

A VERY BILLY CHRISTMAS

Fall 2007 Billy House kids celebrate with Pres. Leo Lambert.



Call for resolutions

By Amanda Kennison, Class of 2010
The Honors Connection Editor

Amazingly it's that time again, the end of the semester, the closing of another year. Where does the time go, right? This time in the school year is always super hectic with last minute projects and finals to worry about. But stay strong! You're almost done.

Clearly, we could all use a little fun in our lives by this point. So, as a special treat allow me to present the first ever Holiday Edition of the Honors Newsletter. You can take a break from the textbook reading, paper writing, and frantic cram sessions for a few moments and enjoy some completely frivolous, holiday cheer. We'll return back to our normally informative and important Honors news next edition. But for now, set back relax and enjoy this strictly entertaining publication.

In honor of the upcoming holidays and New Year, I would like to take a moment to remember what makes this time of the year so important. Regardless of your beliefs, this holiday season proves special for everyone, for whatever reason. You probably don't need me reminding you, but I will anyway. Just keep in mind the truly important things in your life: family, friends, etc. This is a time to give thanks for all the people and things that bring meaning to our lives.

Before I get too overwhelming sappy, let me offer you one challenge. I'm sure you go through this every year, but oh well here it is again. With 2009 literally just weeks away it's time to start that oh-so-lovely list of resolution. For real. True, people rarely every go achieve their resolution, but half the fun is trying. And sitting down and making that list of ways to better yourself, is pretty much as effective as actually succeeding in accomplishing said goals. So, pull out your journal or a blank word document and get cracking. Even simply writing down "I resolve to procrastinate less," provides a much more optimistic view for the future.

The New Year is all about new experiences and new chances. Make your resolution, and you're already half way there to obtaining the desired newness. Plus, if you're completely frazzled 99.9 percent of the time proclaiming your resolution puts life into a clearer perspective.

So I hope you all have fun with that little challenge. Take a deep breath and keep on keeping on. Enjoy the newsletter, and Happy Holidays!

Upcoming events: Mark your calendar

For those of you enrolled in thesis hours, **end-of-semester reports** are due on **Tues., Dec. 9**. Bring your hard-copy report to the Honors office, Alamance 216. It wouldn't hurt to remind your faculty mentor that they have one to do as well!

In order to alleviate some stress, try attending **Cram Jam at 10:30 p.m. in Harden Dec. 10**. Always a good time!

Exams are **Dec. 11-16**, check your course calendars for specific exam times.

Winter Term classes begin **Jan. 6**. Make sure you're back in time from your holiday break!

Looking ahead—the **final thesis workshop** for seniors will be at **3:00 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13**. This meeting will cover formatting and defense—be on the lookout for an email from MVP closer to the date. Good luck seniors!

THE HONORS CONNECTION STAFF

Alexa Milan
Amanda Kennison
Elizabeth Leman
Jenna McNair
Kimberly Duggins
Nichole Rawlings
Shanna Van Beek

Do you enjoy writing, photography or designing? Want to contribute to the newsletter? We'd be glad to have you. Just email: akennison@elon.edu.



Must-sees, maybes & misses

By Alexa Milan, Class of 2010

The holiday season is in full swing, which means it's the time of year when endless marathons of holiday movies and TV specials control the airwaves. Here is a guide to the holiday entertainment most worth watching, and a few classics that may get more credit than they deserve.

Holiday TV Specials

MUST WATCH

A Charlie Brown Christmas:

Perhaps one of the most beloved holiday specials around, Charlie Brown's search for the true meaning of Christmas is sure to warm the hearts of even the grouchiest Scrooges. It will make you want to grab your dog and all of your friends and sing carols around a Christmas tree that's small and shabby, yet perfect all the same.



HONORABLE MENTIONS

How the Grinch Stole Christmas:

This Dr. Seuss special proves that even those with hearts three sizes too small can find joy in the holiday season. The tale of the Grinch's quest to steal Christmas from Whoville stands the test of time.

The Office: A Benihana Christmas:

Between Michael not being able to remember which of his Benihana waitresses is his date, warring Christmas parties and Angela's karaoke rendition of "Little Drummer Boy," this episode is an instant holiday classic.

OVERRATED

The Year Without a Santa Claus and other stop-motion animation specials:

These specials may be holiday favorites for many, but incessant re-airings of "The Year Without a Santa Claus," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" have given this critic a stop-motion overload.



