborhood and food is really fun and exciting. The internship is really in line with my current studies, and I'm writing two different reports right now (one of which is my thesis) on agribusiness and urban agriculture development. Plus I eat lots of free veggies!

Alex Gonzalez ‘12  
**Major:** Applied Math & Spanish  
I interned at Penn Medicine this summer for Siemens Medical in their clinical systems department, and also worked for the customer solutions group at Siemens Medical solutions (for the office of the CMIO). As of right now, I am a drum major for temple's marching band (conductor).

Christina Marinello ‘13  
**Major:** Actuarial Science  
I had a summer internship with XL Insurance in the actuarial department for professional lines in Hartford, CT. I'm studying abroad in Dublin, Ireland at the Quinn School of Business, University College Dublin, with weekend trips planned to London, Amsterdam, and Prague. I also met Andy Steves, Rick Steves' son!

Joe Russo ‘12  
**Major:** Film and Media Arts & English  
This past summer I ventured to the West Coast to see what it had to offer. I took part in Temple University’s Los Angeles Internship Program offered through the Study Away department. Along with roughly forty other students, I lived just north of Hollywood in Burbank’s Oakwood apartments, taking the classes offered through the program at night, and working internships during the day. I took part in three development internships with film and television production companies, totaling forty hours a week, including Quadrant Pictures, Yellow Brick Road Productions, and Ambush Entertainment. I am currently a Script Reader Intern at Goldcrest Films in New York, a position that I gained due to my experience in the field. I am also writing and directing a senior thesis film as part of the School of Communications and Theater's Senior Projects film course. Should be fun!

Dani Masi ‘12  
**Major:** Advertising  
I spent the summer interning at Brownstein Group, a full-service advertising agency in Center City. I was their copywriting intern and got to work for great clients like IKEA, Berkadia, Einstein Healthcare and U-Store-It. At the end of the summer I was published nationally for IKEA! I am still a Temple Owl Ambassador, as well as an Owl Coordinator. I recently won the Philly Ad Club's Philly's Futures Scholarship. This scholarship was for $2500 and recognized me as a rising star in the advertising industry. I am graduating in this spring, so I am applying to an intensive advertising boot camp in Texas that starts in May. We'll see where my life goes from there!
Cassandra Cotta ‘12  
**Major: Dance**  
This summer, I interned at Chi Movement Arts Center, home of Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers and was appointed the role of apprentice for the company. I studied in New York with the Mark Morris Dance Company and was accepted into PhilaDanco’s 2nd company as well. In May I was granted a Diamond Research Scholarship and have been developing a process and piece entitled "mEmotion." And I'll be graduating in just over two months! Yikes!

Brenda Alexander ‘13  
**Major: Communications**  
I'm currently a student in the fall 2011 Los Angeles Internship Program through the School of Communications and Theater. I am interning with PMK*BNC PR Firm. Clients of the firm include: Jessica Alba, Kate Hudson, Cameron Diaz, Eva Mendes, Kim Kardashian, Sandra Bullock, Keanu Reeves, Whoopi Goldberg, Jordan (BRAND), Guess (BRAND), BEATS by Dre (BRAND) and many music artists, films, television shows, and television networks. I intern under the entertainment and talent division full time, four days a week.

Elizabeth Pride ‘12  
**Major: Anthropology/Minor: Spanish & Women’s Studies**  
Right now I'm preparing to work in Honduras for 20 days over winter break. I will be a Global Impact fellow with Unite For Sight, a non-profit organization that eliminates economic barriers to eye health for poor populations by providing funds and volunteers in developing countries. I am completing online training courses about eye health and ethics to be as ready as possible when I arrive in Honduras. In addition, on November 16th I will be presenting a paper I wrote in 2010 about the cultural and social impact of Muslim-identified musicians at the Global Temple Conference in Paley Library.

Jeniffer Singley’13  
**Major: Marketing**  
I obtained a Game Night Presentation Internship with the Philadelphia Flyers for the Spring 2012 semester!

