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## Honors Scholars and the Arts

Whether it is through drawing, writing, or music, students in the honors program are expressing their creative side. With a growing number of students in the program, the amount of artistic talent is rising proportionally. These students are finding ways to let the program challenge them in their academic lives as it relates not only to art, but to the rest of their experience at Dominican as well.

**Michael White**, a junior Digital Art major with a Business minor, has been interested in art his whole life. After taking a handful of art classes in high school, he took one year of classes at Dominican as an undeclared student before choosing his major on the basis of both his interest and his talent. The Honors Program, for Michael, has been a way for him to achieve more than he would have otherwise. He expanded one of his art classes into an honors course in a previous semester, and in doing so was motivated to commit more to the class and push himself harder. He has also taken honors classes to fulfill many of his general education requirements, and finds that they have held him to higher standards and have helped him to become more driven in all aspects of academic life. He adds that if a student has the ability and drive to be part of the honors program, there is no reason why he or she should not. The standard to which participation pushes students is beneficial in all



*Junior Jennifer Jensen hard at work in the San Marco art center*

aspects of intellectual life.

Junior **Jennifer Jensen** has found a way to combine her two interests into not only an academic program, but also a future career. As an English major with an emphasis in creative writing and a minor in studio art with a drawing emphasis, she hopes to one day integrate these talents by writing and illustrating children's books, while also working for a pub-

lishing company or magazine. Jennifer has been both drawing and writing for many years, and loves the outlet for creative expression with which it provides her as well as the release from everyday activities. Jennifer has had reason to be thankful for the support of her professors here at Dominican. She says that they have been exceedingly helpful in encouraging her to pursue art on a pro-

fessional level- a challenge which can, at times, be a bit daunting. Her experience in the honors program has been a positive one. Participation, she says, lets students "push themselves harder and achieve the strength that comes with doing the extra work." The classes in the program, which have not always been related to Jennifer's major, can diversify students exposure to other fields of study.

**Timothy Bento-Tibbs**, a sophomore, has been involved in drawing since as far back as he can remember, and is interested in pursuing creative writing as well. His inspiration has been drawn from several artists, such as Pollock, Van Gogh, and Dali, but he says that his work has a completely unique feeling to it that doesn't necessarily show these influences. Tim enjoys the small class size at Dominican and the benefits of having a studio to retreat to in order to work. He hopes

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## Honors Program Opens Doors

The Honors Program went through an extensive overhaul with the help of many faculty here at Dominican. The effect of this was that the Honors Program became more accessible not only to students in general but also to students in very structured majors, such as nursing, education, and occupational therapy. Students in the Honors program must maintain a 3.5 GPA and attend

honors seminars; for students in structured disciplines, this can be a difficult feat.

Many Honors courses now meet certain general education requirements. For instance, there are First Year Foundation courses for honors students; instead of taking Human Cultures, Art and Society or any of the like, students take The World and The Scholar. Through their experiences in

the program, students learn the meaning of the program's theme, "The Scholar in the World."

Students who decide to participate in the Honors program are without question electing a challenging course of study; but for many, it is a worthwhile exercise of mind and body.

**-Kira Maffett**

**L.I.F.E.**

Leaders Initiating Fascinating Explorations, or L.I.F.E., is Dominican's honors club, and students are really getting involved this year. L.I.F.E. co-sponsored, with Career and Internship Services, an event to introduce Dominican students to graduate school opportunities of which they may not have been aware. Plans for this semester include a movie night open to all students on the campus, honors and non-honors alike. For more information on L.I.F.E., contact Rosemary Hobbs at rosemary.hobbs@students.dominican.edu.

**"Be honorable yourself  
if you wish to associate  
with honorable people."  
- Welsh proverb**

**The Arts, cont.**

to become a well-known artist one day, though he has also given thought to teaching the subject himself. Tim feels that the honors program can help push artists to greater lengths, which should already be the tendency of someone who is deeply involved in their art. While he has not taken an art class specifically associated with the honors program, the classes he has taken have been a good experience for him.

Sophomore **Taylor Welty** is working towards a double major in Biology and Music. One of Taylor's honors classes, Self, Community and Service, really opened her eyes to the larger world here in Marin County. This class

**Tackling America's Fear of Public Speaking**

It is possible to beat America's greatest fear - *public speaking*. This has been done for more than 80 years by members of Toastmasters International, whose mission of improving people's communication skills still continues around the world. Toastmasters International has about 200,000 members in 10,000 clubs in 90 countries. This number includes Dominican University of California's branch, the Dominican Toastmasters club, which got chartered in 2005.

The club meetings are not like speech class. Toastmasters learn and practice the art of

speaking, listening, and thinking in a friendly environment. Fun meeting roles include Wordmaster, Jokemaster, and Giver of the Thought of the Day. Often, students practice class presentations and receive constructive evaluation. Dominican Toastmasters aims to serve beyond Dominican. In Spring 2005, Dominican alum Adrianna Bayer and sophomore Diana Hallare organized a book drive for Africa and Asia. BASIC (Brothers and Sisters in Christ) and RSCC (Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Club) also collaborated. More than 2500 books were collected; the pro-

ject won the national Per Capita Book Award from Books for Africa. The funds will be used in future community projects.

For more information, please contact:

Cynthia Dumas at cynthia.dumas@students.dominican.edu

**-Diana Hallare**

Faculty: Dr. Denise Lucy  
Blackboard site: Toast 111  
Meetings: Wed. 5-6 pm at  
Faculty & Staff Dining  
Room (near Creekside)

helped Taylor put her degree into a larger perspective and realize that there is more to pursuing an education than just the pursuit of knowledge itself. She hopes that one day she will be able to use her musical talents to bring happiness into the lives of others. Her specific career goals center more around her Biology degree, but Taylor hopes to be able to teach piano and participate in music for worship services. The benefit of being part of the honors program, for Taylor, has been the push it provides towards academic success. Music majors, she says, can use the program as a way to achieve a truly "rich, well-rounded college experience."

One of the ways in which art students can integrate the program and their talent is by working with a mentor on an honors contract, which often times means an independent project. **Edythe Bresnahan**, the chair of the Art Department, has worked with several art students in their contract pro-

jects over the last few years. She notes that the honors students had a high capacity for making good decisions about their art, a trait which is common to all dedicated students in the department, honors or not. The projects, though, helped these students use their qualities to push themselves further in the development and implementation of their work. She lauds the fact that the format of the contracts requires students to verbally defend their work to such an extent, and found the students "a thrill to work with." The amount of time commitment dedicated to the projects, which is already extensive for anyone involved in art, was another point that struck her as worthy of praise. The level at which honors students had to perform in order to be satisfied with their own work was very high, and that kind of self-motivation is something which can only come from within the students.

**-Rosemary Hobbs**

**Beta Beta Beta  
Honors Society**

*Congratulations to the following honors students, who were inducted into this honors society for Biology students.*

Monika Alas  
Ashley Fale  
Diana Hallare  
Gurleen Sidhu  
Seiha Thorng  
Ashley Wells

**Alpha Chi  
Honors Society**

*Congratulations to the following honors students inducted into Alpha Chi, a national honors society for all disciplines.*

Lisa Abellera  
Debra Kathleen Cozzoli  
Jenna Lee Fussell  
Anne M. Halley  
Jennifer Le Jensen  
Beverly I. Kit  
David C. Martinez  
Ashley Wells  
Desareé D. Williams  
Michael P. White

**Honors Director**

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