Holiday Movies

MUST WATCH

Love Actually:

This film follows a series of interrelated love stories during the month before Christmas in London and is sure to lift viewers' holiday spirits as they learn that lobsters and whales were, in fact, present at the nativity and that love actually is all around.



HONORABLE MENTIONS

Elf: Will Ferrell plays a man raised by elves who ventures from the North Pole to New York City to find his birth father. His excessive Christmas spirit and quirky nature are sure to bring smiles.

A Muppet Christmas Carol:

Starring Michael Caine as Scrooge and Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy as tje- Cratchits, this Dickens classic is sure to please any Jim Henson fan.

OVERRATED

A Christmas Story:

This film's placement in the "overrated" category is sure to draw a firestorm of criticism from most, but Ralphie's quest for a Red Ryder BB gun overshadows underrated holiday fare with its 24-hour TNT marathons.



Fantasy Fudge



- 3 cups sugar
- 3/4 cup margarine
- 2/3 cup evaporated milk
- 1 12-oz. package semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 7-oz. jar marshmallow crème
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Combine sugar, margarine, and milk in heavy 2 1/2 quart saucepan; bring to a full rolling boil, stirring constantly. Continue boiling 5 minutes over medium heat, stirring constantly to prevent scorching. Remove from heat; stir in chocolate pieces until melted. Add marshmallow crème, nuts, and vanilla; beat until well blended. Pour into greased 13 x 9-inch pan. Cool at room temperature; cut into squares. Makes 3 lbs.

Tasty Treats

Compiled by
Kimberly
Duggins
Class of 2010

Festive Holiday Mix

- A handful of snowballs (1 bag marshmallows)
- A string of festive lights (1 bag holiday M&M's)
- A few reindeer antlers (1 bag pretzels)
- A sprinkling of reindeer food (1 box raisins)
- A forest of evergreen trees (1 bag tree-shaped marshmallows)

Mix together for a wonderful treat!

Santa Cookies

- 1 package Nutter Butter cookies
- 1 lb. white chocolate
- 1 tube each red and black icing
- Red sugar



Melt the white chocolate, following the directions on the package. Dip one end of each cookie in the chocolate and set aside on wax paper. Allow to cool (refrigerator will quicken cooling). Dip opposite end of each cookie into the white chocolate and set aside on wax paper. Carefully sprinkle the tops with the red sugar to make a hat. Add a drop of white chocolate on top of the sugar to make the ball of the hat, dipping the handle end of a teaspoon into white chocolate and lightly touching it to the cookie. Add a face with the tubes of decorator icing.

A holiday PSA: It's time to give back

By Jenna McNair, Class of 2010

We all look forward to the holidays, right? But as the time period to recuperate from the massive amounts of sugar consumed on Halloween seems to shrink every year (hey Wal-Mart, what's up with the Christmas decorations the day after Halloween?) and Thanksgiving apparently concerns itself less with the giving of thanks and more with the trampling and bodily harm of persons on Black Friday, Christmas itself begins to lose some of its luster.

By the time Dec. 25 arrives, we're already Christmased-out. And for those who don't celebrate the holiday, the inundation is even worse.

What to do, other than consume even more massive amounts of unhealthy but delicious food? My personal favorite is holding a "random act of kindness day."

You make other people happy, you feel happy, and it's in line with the ever-so-elusive spirit of the holiday season. It's a great way to give back because you can do it creatively. People on a budget, take note!

Some of the most fun acts of random kindness have been buying a hundred pack of popsicles and handing them out at a stop light (admittedly, this is a better done in the summer), driving around my neighborhood until I see someone doing yard work and offering to help, paying for the coffee order of the person in the car behind you, giving out free hugs, and taking left over party food to the local fire station.

Be expansive in your ideas - make somebody else happy, be it family or a stranger.

Don't give in to commercialization, even if for nothing else but the state of your own mind.

Enjoy the break (or semi-break) from work and stress and embrace the love. Be happy these holidays!

'Twas the night before Christmas...

Compiled by
Nichole Rawlings
Class of 2010

Here are a few of your classmates' favorite memories and traditions from holidays past. Be safe and have fun this holiday—focus on making your own memories!

Once my brother and I rolled huge snowballs (about my size). We put three in the street, blocking traffic. was a real hazard.

When I was 6 or 7, my brother and I left Santa pickles instead of cookies and milk.