Cassie Emmons ‘13  
**Major: English & Political Science**  
I am currently interning at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in their editorial department. I LOVE IT! I got to sit in on a meeting with the CEO and COO of the Museum my first week there. I get to work on a lot of up and coming exhibitions and they have a lot of neat events planned for the next year and a half. I'm working a huge research project right now exploring the EU’s role within the Quartet (Middle East Peace group). My goal is to try to root it in enough primary sources and present a fresh-enough argument to get it published next year. I am also currently working on editing a book with a graduate student at the Writing Center. It's given me a lot of insight into the world of being an editor and has been great simultaneous experience with my work at the Museum as well as working on my own article.
Nick Kokiko '14

Major: Sport and Recreation Management/Minor: Business Studies
I'm off to a busy start to this year because of a few pretty cool developments. For one, I'm interning with Temple Athletics in their Owl Club (the fundraising arm for athletics). This includes office duties every week, as well as working in the suites for all home football and basketball games. I'm also vice-president of Stadium Manager's Student Association, which was started last year! That being said, I'm looking forward to forming a new organization that will hopefully be coming to Temple this spring. This is one is, for now, called Professional and Collegiate Operations (or PACO). I could talk for hours about our goal, but basically it will be STHM's newest and largest sports student organization and I'll be one of the core founders and directors!

Kevin Klatt '13

Major: Biological Anthropology/Minor: Public Health
I have an internship with the Sodexo dietitian as well as the Julie Rhule Internship with Food and Water Watch's Fair Farm Campaign.

Kaitlin Lavinder '13

Major: Broadcasting, Telecommunications, and Mass Media/Minor: Business
This summer I was a Media & Marketing Intern at Torrey Charles & Willner in Washington, D.C. Torrey Charles is the PR representative for Desean Jackson and Asante Samuel of the Philadelphia Eagles. At the beginning of the summer, I attended a gala at the Water Works in Philadelphia for Desean's foundation for pancreatic cancer, Foundation 10. There I had the opportunity to meet many Eagles players, including Michael Vick. I interned at the Porsche Club of America headquarters in Columbia, MD where I got to canoodle with Porsche enthusiasts and wealthy businessmen. I saw the inside workings of event planning for the big Porsche Parade that took place in Savannah, GA this past summer, and was promoted halfway through the summer.

Kalen Myers '14

Major: Geography and Urban Studies/Minor: French & Environmental Studies
I'm really excited to have just officially declared GUS as my major after being very much undecided coming in as a freshman. So to go along with it I'm continuing my volunteering with the Energy Coordinating Agency of Philadelphia and just began an internship with Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Council. It's pretty exciting and great experience. Also, I have a plot in the Temple Community Garden with fellow honorable Katy Ament. Sophomore year has been great so far.
**Kelsey Stanton ‘12**  
**Major: Landscape Architecture**  
I worked for a non-profit organization this summer restoring degraded forest habitats and educating children in a pilot internship position. I’m currently studying architecture at Temple University's Rome campus for the fall 2011 semester.

**Caitlin Weigel ‘12**  
**Major: Communications**  
I was a programming intern at Comcast's 24-hour preschool channel, Sprout. For the duration of the summer months, I was promoted to the role of production assistant. I was named one of the top ten interns at Comcast for summer 2011. I’m also a bi-weekly columnist for Temple News. I write about what I’m eating and my attempts at cooking.

**Zack Auron ‘12**  
**Major: Film and Media Arts**  
In late April, I exhibited a solo photography show titled "Feeling America: The Good, The Bad, and The American." It ran for a week at the BistrArt Gallery in Rome, Italy. In July, I interned as the key grip on the feature film "The Happy Sad," directed by Rodney Evans. In August, I worked for a day rate on Benjamin Vlassenroot's thesis film, "Me and You."

