Dear Binghamton University Scholars,

Directing the Scholars Program for the past year has been a wonderful experience. I have met so many wonderful student Scholars and I am honored to be Director of the Scholars Program.

I hope that all Scholars have noticed the improvements made to the Scholars Program over the past year, but even if you have not been in a position to notice, I can assure you that much work has been done and many people are working hard to constantly improve the program.

Scholars Mission:

The Scholars Advisory Board has reworded the mission/goals statement to help guide our decisions. When the mission/goals are in final form, details will be provided. For now, the foundations of the mission are:

- Intellectual Excellence
- Values
- Community
- Experiential Perspectives
- Leadership
- Entrepreneurship
- Wellness

Scholars Social Events:

With the wonderful energy of the Scholars Student Council, a host of Scholars social programs have been offered to get all the Scholars connected in a relaxed and informal setting including a Welcome Back Dinner in August, a Welcome Back party in February, apple picking, holiday parties, and more.

Scholars Clothing:

Due to the leadership of members of the Scholars Student Council, we now have our first-ever Scholars clothing. I am very excited in anticipation of seeing the word SCHOLAR on clothing across campus.
Scholars Print Station:
The Scholars Program has a printer for the exclusive use of Scholars. While there are a few restrictions on availability of the printer, I feel that it is a valuable offering to those who take advantage of it. Hours of operation are posted on the Scholars Office door in the CIW Library.

NEW! Scholars Recognition Ceremony
An end of year Scholars Recognition Ceremony will be held April 10. Seven awards will be given to outstanding Scholars.

NEW! Scholars Learning Community in Newing College:
All new Scholars will live in Endicott Hall in the Newing College Community. Endicott Hall will open for the first time in Fall 2011.

NEW! RETURNING SCHOLARS:
The Scholars Leadership Community will be up and running in Newing College (Endicott Hall) this fall. A new opportunity has been made available through Residence Life and the Scholars Program for returning Scholars interested in leadership
- Targets junior/senior Scholars
- Accommodates up to 6 Scholars
- Three rooms next to each other off the same hallway
- 6 beds total (2 each room)

The Future of the Scholars Program:
The Scholars Advisory Board is working hard on determining the best direction for the Scholars Program. We have worked out a set of goals for the Program and are now working on a plan to implement those goals. The goals we have in mind may or may not fit into the existing Scholars structure, so we may be reworking the entire program or making a few adjustments; but good things are coming.

The Scholars Student Council has been very active and I am thankful for the gifted student leaders who serve on the Council. I am sure the Council will continue to provide a host of opportunities for Scholars.

In Summary
I hope you have received several emails from me announcing special opportunities for Scholars. I have been, and will continue, meeting with student Scholars, the Scholars Graduate Assistants, the Scholars Advisory Board, the Scholars Student Council, staff, faculty and anyone else who has an opinion regarding the Scholars Program so that I can learn as much as possible about what everyone feels it will take for BU to have a first rate program that is academically rewarding, enjoyable and fun. In particular, I want to know how you, our prized Scholars, feel about the Scholars Program, including what is working well, what is not working well, and what new things I can do to enhance your experience as a Scholar. I am honored to be the Director of the Binghamton Scholars Program, and even more honored to be able to assist you - the best and brightest at Binghamton University (or anywhere else). I look forward to working with you to help provide the best possible experience during the time you spend with us.

Sincerely,
Professor Ziegler

Professor William Ziegler
Director – Binghamton University Scholars Program
Faculty Master – Newing College
Associate Professor – Computer Science
Principal Investigator – Federal Aviation Administration #10g-009
“How Things Get Done”

Professor Ziegler could not get through the day without the help of many people devoted to the Scholars Program. Here is his message about who helps to “get things done” for the program.

Mary LaCourt, Scholars Administrative Assistant, is busy every day running the office. One thing that caught me completely by surprise as Director, is how busy things are in the Scholars Office. Mary works non-stop even on her days off and even when she has been ill she has worked from home. In the simplest of terms; without Mary, we would not be able to have a Scholars Program.

Mary Davis, Scholar’s Graduate Assistant (and former Scholar) has been very busy teaching SCHL 227, meeting with Scholars, and meeting with me weekly to discuss the Scholars Program. She is a great asset to the program and a great resource for student Scholars.

Scholars Student Council: I value and appreciate the work done by many Scholars for the benefit of all of the students in the Scholars Program. Many Scholars have helped enhance the Scholars Program in a number of ways. I hate to mention names, because without a doubt, some people will feel hurt to not have been included. However, I would be doing an even bigger disservice to not mention the three Scholars who I work with the most:

Rachel Szalkiewicz, President of the Scholars Student Council checks in with me regularly to discuss the work of the Student Council. I also see her regularly at meetings of the Scholars Advisory Board, of which she is a valued member and provides a student perspective of the Scholars Program.

