

Wagner Across the Globe



Education Outside the Classroom

Seven Wagner Students Travel to Israel

Led by Professor Dr. Jeffrey Glanz and Bishop Steven Bouman of the Metropolitan Lutheran Church, seven interfaith students spent ten days traveling and learning in Israel, as part of the 2007 Wagner College Expanding Your Horizon course: Christians, Muslims and Jews: Toward Understanding and Peace. Between trips to Jerusalem, Masada, the Dead Sea, Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, and Tel Aviv, the group met local residents, students, and religious leaders.

They went to see, they went to listen, and they went to try to understand the human dimensions of an unholy situation in a land most holy. They confronted the realities on the ground and gained new understanding of, and appreciation for, the deep complexities that consume Israelis and Palestinians. From this they learned one important lesson: there is no other course than for the many people of Israel to work together for peace.

Before the trip and continuing upon their return, the students learned about the three major faiths, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, in lectures given by Professor Walter Kaelber here at Wagner College. They are all grateful that they had this opportunity and they hope to be able to share all that they have learned with the rest of the Wagner community and beyond.

Rebuilding Lives by Rebuilding Homes

Wagner Students Travel to Katrina-Ravaged Louisiana

Hurricane Katrina may have fallen out of the headlines, but the human toll it exacted will be with us for years and years to come. That realization became apparent to thirty-five Wagner students who helped the Katrina survivors rebuild their lives by helping to rebuild their homes. Little did the students know how seeing the remnants of Katrina firsthand would change their own lives as well. Those thirty-five students, who are members of Wagner's chapter of Habitat for Humanity, traveled to Slidell, Louisiana the week before Christmas during their Winter Break.

As well as building homes, the students also volunteered at a shelter for adolescent mothers as well as a local soup kitchen, where they gave out clothes and toys they purchased the day before.

The most touching and memorable moments of the trip came when the students were able to tour St. Bernard's Parish in the Ninth Ward. St. Bernard's Parish was devastated by Hurricane Katrina, as the storm damaged virtually every structure in the parish. The eye of Katrina passed over the eastern portion of the parish, pushing a 25-foot storm surge into the levees, completely demolishing them. As a result of the 25-foot storm surge, almost the entire parish was flooded, most areas getting between 5 and 12 feet of standing water. An entire community of homes, churches, schools, and stores were wiped out, lives were shattered and families were torn apart.

One observation shared by almost all the students was that it appeared as though Hurricane Katrina had hit yesterday. However, in the midst of mold, debris, and devastation, these students witnessed unwavering compassion, touching generosity, and amazing human spirit from everyone in Louisiana. This trip was an invaluable experience for all those involved.



Hats Off...



...to the Musical Competition Contestants. This year, for the first time, a Musical Composition Contest was held in celebration of the Stanley Drama Awards.

Kathleen Pactong, a junior Arts Administration major from Stormville, NY was declared the winner for her work, "Three Characters" for oboe, clarinet and piano. Ms. Pactong's composition will be premiered on April 16th during the Stanley Drama Awards Ceremony at the Lambs Club on West 59th Street in Manhattan and a recording of the work will be accessible for the next year on the website of the Stanley Drama Awards. "Three Musicians" for two flutes and oboe by senior Music major Megan Winkler was given an honorable mention. Both Ms. Pactong and Ms. Winkler are composition students of Prof. Barbara Wesby and their works, along with those of other composition students, will be performed on a special Composition Recital in the Music Performance Center on the Wagner College Campus on May 5th at 4 PM.

The panel of judges for the competition consisted of Lauren Patsos, '07, Music major, Dorian Lake, '02, alumnus, Prof. Ernie Jackson, '87, alumnus and adjunct professor and Dr. Roger H. Wesby, Associate professor. Prof. Todd Price and Dr. Wesby established the competition, which they intend to hold annually, and designed the guidelines.

...to student's recognized research. The following papers have been selected to appear in the spring 2007 issue of the *Wagner College Forum for Undergraduate Research*. Congratulations to the authors and the faculty who supervised their research! Copies will be available shortly after spring break and sent to each of the authors' home addresses.

"An Experimental Investigation of Free Convection in a Rectangular Enclosure" by Jared Jax

"Interference and its Affect on Short-Term Memory Recall" by Erin Nemeth

"Does a Nurse's Smoking Habits Effect a Patient's Smoking Cessation Education?" by Eileen Magnuski

"Lyrical Memory: Can Music Act as a Mnemonic Device in Order to Enhance Memory Recall?" by Elicia Enriquez

"Voces y Cuerpos Abusados: Representaciones de la Identidad en Nada y Te Doy Mis Ojos" (including an English summary) by Mia Romano

"Female Representations of Science" by Sirena LaBurn

...to the students who attended and presented at the 61st Eastern Colleges Science Conference at College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, the Bronx on April 21, 2007:

Emily Babcock-Petrus, Michael Bois, Daniel Bryant, Raquel Campo, Kimberly Farrell, Irina De Mario, Elicia Enriquez, Christianna Gozzi, Jennifer Hart, Letizia Hobbs, Margarita Javoroncov, Laura Kohberger, Anastasia Kurta, Edmond Kurtovic, Lauren Maltese, Alfred Raccuia, Maris Ruetzel, and Yevgeniy Statnikov. Congratulations to Emily Babcock-Petrus and Letizia Hobbs for each winning two excellence awards, one based upon presentation and the other on their submissions of full length papers.

...to Wagner Hillel members for raising nearly \$2,000 to help fight autism. On April 22, 2007 the group held an afternoon event called Powderpuff Football, where female students participated in a football game and charged a \$2 gate fee. The event was so popular that New York 1 aired a story on the event. All of the money raised went to the Autism Society of America.

...to the participants of the American College Theater Festival



At the recently concluded Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, held January 15-19 at SUNY New Paltz, the 10-student contingent representing Wagner College received high marks throughout the week for their acting work and for their professionalism and preparedness in the many workshops and symposia that they attended.

Of particular note, Wagner senior Andrew Arena was selected as a finalist for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship and Andy's scene partner for the week, Wagner senior Whitney Brannan, was honored as the competition's Most Outstanding Partner.

Respect and congratulations for all attendees, and thanks for all of the campus support for Wagner Theatre!

Watch for Fall Events at Wagner!



GO SEAHAWKS!!

Join us for Homecoming 2007



**Come and cheer for our
Football Team
vs.
Marist College**

Saturday, September 15, 2007

Save the Date!

**Join us for
Family Weekend 2007**

Friday, September 28 — Sunday, September 30



Details online at www.wagner.edu/familyweekend

We hope you can join us!

Have a safe and relaxing summer!!!