One Christmas Eve, I snuck downstairs, dumped out my brother's stocking and replaced his stocking stuffers with a lump of coal. The next morning my brother was seriously distraught, and my parents were so confused. It was fantastic!

My mom and I started a new tradition recently: I get to help her play Santa Claus. After my little sisters go to bed we stay up until 4 a.m. wrapping presents, separating Santa's gifts from family gifts and eating Santa's cookies. Besides not wanting to wake up to open my own presents in the morning, it's a fun, mother-daughter bonding experience.

When I was little, my brother and I used to hang Christmas stockings on our bedroom doors and our parents would fill them with candy and toys after we went to sleep. Then, in the middle of the night, I would wake up in Christmas excitement and sneak out of bed to investigate the contents of my stocking with a flashlight, trying to be as quiet as possible.

On Christmas Eve, we turn off the lights and sing carols around our tree while it's all lit up.

A few Christmases ago, my unce revealed that he and his friends used to coat our bedroom doors with hairspray and light them on fire for fun. I'm lucky I survived the escapades of teenage boys.

Our family always has beignets for brunch on Christmas morning. Yum!

I live by the water, and every year there is a boat parade. All the boats are decorated with battery-powered Christmas lights and sail around lit up—it's really pretty.

Lisa Bodine: St. Andrews, Scotland

Living abroad has been an eye opening experience. The University of St. Andrews has an extremely international student body so I've been able to meet students from all over the world.

I love hearing about all my fellow students' home countries and their cultures. Soon I get to visit some of these countries.

This weekend I visit Dublin; next weekend I'll be in London; and the following I'll be in the Scottish Highlands.

During my fall break I will visit Berlin, Prague, and Vienna. I'm already bouncing with excitement about all of the sites I'm going to see and the adventures I'm going to have.

Catch up with Lisa at www.lisainscotland.blogspot.com.

London, England: Molly McGowan

I know it sounds cliché, like straight out of an Honors Fellows pamphlet about Study Abroad, but being in London has afforded me so many unique opportunities!

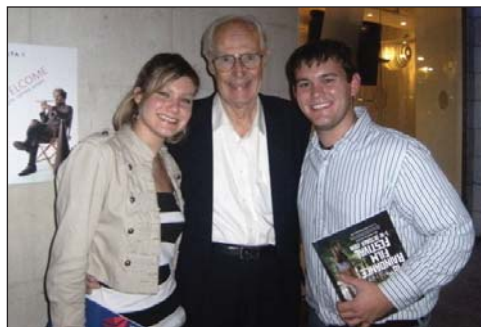
For instance, I'm in a euphoric state about how many theatre productions (including West End!) I'm getting to see.

I love my internship, and the connections I've made here are very promising.

In fact, I've already helped with the pre-production of a small film, set to premiere next week!

Cheers from London!

Want to know more about Molly's semester in London? Email her at mmcgowan@elon.edu.

**International round-up: Fellows abroad**

I live in a student dorm with my own room and a bathroom and big kitchen down the hall.

My program is mostly in English, but there are students from 27 different countries. It's so fun meeting other people!

The school tries hard to make us feel included. They had an initiation weekend when we all went to South France and went camping and canoeing (my partner was a sexy Frenchman). On the bus ride, we learned French songs, including their version of "I know a song that gets on everybody's nerves."

I went to Perouges, a tiny medieval town about 30 minutes from Lyon, with some girls from the program. Apparently it's really famous and a lot of movies are filmed there.

This past weekend I visited my dad in Paris and we had such a good time. I'm also planning a trip to Barcelona for this coming weekend.

Today, the school is taking us to Beaujolais region for a wine tour.

**Stephanie Allen:** Lyon, France

Studying abroad is strange, in a good way, but strange nonetheless.

New culture(s), new people, a different pace, different daily expectations, altered routines - adjusting to all of these differences, among others, is half the experience.

I've learned more in St. Andrews in a month than I

**St. Andrews, Scotland: Jon Mahlandt**

might expect to learn in a year at home - not because the classroom work is especially thought-provoking, but because every part of my day involves learning, involves adapting.

And being so close to so many other countries, and thereby so many other cultures, is an incredible privilege, and one that I'll definitely be taking advantage of over the next few months.

So far I'm planning on traveling to Ireland, England, France, Switzerland, and many other regions of Scotland.

Jon doesn't have a blog, but if you'd like to hear more about his experience, shoot him an email at jmahlandt@elon.edu.