Eliza Anderson, Vice President of the Scholars Student Council checks in with me regularly and she is a great Scholars advocate. She always has Scholars on her mind and works hard to make the program better for all student Scholars.

Maura McDevitt, Academic Enrichment Coordinator of the Scholars Student Council has been working hard on several projects for Scholars. I see her on many occasions working on behalf of all Scholars.

Scholars Advisory Board:

I have formed a Scholars Program Advisory Board consisting of a dozen faculty members, students and administrators from across campus. Every school/college at BU that has an undergraduate program is represented as are the Division of Student Affairs, Admissions, and The Scholars Student Council. The Advisory Board provides guidance to the program from a perspective that covers the entire university. The members of the Advisory Board are:

William Ziegler
Director – Binghamton University
Scholars Program
Associate Professor – Computer Science
Faculty Master – Newing College;
Principal Investigator - Federal Aviation Administration #10g-009
Special Shout Outs

Congratulations to Scholars
Maura McDevitt, Emily Greene, Eliza Anderson, and Cathy Hao.

I am very proud to announce the following outstanding accomplishments by Scholars:

Maura McDevitt, Scholar and undergraduate majoring in English and Political Science has had her paper, *The Historical Transformation of Arthurian Literature*, accepted for presentation at the 2011 Northeast Regional Honors Conference in Portland, Maine, March 31-April 3, 2011.

Emily M. Greene, (Eriks Rozners), Scholar and undergraduate in the Department of Chemistry has been invited to give a presentation titled, *Hydration of 2'-Fluoro Modified RNA* at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research being held at Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY, March 31 – April 2, 2011.

Eliza Anderson, Scholar and undergraduate junior in Harpur College will present, *Prisons: An Incubator for Disease* at the North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology Conference in Toronto, June 2-4, 2011 as part of a symposium on the health and wellness of long-term prisoners.

Catherine Hao, Scholar and undergraduate sophomore majoring in Biochemistry and Integrated Neuroscience, will present *The Effect of HIF2-alpha on Cell Growth and Cell Survival* at the Undergraduate Research Symposium, Columbia University, April 2-3, 2011.
Timeline of Scholars Events

So many events for Scholars were held this past fall semester. Miss any? Read to see what’s been going on.

On August 29, 2010, we had the first ever Beginning of the Year Banquet. The purpose of this event was to welcome the new students who have been accepted into the Scholars program, as well as returning Scholars. The Scholars Student Council, some Binghamton University administrators, and several faculty members were introduced. This banquet gave all a chance to connect with each other as we began an exciting year. Over 90 students and faculty members attended, setting the right start to a semester filled with fun events. It was great opportunity for students to make new friends and be introduced to the Scholars Program. We had buffet catered by Gance’s for everyone during the event.

With fall in the air, we took a trip to Fiato’s Apple Farm. Though most of the apples had already been harvested, we had quite a time scavenging for the few good apples clinging to the trees. After our picking was done, we had a feast of apples, doughnuts, cider, and cheese. We also took a peek at the goats and chickens at the petting zoo while we finished our picnic.

What’s the best thing to do with a bag full of fresh-picked apples? Make caramel apples of course! During our Scholars Fall Party we did just that, providing all sorts of dips, decorations, and even a fondue pot so each scholar could create their perfect autumn treat. We also had a pumpkin carving contest, with five teams ultimately crafting five very different pumpkins. The winning pumpkin was truly an amazing creation! Halloween candy was plentiful, every apple was eaten, and a good time was had by all.

A large group of scholars gathered for an exciting trip to the Animal Care Alliance in Endicott and got the chance to play with homeless cats. The animal shelter had different areas for the cats, including a pen just for kittens. Upstairs, the animal shelter cared for a snow white cat and a golden cat with a long coat of fur. They were definitely some of the cutest kitties we have seen. Two of the cats even sat on one scholar’s lap for over an hour while he petted them. Everyone had a great time playing and brushing these adorable animals, and the shelter
really appreciated our visit. After our adventure, we took a trip to Cold Stone Creamery for a free cup of ice cream.

The Scholars Program hosted the Career Development Center (CDC) for its first Scholars Interview and Résumé Workshop. Wren Fritsky, a CDC counselor, came prepared with handouts and information on how to make participation in the Scholars Program part of a competitive résumé, and how to best highlight the Scholars experience in interviews. Ms. Fritsky fielded questions across the spectrum on a multitude of career fields and adjoining graduate school applications. The event was immensely enlightening to all and the Scholars Council hopes to hold a similar endeavor this spring!

