SCHOLARS PROGRAM
Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Binghamton University Scholars Magazine. The Magazine has been created from start to finish by our undergraduate Scholars under the direction of graduate student and former Scholar, Aubrey Bertin, and I could not be more proud of them. The intent of the Scholars Magazine is to inform the Binghamton University campus (and beyond) about our incredible Scholars, what they have to offer, and what they are accomplishing while at Binghamton University.

The Scholars program has undergone many changes since I became the director just a little over two years ago without losing sight of the great vision of the Program’s former directors. The vision is to gather the best and brightest students on the planet, provide them a cohesive living/learning community of their peers in conjunction with extraordinary opportunities to pursue their academic, personal, and professional goals, and to share their talents with the greater community. In the spirit of opportunity and community, all freshmen Scholars now live in the Scholars Learning Community in Endicott Hall of the Newing College residential community with options to remain together for all four years. Scholars take several courses together for their first two years and then branch out in their final two years. As has always been a hallmark of the Scholars Program, our instructors are the best of the best and the students are fortunate to have their dedication to the Program.

For the first time, the Scholars Program will formally accept several sophomores and transfer students beginning in the 2012-2013 academic year. A newly created Scholars Advisory Board made up of distinguished faculty, administrators, and Scholars at Binghamton does an outstanding job in providing guidance to the Program. Our Scholars Council consists of student leaders who offer an insightful student perspective to the Program as well as a host of social and professional activities for all of our Scholars. The new Scholars Leadership and Mentoring Community consists of seasoned Scholars who mentor newer Scholars through their early years at Binghamton and this has proven to be an invaluable addition to the Program.

Within the pages of this issue of the Scholars Magazine, you can read more about our Scholars students and our program. In particular, you will get a glimpse of the world-class students we have right here at Binghamton University. Scholars Maura McDevitt, Eliza Anderson, and Steven Nowicki are highlighted and are just a few examples of the tremendously talented Scholars that graduate from Binghamton University every year.

I have never been more proud of our student Scholars and am honored to be Director of the Binghamton University Scholars Program. From work-study, to research, internships, graduate assistants and permanent employment, you will never be disappointed if you choose a Binghamton University Scholar.

Sincerely,

Bill Ziegler
Professor William Ziegler
Director - Binghamton University Scholars Program
Faculty Master - Newing College
Associate Professor - T.J. Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science
Principal Investigator - Federal Aviation Administration 10g-009
Chair - Personal Safety Advisory Committee

Advisory Board

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

Mary LaCourt
Administrative Assistant - Binghamton University Scholars Program

David Campbell – College of Community & Public Affairs
Department Chairman and Associate Professor – Public Administration
Director - Philanthropy Incubator

Anthony Preus – Harpur College
Distinguished Teaching Professor – Philosophy Faculty Master - College in the Woods

C. Robert Emerson – Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science
Professor Former Chair and Associate Dean - Watson School

Ann Franczek – School of Nursing
Clinical Associate Professor Former Chair and Associate Dean - Watson School

Kimberly Jaussi – School of Management
Associate Professor

Elizabeth Carter – Student Affairs Division
Executive Director – Student Services

Andy Morris – Admissions
Associate Director – Admissions

Eliza Anderson – Student Representative

Maura McDevitt – Student Representative

Chair – Personal Safety Advisory Committee
When Professor William Ziegler took control of the Binghamton University Scholars Program as Scholars Director two years ago, it was a very different program. Each of the former Scholars Directors has had their own vision for the program, and each worked diligently to make those visions a reality. However, William Ziegler wanted to take the program in a different direction: “I have a completely different vision that evolved from my very first days as Director. I held open forums and invited every Scholar to attend and to help me understand just three things: what they liked about the Scholars Program, what they did not like, and what they wanted.” The response of many of the Scholars was that they didn’t feel like they were Scholars; they did not feel connected to a community. “They felt the Scholars Program was just a set of requirements with no real reward,” explains Ziegler.

It was then that Ziegler realized what changes needed to be implemented. “I saw this as a mandate to make each Scholar feel like they were Scholars and that they were part of something, something very good. I decided we needed to be a family of Scholars, and that the Scholars Program would be a program of opportunity.”