**Matthew Flocco ‘12**  
**Major: Communications**  
I went to Rome last spring to study abroad. I went to LA this summer and did an internship with Mandate Pictures, who just released the film “50/50”. I directed a short film with other interns while there. I was elected Temple Homecoming King 2011! This year I'm Insomnia Theater's community outreach director. I’m starting up an after-school program at Multi-Cultural Academy Charter High School in North Philadelphia. A small group of Temple students and I will be doing workshops with high school students and helping them form their own performance for the surrounding community. My goal for the spring is to invite these students to be a part of Insomnia’s 24-hour rehearsal/performance process. I’m currently the production head of “North”, a short film for Temple Film Collective. The film is Romeo and Juliet set in North Philadelphia. The Capulets are residents of the area and Montagues are Temple students. I’m in the midst of writing the screenplay, and I’ll be directing it in the spring. That's all for now!

**Mary Kate Daley ‘12**  
**Major: English & Spanish**  
I spent the past summer interning at an orphanage in Costa Rica. I will be presenting a paper on social service initiatives at the Global Temple Conference in the fall.
Becca Sperling ’12
Major: Psychology/Minor: Religion
This summer I had an internship at a nursing home. I worked in their activities department facilitating, developing, and implementing programs for the residents. I was put in charge of programming for an entire floor of residents (approximately fifty residents) as well as carrying out various clinical assessments in cooperation with the social workers and nursing staff of the nursing home to create a care plan for each resident. I developed three new programs for my residents: an art program (kind of like an open art studio), a music-appreciation program, and a weekly Scrabble group; all three of these programs are now being facilitated by other staff members in the activities department because I trained them and developed future lesson plans the internship ends. I also formed lasting relationships with my residents. I can't wait to go back to visit and volunteer with them!

Christiana Gervasoni ’14
Major: History & Sociology
I obtained a Public Policy Internship at Greater Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Jessica Arce ’13
Major: Film and Minor: Urban Studies & Spanish
This past summer, I interned for the American Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival in May! It was an incredible experience. I was part of the Diamond Scholars Research Program documentary. I'm currently interning for University Community Collaborative Project as a Leader Corps member. I help with a show called POPPYN (whatsPOPPYN.blogspot.com). Our mission is to Present Our Perspective on Philly Youth News. We work with high school students around the city to produce quarterly news shows that show the POSITIVE things youths are doing in the city (as opposed to media's focus on flash mobs, the negativity that youth in the city are known for, etc.). It's my job to help teach youth how to use media as a tool for social change and it's awesome. It's changed my outlook on life and the city of Philadelphia, and connected me to Philly beyond just Temple.

Jason Hammerschmidt ’12
Major: Entrepreneurship/Minor: Marketing
This semester I am interning at a small start-up company called Yorn LLC with founder and CEO Rick Rasansky. Chris Cerik (Temple alumnus) and I have also been working on a water filtration project which we look to turn into a business (possibly non-profit) in the future. He developed a small, inexpensive, and simple way to make bio-sand filter out all harmful waterborne pathogens so that those who do not have access to clean water can obtain it. Clean water is one of the biggest problems in this country and in much of the developing world and we hope to help alleviate and solve that problem. We have already installed filters in a few areas and have had some success, but we still have some work to do to get a business like this off the ground.
Haley Myers ‘12  
Major: Psychology/Minor: General Business Studies  
I won a Psi Chi Summer Research Grant to do research with Dr. Derek Avery in Fox. We looked at how Fortune 500 Companies define and value diversity as stated on their websites. The qualitative data shows that the majority of the 500 companies did not define diversity on their websites, and those that did tended to define diversity in terms of race/ethnicity or gender.

Pegah Safabakhsh ‘13  
Major: Biochemistry  
I have been working on a project in a genetics lab at Temple with Dr. Balciunas as my mentor since the fall semester of my sophomore year, and presented my research at a poster session in September. I’m currently in the process of completing a project that will most likely take me until the end of my senior year to complete and I’m really enjoying it. I also recently found out that I am going to be recognized for authorship in a scientific paper regarding some research I did during the summer after my freshman year regarding multiple sclerosis clinical research at a lab at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital for Neuroscience.