Let’s pause on December 7th, when the scholar council hosted its second annual holiday party. There was a little something for everyone, whether it was learning how to play dreidel, building a gingerbread house, or decorating an ornament. As finals were approaching, we also made stress balls, since they were such a popular item at our Frost Fest table. There were plenty of refreshments to go around, including traditional holiday favorites like eggnog and cookie decorating. Scholars Director, Professor Ziegler, even stopped by to partake in the festivities. To top it off, we screened the ever-popular “claymation” classic *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.

**Craft and Games Event** — We helped enrich the scholars’ gallery on March 2nd by creating pieces for this show, currently being assembled in the scholars section of the CIW library.

Did you miss out on any of these great events? Don’t worry. There are plenty of activities planned this semester. Here are some of the many ideas for events this semester.

**Late Nite Coffee House Event**

**Spring Fling Table** — With the stress ball-making table at Frost Fest an instant success, we plan on making an appearance at Spring Fling as well.

**Cinco de Mayo Party** — Back by popular demand this year. This will also serve as a forum to elect the new members of the Scholars Council.

**End of the Year Banquet**

Join us April 10th from 3 to 5 for an end of the year celebration to commemorate the successes of the Binghamton Scholars. The dinner will be catered by Sodexo and feature an awards ceremony to honor those scholars who have excelled above and beyond this past year.

Have additional ideas? Feel free to email any of the members of the Scholars Council.
Meet the Scholars Council
2010-2011

Rachel Szalkiewicz
President

I am currently a senior double majoring in Chemistry and Economics. Along with being the President of the Scholars Council, I am also the fill-in GA for this semester, a kitchen manager at Chabad, a tutor in CIW, and the director of High Hopes. I love playing intramural sports, including basketball and bowling. During my free time, I love watching Food Network and Travel TV.

Eliza Anderson
Vice President

I am a junior studying Molecular Integrative Neuroscience and Spanish. I am currently doing research on written expression and bilingualism in a campus neuropsychology lab. I'm also pre-med, and an active member of Binghamton SIFE. I love skiing, traveling to exotic lands, and scraping together funds to attend concerts. I am slightly fanatical about organizing an annual trip for scholars that could satisfy the scholars III experiential learning requirement.

Cathy Hao
Community Service Coordinator

I am studying Biochemistry and Integrated Neuroscience, and this is my sophomore year at Binghamton. I have volunteered abroad in Kenya and Guatemala, and have done summer research at Michigan Medical School, doing cancer research with Dr. Susannah Gal. I am a pre-health advisor with the intent to attend medical school. In my spare time, I hope to travel the world!

Maura McDevitt
Academic Enrichment Coordinator

I am a junior, double majoring in English and Political Science; I hope to attend law school in the future. I am currently a Resident Assistant in Hunter, up in Mountainview, and an Undergraduate Admissions Tour Guide. I pride myself in being a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda, Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges, National Residence Hall Honorary, and SafeZone. In my spare time, I compete in adventure races, kayak, ski, and read copious amounts of books with gilded pages.
Abby Cohen  
**Public Relations Coordinator**

I am a senior at Binghamton, triple-majoring in Human Development, Spanish and Philosophy, Politics and Law. Aside from my activities within the Scholars Program, I am the Executive Secretary of Phi Sigma Iota, the foreign language honor society. I also play clarinet in the University Wind Symphony, serve as a Human Development Peer Adviser and as member of the University Student Conduct Board.

Ben Elling  
**Secretary**

I’m a sophomore Biochemistry here at Binghamton. When not taking notes at Scholars Council meetings, I am often involved in premier dance performances, taking voice lessons, editing, reediting, and submitting my novel for review, and plenty of other activities that are a lot more masculine than they sound.

Katherine Lee  
**Treasurer**

I am a junior who’s majoring in Computer science. Here at Binghamton, I am a tutor for Upsilon Pi Epsilon, the International Honor Society for the Computing Sciences, and a teaching assistant for Astronomy. I am a Rotaract member and act as a building representative in Susquehanna.

Allison Willner  
**Social Coordinator**

I am a senior majoring in English with a concentration in Creative Writing. While not planning fun scholars events (read: picking up off-brand tortilla chips at the dollar store) I edit and publish literary journal The Flamboyant Cuttlefish, work as a freelance artist, TA for the Engineering Design department, and work on my novel.

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**Want to Join the Council**

Do you have ideas of how to improve the Scholars Program? Do you want to help organize both social and educational events? Run for a position on the Scholars Council for the 2011-2012 academic year. Stay tuned for announcements of how to submit your letter of intent.