That brings the Scholars together and creates a strong sense of family and cooperation. This is accomplished through weekly dinners together, trips off campus, and fun events where Scholars can get to know each other. In this way, the Scholars Program is working to create a sense of community and belonging for Scholars starting their freshman year.

In terms of creating a program of opportunity, Ziegler has taken a very hands-on approach. “I try to constantly make Scholars aware of every opportunity I am aware of that may be beneficial. Quite regularly I email the Scholars about opportunities that I feel might interest them… Scholars are given the opportunity and encouraged to give presentations at national conferences,” says Ziegler. Scholars are given the tools necessary to take advantage of a multitude of opportunities they may not have otherwise known about.

The Scholars Program has had many different permutations over the years, and each has had positive degrees of success. With each new Scholars Director, things have changed and the program has evolved, and this is no different with Professor Ziegler. With each evolution, the Scholars Program has grown towards a new future, and we look forward to the progress and changes to come.

### SCHOLARS COUNCIL

**Leaders among leaders**

- **President:** Maura McDevitt (’12)
- **Vice President:** Ryan Ganzenmuller (’12)
- **Secretary:** Maeve Murray (’12)
- **Treasurer:** Joe Carloni (’12)
- **Academic Enrichment Coordinator:** Sukyong (Suki) Jung (’13)
- **Community Service Coordinator:** Dana Wellesley-Stein (’12)
- **Social Coordinator:** Jason Guss (’12)
- **Public Relations:** Bridget Murphy (’15)
- **Freshmen Representative:** Maura Lewis (’15)

**The Council provides the members of the Scholars Program with a variety of activities, programs, trips, and opportunities in order to enrich all parts of the mind. They are elected by their fellow Scholars at the end of each year to serve for the next. It is the Council’s job to make sure its students are being challenged academically and socializing in the process. The Council keeps the Scholars up to date on potential service projects that can be completed as a community. The following are only a few of the various activities the Council has organized:**

**Field Trips**
- Museum of the Earth
- Liberty Bell in Philadelphia
- Kopernik Observatory

**Making Connections**
- Twitter account
- Facebook group
- Stylish apparel

**Enrichment Activities**
- Open Mic Night
- Bowling
- Ice Cream Socials
- Friday Night Dinner Table
- Holiday Get-Togethers
When one pictures a Scholar, he or she may be inclined to imagine a stuffy, aloof individual who likes to steer clear of fellow human beings and spend time alone in the library talking to themselves or to books. In all fairness, some of the greatest scholars of history really did bear some semblance of this image. Newton was entirely asexual and did the majority of his work holed up in a cabin in the middle of nowhere. Nevertheless, this is not the norm! Scholars at Binghamton University are expected not just to read books and pass tests, but also to take their knowledge and do something with it. Scholars 227 classes Leadership and Achieving Goals are courses that are focused on the community as well as applying strategies to open-ended design questions about the community. They truly reflect the scholars’ spirit of combining academic and societal pursuits. This year three projects were offered within the course: SAT tutoring, Science Fair Mentorship, and the University’s very first Scholars Magazine.

SAT tutoring is a highly sought-after service. In this project, BU Scholars tutored SAT and PSAT prep workshops twice a week for youth identified by the Broome County Urban League. The goal is to provide these free services to disenfranchised students to reduce the preparation disparity for these tests. Student group leader Dana Hall reports that every class period is spent preparing lessons and gathering necessary materials, but the real heart of the project rests in the connections with students. They assess each individual’s strengths and weaknesses and can note marked improvement with each passing week. Dana feels confident that they are making a different in kids’ lives and bringing them one step closer to college.

The Science Fair Mentorship program paired Binghamton University Scholars with middle school students from Seton Catholic Central School to help them prepare for the Tri Region Science and Engineering Fair. Scholars in this branch made contact with their mentees during the break and then began to hold meetings in person once the semester commenced. They helped guide the middle school students through the checkpoints of their project and eventually attended the Science Fair at Onondaga Community College. Scholar Zach Zeller led a team of students to test differences in peripheral visions among different age groups. He helped them analyze data and wrote up their experiment in an appropriate scientific manner. He and his mentees achieved an exemplary learning combination, placing first in their competition.