Tarek Kader ‘12  
Major: Biology  
I’m volunteering some of my weekend (Saturday nights) at the HUP Emergency Room (HUP is Hospital of the University of PA). I’m also spending the early afternoons of my weekdays working on a research project over at Temple’s Medical College, researching the properties of a protein extracted from St. John’s wort, one we suspect may be found in the human genome somewhere that has thus far shown to have protective capabilities for neurons and degenerative capabilities on glial tumors!

Alex Weigard ‘12  
Major: Psychology/Minor: Cognitive Neuroscience  
This past spring, I presented a paper-talk on my research project entitled "Influence of Anonymous Peers on Risk-Taking Behavior in Adolescents" at the Eleventh Annual Stanford Undergraduate Psychology Conference. I received funding for travel expenses by applying and winning a CARAS travel grant. It was a really wonderful first conference experience.

Beth Cozzolino ‘12  
Major: Political Science & Sociology  
This summer, my Diamond Research Scholars project was accepted into the Undergraduate Honors program for the American Sociological Association. I won a CARAS travel grant to go to Las Vegas for the conference and got to stay at Caesar's Palace. I met a lot of brilliant undergrads who plan on entering sociology PhD programs just like me, and I got to meet several of my all-time favorite academics (Frances Fox Piven and Viviana Zelizer.) I have been elected president of the Temple Democratic Socialists and have been organizing events in solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street movement and its local manifestation at City Hall. I even slept over at the occupation one night!
Luv Sodha ‘13  
**Major: Finance & Accounting**

I am doing research into the BRIC economies with Dr. Kushnirsky in economics using econometrics. I have received several scholarships including the PICPA Multi-year Scholarship, which is given by the official organization to certified Public Accountants (CPAs), a scholarship from ASCEND, a nation organization of Asian finance and accounting professionals, a Stanley Merves CPA Scholarship, which is given to an accounting major in Fox who will be pursuing the CPA upon graduation, and the Lois and Leroy Kean Scholarship, which is given to students who have done a lot to help the community. This upcoming summer I will be interning at a “Big Four” accounting firm, focusing on financial services. Currently, I am working with Brad as an Honors Peer Mentor, and am really enjoying it.

Holly Drutarovsky ‘14  
**Major: Neuroscience & Psychology/Minor: Spanish**

I was recently awarded an MSCI 2011 Philadelphia Chapter Scholarship Award. MSCI stands for the Metal Service Center Institute. I was one of the lucky recipients to receive a $3,000 award to help pay for my tuition!

Zobia Hamid ‘14  
**Major: Chemistry/Minor: Environmental Science**

Very soon, I am about to start with Project SHINE which is a sub group of Americorps. Our main purpose is to provide the elderly and/or immigrants with basic knowledge on Health Literacy and English to various partnerships SHINE has with organizations in Philadelphia. Something I am grateful for: I was awarded the Henrietta S. Treen scholarship! I also just got my black belt in Tae Kwon Do!

Taha Kermalli ‘15  
**Major: Biology**

I won a $2000 scholarship from the North American Shia Ithna-asher Muslim Community Organization!

Kristina Toussaint ‘13  
**Major: Early/Elementary Education & Pre-Occupational Therapy**

I recently walked the 8 mile Aids Walk, am on my 2nd semester as a writing tutor, an avid Yoga Club member, and am taking all Education methods courses this semester (intense but good since I get to observe and teach at Fairhill Elementary School every Wednesday in Ms. Hasan, a Temple graduate’s, 3rd grade class!) I received the Martha Ebbert Moyer College of Education Scholarship for this year and am applying to the Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Contest for 2012!
Aaron Matthias-Long ’13
Major: Music Performance (Trumpet)
This past summer I was a participant at the International Trumpet Guild Conference in Minneapolis in May, paid for by the Boyer College of Music and Dance. Following the week-long conference, I attended the Bar Harbor Brass Week music festival on full scholarship in Maine, led by members of the Philadelphia Orchestra. After my week in Maine, I spent 5 weeks in Greensboro, North Carolina at the prestigious Eastern Music Festival. Since returning to school for my junior year, I am very busy between my 5 ensembles and 4 jobs (with some classes scattered in between). I currently play trumpet in the Temple University Symphony Orchestra, Wind Symphony, Trumpet Ensemble, Temple Brass Quintet, and New School Brass Quintet (a scholarship ensemble intended for graduate students). My jobs include the work study position in Boyer, teaching trumpet lessons for Temple Prep, freelance performing in the Philadelphia area, and valet parking at the Ritz-Carlton downtown. In addition to these exciting activities, I am keeping busy in my honors classes and serving on the Boyer Dean’s Student Advisory Committee.