THE FANTASTIC FOUR: MEET YOUR FELLOW FELLOWS



DANIEL SHUTT
Class of 2009

Daniel is from Pineville, N.C. and double majoring in Political Science and Religious Studies.

His favorite quote, by Robert F. Kennedy, says it all, "Like it or not, we live in interesting times."

At the age of 5 or 6, Daniel asked for and received from Santa a toy saxophone. He idolized Bill Clinton's saxophone skills and wanted to begin preparing for his own saxophone wielding presidency - of his fifth grade class.

Having been president, his goal now is to be a father. "That's the only job I care about having," he said.

While he'll take on the challenge of parenthood, he'll pass on exotic dishes. He prefers "really boring" food.

Daniel is fascinated by the "distinct and complex subculture built up around science fiction." This is not to say Daniel is glued to the Sci-Fi channel; rather, he is fascinated by being part of a culture that has "its own separate rules and rationality."

You might find Daniel contemplating this in the library, but will more likely find him engaging in his best deliberation off-campus.

Feel free to get in touch with Daniel at DShutt@elon.edu; ask him to play a game of Nerf basketball. Daniel's Nerf skills rival his toy saxophone proficiency.



JORDAN FREDERICK
Class of 2010

This little ball of energy proves the best things come in small packages. An English major from Charlotte, N.C., her ambition will amaze you.

The quote, "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm," basically defines Jordan's enthusiastic life.

Jordan is involved in numerous activities - working at the Truitt Center, leading a local children's choir, crafting in the costume shop - she never stops.

Within the next 10 years, Jordan hopes to be in London teaching at a prestigious university, in Bath working in the Jane Austen Museum, or in Africa teaching English.

Though her future seem intense, Jordan is actually quite the fun-loving person. Known as Bella, for her awesome obsession with Harry Potter's Bellatrix Lestrange, there's nothing Jordan loves more than staging a game of Quidditch under the oaks. (Well, maybe opossums.

Actually she probably loves opossums much more.) And if you're ever in the mood for some great dulcimer playing, Jordan is your go to girl.

Want to get to know Jordan better, maybe see her double-jointed toes in action? Email her at jfrederick4@elon.edu. If you're lucky you'll find her decked out in cat pajamas, chilling in her favorite study place: the big green bean bag chair, Tom.



CHRIS JARRETT
Class of 2011

Chris, from Richmond, V.A., is pursuing a majors in International Studies and Spanish and a minor in Latin American Studies.

This summer, he worked in the Dominican Republic, teaching English, building two houses and organizing a preschool program. He considers his work there a huge accomplishment "in terms of foreign language knowledge, cultural awareness, and sustainable community development."

Back on Elon's campus, Chris likes to rock in the chairs outside the religious studies pavilion. You might find him there pondering his ideal life in 10 years - a wife, a comfortable but modest home and a life spent on social development projects in Latin America.

His favorite quote, by the aboriginal activist Lila Watson, suits him well: "If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. If you have come because your liberation is wrapped up in mine, let us work together."

Chris is heading to Haiti this month and to Peru over spring break on service trips.

In his spare time, Chris enjoys the cello and eating a favorite meal of his: beans, pasta and marinara sauce.

Contact Chris at CJarrett3@elon.edu and make sure to ask him to lick his elbow- he claims he can.



MAE LANGFORD
Class of 2012

Mae is Exercise Sports Science major from Hillsborough, N.C. Ten years from now, she hopes to see herself as a "physical therapist somewhere in North Carolina married to a great guy."

And a very lucky husband she would have indeed- this talented lady can voluntarily flare her nostrils! He'll have to accept her food quirks, though, as she snubs chocolate, mayonnaise and salad dressing.

Mae has loves lending a hand and considers the day she helped a young boy pass algebra a pinnacle moment. She explains, "It was his third time taking the class, and he needed to pass. When he finally passed, he was so happy. It was a great day!"

Another great day for Mae came in Baltimore during a New Year's celebration. She enjoyed Maryland crab cakes and the aquarium with her family.

Besides enjoying the Baltimore culture, Mae would thrive in the Roaring Twenties. She "would love to wear dresses and go dancing." She thinks it would be an exciting time to be alive.

Can't get enough of this nostril-flaring dancing queen? Email her at mlangford@elon.edu or catch her studying in her friend's room. Don't forget to wish her a happy birthday over fake break!