The Scholars Magazine project was assembled for the goal of creating the University’s very first magazine to display both the exceptional achievements and the everyday events of the Scholars program. The students contacted and interviewed sources, wrote and edited articles, designed the layout, and even contacted and interviewed sources, wrote and edited articles, designed the layout, and even contacted publishers. The result is the publication that lays in your hands. Though it was a lot of work, the Scholars working on this project are very proud of their accomplishments.

Every project in Scholars 227 led to some very palpable changes. More importantly, every challenge required independent organization and the application of problem-solving techniques from the newest Scholars class. Scholars made a difference in the lives of others, something they will continue doing their whole lives.

As Scholars progress through their years at Binghamton University, they are required to take two upper-level Scholar classes, generally referred to as Scholars 280. Two of these classes, “Philanthropy and Civil Society” and “Urban Planning,” allow a small group of Scholars to become 100% involved in improving the Binghamton area as well as the University itself.

“Many Scholars enter the class with preconceived notions and end the semester with new perspectives.”

In “Philanthropy and Civil Society,” a class taught by David Campbell, twenty students are given a $10,000 grant at the beginning of the semester to promote philanthropy and grant-making. The goal at the end of the semester is to choose a nonprofit organization to whom to award the money. The decision-making process relies mostly on the class’s values as well as its overall views of the organizations. Throughout the semester, students visit all of the organizations to actually see where the money would be going. Scholars have a chance to take action and fully involve themselves in the project. In 2011, the grant was divided up among several different organizations: Mom’s House, the Family Enrichment Network, the Children’s Home of Wyoming Conference, and the Broome County Urban League.

The “Urban Planning” class involves an even smaller group of students who aim to tackle a big issue on campus. This year the project involves solving the parking crisis on campus. Anyone who has attempted to park at the University, can understand this extremely frustrating process. The University has recently undergone and is still undergoing many structural changes throughout campus. The class as a whole believes that the University did not take into account that by building larger structures to accommodate more people, there would be an increased need for more places to park. Student Affairs President Brian Rose leads the class by posing a question and then letting the students take over from there. Already there have been many interesting speakers invited to the class including Dan Chambers, the Deputy Chief of Police at Binghamton University.

While both of these classes focus on rectifying issues in the Binghamton community, “The Science and Politics of Climate Change” extends its focus to an issue facing the United States and the world as a whole. The class centers on understanding climate change, the science behind it, and the issues arising from it. United States policies are debated and compared to other countries’ policies, primarily China. Professor Peter Knuepfer wishes to show the students both sides of the controversial topic by incorporating research articles, novels, and other forms of media in the class. Students are greatly encouraged to voice their opinions and participate in lively discussion. Many Scholars enter the class with preconceived notions and end the semester with new perspectives.
Albert Einstein once said, “The only source of knowledge is experience.” While the Scholars Program begins in the classroom, its ultimate goal is to facilitate learning through real-world exposure. Scholars III, the requirement for third-year student-Scholars, involves participation in the following: an internship, a research project, volunteer work, mentoring younger students, studying abroad, or many other options such as inventing a unique experiential learning activity.

Past Scholars have participated in diverse, real-life activities such as summer research, hospital internships, opera stage work, and everything in between. One Scholar on the pre-med track interned for Wilson Regional Hospital. This internship provided her with a great deal of hands-on experience and a better sense of what field of medicine she would pursue. The program allowed her to observe several c-sections, two natural births, and doctors administering ultra-sound tests. It also gave her the opportunity to assist in the OR, fill out paperwork, and learn how to apply the skills she has learned in the classroom.

Another program was located in Rome, Italy. This program provided the Scholars with a great deal of hands-on experience and a better sense of what field of medicine she would pursue. The program allowed her to observe several c-sections, two natural births, and doctors administering ultra-sound tests. It also gave her the opportunity to assist in the OR, fill out paperwork, and help with patients.

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**FRESHMAN MAJORS**

*A breakdown by the numbers*

**Did you know...**

Scholars who complete the program requirements graduate with All-University Honors!

**CHANGING MAJORS**

**Did you know...**

20% of Scholars freshmen plan to double major!