Greg McCormick ’13
Major: International Business Administration, Finance & Spanish/
Minor: Arabic
I spent this past summer in Muscat, Oman studying Arabic through the Critical Language Scholarship Program sponsored by the United States Department of State. I’m currently studying abroad at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) in Mexico City, Mexico, through the Fox School’s CIBER program (both fall 2011 and spring 2012 semesters). I’m interning at the United States Commercial Service (under the United States Department of Commerce) in Mexico City as an international trade associate. I’m participating in the Fox School’s Alter Research Scholarship program, in which I’ll be carrying out a research project on Mexico’s microfinance sector.

Jenna Schaffer ’14
Major: International Business/Minor: Marketing
I recently was awarded the Diamond Ambassadors Scholarship for study abroad, as well as the Walmart Scholarship!

Moriah Baxevane-Connell ’12
Major: Information Science and Technology & Psychology
I will be going to the Grace Hopper Women in Computing Conference on a scholarship from Vanguard. I worked at Vanguard this summer programming iPhone and iPad applications. I also studied abroad at the University of East Anglia in the Spring Semester of 2011, and shared stories of the Temple University Honors Program with new friends throughout Europe. EVERYBODY SHOULD STUDY ABROAD!!!!!
Jonathan Heberlig ’12
Major: Marketing & Human Resource Management
I am happily employed as a student worker in the Honors Program office for the Fox School of Business. Also, I just got a post-graduate job offer from ING Financial Partners!

Ed Zolotarev ’12
Major: Accounting & Finance
I am waiting to hear back from companies about possible full time offers for next fall. I am very excited. I have 2 offers so far. Also, I am preparing for volunteer work for the next season. I will be working with VITA, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, which is an IRS program that involves individuals doing free tax returns for individuals who cannot afford to have their taxes prepared. Furthermore, I am involved in Beta Alpha Psi and we are having community service events throughout the semester. I am very happy with the way things have panned out. While it was difficult to get to this point, balancing 6 classes, jobs, and continuous interviews, the benefits have been great. Temple is a fantastic university and provides a myriad of opportunities for those who are willing to take the necessary steps to attain them.

Christa Mercurio ’13
Major: Kinesiology/Minor: Dance
I worked in a physical therapy practice over the summer and they enjoyed my personality and work ethic so much that they offered me a job after graduation!

Nicole Welk ’12
Major: Art History & Anthropology
I was the public programs intern for the Philadelphia Museum of Art this summer, and am now employed by the museum as a part of the education department. I now organize and staff events and I am currently working on completing an ethnography on how guests in the "Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus" exhibition navigated through the prints gallery. I created an art and anthropology panel (called "Human Legacy through Art") that was accepted into the coming American Anthropological Association Conference, so myself and a few other Temple students will present our resources at a conference in Montreal this November.

Rajvi Patel ’12
Major: English & Secondary Education
So far in my law school admissions cycle, I’ve been accepted to New York University, Cornell, University of California: Los Angeles, Georgetown, Duke, University of Virginia, George Washington, Boston University, Stanford, and University of Pennsylvania!
Rachel Stewart ‘13

Major: Film and Media Arts

I am currently studying abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina. I am taking classes at the Universidad del Cine and working on a few short films, mainly one for a charity organization called Pilotos Solidarios. (http://www.pilotossolidarios.org.ar/) The organization brings medical supplies and doctors to Santiago del Estero, a province in the north of Argentina, because the people live extremely isolated, and as a result it is difficult for them to have medical help. I am also looking for internships/scholarships to return for summer 2012 and have a meeting with the president of the university about one. My host mother also has a charity organization called CreaPaz that I will be able to work for if I come back. I am learning a lot about the culture of Argentina in general and my Spanish has definitely improved. I am studying abroad through IFSA-Butler.

