

Dominican University
of California

The Angel



Volume 16, Issue 1
October 2007

Editor: Angela Giertych

Writers: Elisabeth Schiffbauer, Anna Lai Mark, Dana Rae Gross,
Janelle Harris, Elizabeth Pardo
Page Layout Artist: Angela Giertych
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jayati Ghosh

Honors Student Highlight



Peter Hoang

is a Pre-Med Junior with a double minor in Chemistry and Mathematics. After graduation, he plans to go to Medical School and become an anesthesiologist. Summer 2007 was a step in the right direction, when he worked as an intern with the Department of Energy in the Hazards Control Department at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Peter created bio-safety compliance surveys to ensure personnel safety in the lab work areas and published a paper on creating new standards and requirements for safety issues while working inside biological safety cabinets. He also conducted research on the fungal pathogen *coccidioidomycosis immitis* (a.k.a. "Valley Fever") with Dr. James Seward of the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF).

"this internship related with the important research aspect of [his] major and allowed [him] to see how much effort and dedication it takes to discover and learn new things in the science field." He is inspired to keep pushing for his dreams. Peter has been offered guaranteed employment at the Lawrence Livermore Lab, and plans to continue his involvement with the organization.

- Dana Rae Gross

Peter states that

First Year Impressions

The World: Nature's Fury

Taught by Professor Matt Davis ("Dr. Disaster"), the course focuses on an almost first-hand account of disaster preparedness and response. Dr. Davis is a pioneer in the field of disaster preparedness research, and has co-authored a brilliant article that was featured in the Australasian Journal of Disaster and Trauma Studies. Our class focuses on a lot of the ideas that he is still researching: risk perception, optimistic bias, locus of control, and disaster preparedness. Dr. Davis teaches about many of the main natural disasters faced by

humans, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, mudslides, tsunamis, and hurricanes. Within these categories, the class focuses on historically important disasters. This course appeals to me because I enjoy studying natural disasters, and Matt gives an interesting historical and psychological perspective. Nature's Fury offers the sort of challenge I always seek in my coursework.

Thanks to "Dr. Disaster," every time I walk into a new building I wonder, "Is this retrofitted?"

- Elizabeth Pardo

The Scholar: Beauty & Cultures

Professor Thomas Burke provides a very free and open-minded atmosphere. He offers up interesting topics for the class to discuss, philosophize, and write about. We are allowed to ask and release those *Why?* questions on paper that everyone dreads answering because there is no true textbook solution. The true idea of Beauty and Cultures is not just to observe beautiful objects, but also to develop a sense of self and explain why people view objects as beautiful.

This course also provides the opportunity to

explore what issues you stand for and develop your own personal beliefs, which is what college is all about and is a top priority of our university. What is the beauty of taking this class? In my personal opinion, this class is truly beautiful because it provides a starting point to analyze the world around us and look at life under the surface. Plus, it provides me with an artistic release from the demanding Science courses of my Biology major.

- Janelle Harris

An Exchange of Sorts

A needle exchange? What in the world is that? As part of my service-learning agreement in conjunction with my honors class, Self/Community: Ethical Theory and Practice, I was about to find out. As part of this course, I am volunteering at the Marin AIDS Project (MAP). The service-learning agreement states that students in this class must complete at least 25 hours working with a community partner. We could choose between two organizations: County Community School and MAP. The justification from my professor, Julia van der Ryn, is that “it enhances student learning while encouraging academic achievement and

personal growth through application of critical thinking and other skills, interaction with people of different backgrounds, and the possibility to explore values and life choices.”

My duties consist of answering phone calls and directing them to the appropriate case manager and greeting anyone who comes into the center. Aside from these tasks, I became interested in learning more about the needle exchange. I attended an orientation about the needle exchange and am excited to attend an actual exchange event. Three nights a week and at certain hours each day, MAP hosts a needle ex-

change so that intravenous drug users can exchange their used, contaminated needles for sterile ones and pick up other supplies such as alcohol wipes, tourniquets and information regarding drug use. At first, I was skeptical and bewildered. Wouldn't this actually perpetuate and promote drug use? Although some people may think this just enables the drug users to keep doing drugs, it is very difficult to tell a drug user to quit. The needle exchange tries to prevent the spread of disease, like HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C, via contaminated needles.

This ethics course is about addressing identity, responsibility and

morality. Part of the course goal, as outlined in the syllabus, is: “How can we best live in community with others?” In order to answer this, we need to go into the community and see and meet all different people from the public. Personally, I do not mind at all. It is important to maintain composure, ensure confidentiality and provide whatever support I can to these people by being free of judgment about them. As a nursing major, working at MAP will greatly contribute to my experience of working with others, especially with those who have chronic diseases.

-Anna Lai Mark

New Year, More Dancing

After a long summer of dancing, I have returned to school to dance even more! This year marks beginning of the second successful year of the growing LINES Ballet BFA Program at Dominican University. With the new year, there is a new class of dancers in the program. The new freshmen class not only consists of dancers from various parts of California, but from all over the country. Dancers have ventured to the program from Massachusetts, Missouri, Colorado, Michigan, and Idaho to name a few.

There are exciting new additions to the faculty. Maurya Kerr, dancer with Alonzo King's LINES Ballet for many years, and a senior faculty member of the LINES Ballet School, will work as mentor and instructor. Returning this year is Yannis Adoniou, also a previous dancer with LINES Ballet and founder of the “multimedia” company KUNST-STOFF. He choreographed with the students last year, and is currently teaching improvisation. Also working with the sophomore class

this year is Brian Fisher, dancer with ODC and the San Francisco Opera Ballet. Working with the freshmen class is Kara Davis, a member of KUNST-STOFF. The students will be working on a piece with Arturo Fernandez, the artistic director of LINES Ballet. Currently in progress are the Alonzo King works “Without Wax,” and “Koto,” which will be performed at the December showcase.

This year marks the 25th anniversary season of Alonzo King's LINES Ballet. The gala performances will take place No-

vember 2-4, and 7-11. The program features two world premieres. Having had the opportunity to observe company rehearsal for the program, I have no doubt that it will be phenomenal.

-Elisabeth Schiffbauer

Honors Director

Jayati Ghosh, Ph.D.

Professor of Business

Phone: (415) 485-3238 (x3238)

E-mail: jghosh@dominican.edu

Office: Bertrand 25C, upstairs

Welcome!

Several people have already expressed an interest in joining the staff...great to have you! It would be lovely to get a male student on the staff. Go ahead— find out more by contacting Dr. Ghosh!!

HONORS SHIRTS FOR SALE



Honors t-shirts now on sale in Dr. Ghosh's office (Bertrand 25B). Only \$11.00!