**Freshmen Planning to Complete a Minor Alongside a Major**

Yes  56%
No   44%

**Breakdown of Current Science Majors**

- Biology
- Integrative Neuroscience
- Pre-Health
- Nursing
- Physics
- Psychology
- General Science
- Computer Science

**Scholars adjust their majors throughout their college career**

Tom Basson, ‘12

As a freshman, I figured that I would start off Pre-Med. My early success in science classes was misleading, and by the time Organic Chemistry and the upper-level science classes rolled around, I had met my match; my grades began to decline. This decline, while not devastating, prompted me to consider whether I even enjoyed anything about these science classes besides the potential for a high grade. After much introspection and research, much of it during a semester withdrawal in India, I realized that I simply was not ready to commit myself to 10 years of schooling (especially in biology, my kryptonite) and a lifetime of stress and long hours, which becoming a doctor would most likely entail. I shifted my focus toward policy and economics and have since decided to pursue a Masters in Public Health, which effectively combines policy and economics with my pre-health background. Fortunately, seeing early on how my high marks in Spanish classes balanced out my lower marks in classes like Organic Chemistry, I committed to being a Spanish major. I will graduate this spring as a Spanish major and Chemistry minor.

Sarah Glose, ‘15

When I started at Binghamton, I was pretty sure that I wanted to major in English. However, once I got to the university, I realized it would be foolish to try to limit myself to just that; there were so many opportunities that I had not realized before. I started looking into concentrations, adjuncts, and double major options. I went through a lot of ideas, such as getting a dual degree in the School of Management, getting a business adjunct, and double majoring in English and Geography. However, none of these ever felt like the right fit for me, and I was really uncertain about what to do. While doing more research, however, I found the Individualized Major Program, which allowed Harpur College students at Binghamton University to create their own major. Currently, I am in the process of applying for my Individualized Major Program in Mass Media and Communications. Coupling that with my love for reading and writing, I am planning to double major with that and English with a concentration in creative writing in the hopes of pursuing a career in television or print media. Though I wasn’t sure of exactly what I wanted to major in when I came to Binghamton, I found many options that I could choose from, and I think I have finally found the right fit for me.
Andrew Cholewa
If you’re anything like Andrew Cholewa then you probably read thousand-page handbooks for fun and find yourself enthrilled by the concept of Nondeterministic Turing Machines. Chances are that you aren’t that much like Andrew Cholewa. Andrew applied to only two colleges during his senior year of high school: Binghamton and William & Mary. Although he had very high SAT scores, legions of AP credits, and a weighted GPA over 4.0, he wasn’t really all that interested in prestigious institutions, skeptical that they were more focused on their image than on the quality of their education.

When Andrew arrived, he was looking for an English and linguistics degree but a fellow Scholar convinced him to take a computer science class. Changing his plans slightly, he switched his major to computer science and picked up a math minor. Now in his senior year, he focuses on formal methods—the development of tools to prove the efficacy of complex software programs that would just otherwise be upsetting, but Andrew just smiles and says that it was received no credit for it, and one would assume this would be upsetting, but Andrew just smiles and says that it was received no credit for it, and one would assume this would not technically, this is Andrew’s last year at Binghamton University after participating in the five-year M.B.A. fast-track program.

Maura McDevitt
Duke, Cornell, Columbia, UCLA, NYU, University of Michigan, Georgetown… a pretty tough decision. Those are just some of the prestigious law schools that have opened their doors to Maura McDevitt. It comes to no surprise as McDevitt reads “dense material” for enjoyment and is rarely found without a book or miniature copy of the Constitution. On top of her devotion to academics – a 3.75 GPA, placement on Dean’s List every semester, membership to Sigma Alpha Lambda and the National Residence Hall Honorary – Maura also gives her time to activities outside of class.

Elected president of the Scholars Council in May 2011, McDevitt makes it a priority to “get students off campus and learn experientially.” She understands that Scholars are picked for their ability to think outside the box and has organized field trips to sites such as Kopernik’s Observatory and Museum of the Earth. According to Scholars Council VP, Ryan Gunzenmuller, Maura is “incredibly bright” and has always been “ahead of the curve.”

The soon-to-be law student was also awarded a grant through the Harpur Fellows Program to conduct public library research last summer and was selected the following spring to present her paper on Arthurian literature at the Northeast Regional Honors Conference. For these accomplishments and her involvement in the Scholars Program, Professor Ziegler awarded McDevitt his honorary Director’s Award in 2011.