Ava Pitsakis ‘12

Major: Early Childhood/Elementary Education

I have been studying abroad at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. It has been an amazing experience academically and personally. I have explored the Sydney area, attended festivals, art galleries, the Sydney Opera House, and more. For our break, I travelled to Fiji, where I quickly fell in love with the welcoming culture and beautiful landscape. This experience has allowed me to learn so much about cultures, people and the incredible world around me.

Grace d’Entremont ‘13

Major: Early Childhood Education

This semester I’m studying abroad at Temple Rome! I made the decision to graduate a semester late in order to be here, and I’m so glad I did. So far this has been the most wonderful experience of my life, and I’m sure over the next few months it will only get better. I’m taking three art classes and one anthropology class and all of my professors are amazing- definitely experts in their field. The program is so organized, and it really feels like I’m a part of a tight-knit community, even after being here just a little over a month. Seeing the sights that Rome has to offer as well as traveling around the rest of Italy and Europe has been something I wouldn’t trade for anything. I highly recommend anyone considering a study abroad program to take advantage of the opportunity. You’ll meet some of the best people you’ll ever know in some of the best places you’ll ever be!

Ka Li ‘14

Major: Biology/Minor: French

I started learning Spanish in June 2011 to prepare for my study abroad in Panama, which took place in July. During the month in Panama, I was constantly exposed to characteristics unique to Latin American countries. This program was conducted in English; therefore, although most of my friends are from Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia, we all chatted in English. It wasn’t until the time when I came back to the United States that I immediately touched up on my Spanish because I was fascinated by the Latin American culture, history, and most importantly, the Spanish language. I am more excited than ever to take more classes in Spanish, possibly pursue a degree in Spanish, and to take on more opportunities to study abroad and to learn more about the world around me!
Rachel Efstathion ‘13

Major: English/Minor: Russian
I was just selected as a Diamond Peer Teacher for spring 2012. I will be teaching English 802 with Dr. Geoffrey Gust. I am peer teaching for the third time in an Honors section of Freshman Seminar. I am co-chair of the Student Activities event "Temple Give Thanks Together" which is a dinner that aims to promote productive faith based dialogue in the Temple Community event as well as demonstrating the importance of giving back to our community.

Jennifer Tsui ‘12

Major: Accounting
I went to Serbia and Montenegro this summer. I was also elected to be vice-president of Ascend, a student professional organization for accounting and finance majors, for the 2011-2012 semesters.

Andy Roche ‘14

Major: MIS/Marketing
I recently became the marketing director of a 20 person company located in Philadelphia. This company is Chinoki, an online marketing platform that allows customers to sign up for free, to hear about select local businesses and great deals or upcoming events. Our company provides a link between small businesses and customers that does not exist otherwise, and is incredibly beneficial in these times of mass communication when smaller companies get shoved out by the huge companies with big advertising budgets. Because the value of our service increases with the number of people signing up, I was brought on to help get more customers and businesses on board. This position perfectly complements BOTH of my majors, and I am very proud of our marketing campaign we are currently running! This is my first real marketing campaign that I am leading, and I thank all of my Honors Program professors and advisors for helping me get this far and have these opportunities.

Erin Busch ‘13

Major: Music Composition
I am currently beginning a project to put together a short musical (about 30 minutes). I have a playwright and lyricist, and once they're done working on the script, I'll be able to write the musical score. The project is in very early days yet, but hopefully we will be able to arrange a production in the spring!

Charles Bouril ‘13

Major: Film and Media Arts
I was featured in an article that was on the first page of the Inquirer last week about new media artists on the internet. http://www.philly.com/philly/news/20111002_So_you_want_to_get_rich_making_Web_videos_Ask_these_three_locals.html
Sean O'Brien '13

**Major: Film and Media Arts**

For just over a year now, myself and fellow junior Symone Baptiste have been working hard on an ambitious short horror comedy titled "SEX: A Horror Story." Despite the racy name, the film is NOT pornographic, and does not contain any sexual content… you'll just have to watch to find out why we called it that. The film will be made available online to stream for 24 hours starting at midnight on October 22 as a soft premiere. After that, we'll be submitting to festivals in the winter and spring and hopefully seeing all our hard work go on to bigger and better things. With gorgeous footage shot on old Nikon Primes, some outstanding performances, and an orchestrated score, the short almost feels feature length, I can confidently say it gives senior projects a run for their money (and we started it all independently at the age of 19). It would be great to get word out about the film to as many people as possible, especially anyone who might be involved with programming local film festivals. Check it out for yourself on our Facebook and Vimeo pages: http://vimeo.com/sexahorrorstory or https://www.facebook.com/sexahorrorstory

Divya Prakriya '12

**Major: Neuroscience/Minor: Biology & French**

I'm currently co-president of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA). I'm an AmeriCorps Scholar in Service (PA), and I also volunteer at the Philadelphia Veteran Affairs Medical Center.

Dan Butsko ‘14

**Major: Advertising**

This summer, I got a job as a sales representative with Vector Marketing. I received five promotions up to the level of senior advisor and was also asked to be an assistant manager in my office. At the Summer Conference II Competition, I won a 19th place trophy for my sales report of $13,505 in a 16-day period. In addition, I won a bronze medal for sales as an assistant manager at the Conference for Champions. Currently, I am an information desk attendant at the Student Center. I was inducted into the Diamond Leaders this past spring and am beginning my semester as the captain of promotions for the Peer Facilitation Lead Team. I was also inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars recently!

Tyler Lawson ‘15

**Major: Music Education (Voice)**

I was one of two freshmen to be selected for the Temple University Concert Choir!
Sonam Vachhani ‘12
Major: Classical Languages and Literature & Religious Studies/Minor: Sociology
This past summer I went on a volunteering abroad trip to Salvador, Brazil through a program called Cross Cultural Solutions and helped at a children’s home/orphanage. Lately, I’ve been volunteering as a tutor weekly at Dunbar Middle School here in Philadelphia as a member of an enrichment program called AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination). In this program, I help children learn essential skills that will help them succeed in high school and college.

Sophia Christenson ‘14
Major: International Business and Marketing/Minor: French
I’m a student worker in the office of the dean of the Business School, Sony Student Ambassador, the President of French Club, Entrepreneurial Student Association meeting/events recorder, member of Rho Epilson, currently writing a book, and a participant in leadership events/Aspiring Diamond Leader.

Tara Levine ‘15
Major: Undecided (CLA)
I am working with Hillel to do outreach for Jewish Reform students to introduce them to others that share the religion and find out how to make spiritual life on campus more fulfilling. Also in Hillel, I have led song with my guitar at a few Shabbat services, which has brought liveliness to services and made them energetic and relatable. I am also involved with Temple Students for Israel, HAB, and am a new member of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority!

Anne Preston ‘13
Major: Geography and Urban Studies & Environmental Studies
For the past year and a half, I have worked as programs coordinator for Urban Tree Connection, a non-profit that does community development through urban greening in West Philadelphia. I co-manage a 1-acre urban farm, maintain a community garden/orchard/children’s garden and manage after-school programs there twice a week. I also coordinate the summer teen work program, manage volunteers, and this fall am piloting a college prep program for some of the young adults in our programs and staff. My job ties very well into my area of study, and I am always interested in getting students involved, showing them how they can do similar projects in their own neighborhoods or communities.

Julian Spiker ‘12
Major: Economics & Political Science
I just passed my real estate salesperson exam!!! I’m selling real estate part time while going to school!
Maura Smith ‘14

Major: English & History/Minor: German

This summer I worked at the Beasley Law School for the Advancement Office for Alumni. This semester I’m working at the Writing Center, which has been really great so far! I’m also tutoring at Tree House Books, a non-profit afterschool program for students K-12 which includes help with reading, homework, and games. The overall mission of Tree House is to focus on building a community of readers, writers and thinkers in the North Central Philadelphia community. In the spring I’m going to Rome to study abroad through Temple, and am also applying to be part of the five year Master’s in Education + Bachelors of Arts (in English) program. In the summer I hope to complete the Temple German language intensive program in Leipzig, Germany.

Leanna Arnold ‘13

Major: Geography and Urban Studies/Minor: General Business Studies & History

I’m president of Project E.D.U. (Education for the Development of Unity), a distinguished member of Temple University Circle K, a founding member of the Geography/Urban Studies and Environmental Studies Students Major Association (currently in the process of becoming an official Temple University student organization), and a peer advisor at Temple’s Academic Resource Center (home of the Department of University Studies and Continuing Studies).

Amy Stansbury ‘12

Major: Journalism/Minor: Political Science

I started my own blog about sustainability at Temple University called “Why Do We Just Sit?” The blog is a compilation of sustainability themed stories that focus on large amounts of research in attempts to combat the growing sound-byte-only trend of the mainstream media. Hope you like it! http://whydowejustsit.wordpress.com/

Michael Stambaugh ‘12

Major: Music Theory

I perform and write new music for Temple’s ConTemplum Organization. I’m currently compiling a portfolio of compositions to apply to graduate music composition programs, teaching piano lessons for Community Arts Centers in Roxborough, and working with Temple’s Student Film organization to bring composers and directors together.

Kristi Polizzano ‘15

Major: Psychology

In August, I entered in the International Powerlifting Federation World Juniors and Sub-juniors championships held in Moose Jaw, Canada. I challenged people from countries all over the world, and won 4th place!
Boris Kopylov ‘14
**Major: Finance**
I am tutoring at Tree House Books as well as holding workshops with the inside-out prison exchange alumni association. I am also a member of the Temple Investment Association, as well as becoming the recently elected treasurer of the newly formed Temple Rotaract Club. What I am really, really excited for is to hopefully go to Temple Rome next Fall!!

Keegan Wolfe ‘13
**Major: Biochemistry**
I am now a music producer of an electronic/rap music group, and we just filmed a music video on Temple’s Campus. Here is the link:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G80kW3Ot52o

James Long ‘15
**Major: International Business**
I worked as a first-year lifeguard on the beach in North Wildwood, NJ. On my third day, my most significant event of the summer happened when I saved two brothers from drowning in a rip current on July 4. This was perhaps my greatest achievement or most interesting thing to ever happen to me. Later in the summer, I won the Wildwoods Triathlon in my age group and placed 46th out of 459 participants. I will always remember this past summer as one of the best times in my life.

Zack Groff ‘12
**Major: Political Science/Minor: History, Philosophy & Arabic**
I’m running a business that I began in April, called Groff Guitars (www.groffguitars.com). I’m president of TUHSSA (Temple Undergraduate History & Social Sciences Association), director of academic affairs with Temple Student Government, and on the Student Library Advisory Board (SLAB). I go to school full-time at Temple while my wife goes to school full-time at Eastern University. Nevertheless, one of us is always at home with our daughter who just turned 7 months. I also play music, co-lead the youth group, and run the sound team at my church.

Ancy Thomas ‘14
**Major: Accounting/Minor: Management Information Systems**
This summer I became an RA at Temple University. I also attended a summer conference in Atlanta with PricewaterhouseCoopers, which landed me an internship for next summer!
Mary Kate Higgins ‘14

Major: Early Childhood Education (Pre-k-4)

I'm vice president of community relations for College of Education Student Council, a College of Education student ambassador, tutor at Tree House Books, and co-president of Young Friends of Tree House Books. Young Friends of THB is currently coordinating a student coalition called "Make Change" for North Philly. The coalition is teaming up about 14 of Temple's student organizations with a common goal of collecting $1.00 from every Temple undergraduate in order to raise $24,000 for Tree House Books which works directly with elementary school children in the community. We are working to bridge the gap between Temple students and local residents and raising awareness about education inequity.
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