But to Maura, it is not what she has given to the program; it is what she has gained in return. McDevitt says that “being in the Scholars Program makes you appreciate how much you can learn from other people;” and she couldn’t “imagine having the opportunities anywhere else.” After her four years, Maura says that “the best thing about Scholars is not the classes or the perks; it’s the people that are in the program.”

Steven Nowicki
Most college students graduate in four years with a bachelor’s degree in their discipline. However, Steven Nowicki chose a different path. Nowicki earned a Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering in May of 2011, and will be graduating this year with a Master of Business Administration. Though not technically, this is Nowicki’s last year at Binghamton University after participating in the five-year M.B.A. fast-track program.

Nowicki began his career as a Binghamton University Scholar in 2007 in the Watson School of Engineering. Right before junior year, he realized that he wasn’t sure of exactly what he wanted to do after graduation. He decided to pursue the five-year fast-track M.B.A. program to expand his interests before leaving school, and to gain management experience to prepare himself for today’s competitive job market.

During his time at Binghamton, Nowicki has been greatly involved in the Scholars Program. His biggest contribution has come in this past year when he accepted the role as Scholar’s Graduate Assistant. As a graduate assistant, Nowicki was responsible for teaching one section of the SCHL 127 class “Discovering the Scholar Within.” Nowicki also met with freshman and senior Scholars to ensure that they were on track for fulfilling all of their Scholars requirements and to see if anyone required assistance in any area. While fulfilling these duties, Nowicki developed strong working relationships with the Scholars he interacted with and acted as a mentor for students who were struggling with the decision of what to major in. In this way, Nowicki went above and beyond his duties and was able to leave a positive mark on the next generation of Binghamton University Scholars.

Next year, Nowicki will be working in Technical Services at a company called Epic Information Systems in Wisconsin. Epic Information Systems is a company that works to help health institutions go paperless and reduce costs and environmental impact while allowing easier access to patient records.

Eliza Anderson
Eliza Anderson is a senior at Binghamton pursuing a B.S. in Molecular Integrative Neuroscience with a minor in Spanish. After graduating high school in three years and studying abroad in Salamanca, Spain for a year, Anderson began studying at Binghamton University in 2008. She has been heavily involved in the Scholars Program since her sophomore year when she was elected as the Public Relations Coordinator to the Scholars Council. Junior year, she was Vice President of the Scholar Council before moving back to campus senior year to mentor freshman scholars and serve on The Scholar Advisory Board.

Anderson’s extracurricular activities are extensive as well. She has worked as a teaching assistant for a genetics and heredity biology course at Binghamton, been the lead author of a poster that was presented at the 2010 American Psychological Association Annual Conference, and gave the final speech for a symposium on chronic and infectious disease in prisons at the 2nd Annual North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology Conference in 2011. While working at Professor Peter Donovick’s neuropsychology research lab on campus, Anderson has been the lead investigator on two studies: one compared performance of bilingual and monolingual college students on the written expression portions of tests, and one looked at the implications of exactly what he wanted to do after graduation. He decided to pursue the five-year fast-track M.B.A. program to expand his interests before leaving school, and to gain management experience to prepare himself for today’s competitive job market.

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As Nowicki says, “Their motto is ‘Do good. Have fun. Make money’ and it’s something I really like and agree with.”
Welcome Banquet - Freshman Scholars had their first introduction to the Scholars Program—and campus dining!—in August.

Museum of the Earth - Scholars had the chance to see the bones of extinct animals and stretch their legs off campus in this trip to Ithaca, NY.

Thanksgiving Feast - Cooking skills were put to the test when Scholars gathered to make—and eat—a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

Frost Fest Bowling - Winter weather gets everyone down, but Scholars know the best way to beat the winter blues is free pizza and a little bowling fun!

Family Dinners - Transitioning to college life can be tough, but you can always find a little piece of home at weekly family dinners with fellow Scholars.

TRIPS & EVENTS

Kopernik Observatory - Scholars braved a cold night to get a glimpse of Jupiter’s Red Spot through a high-powered telescope.

Trip to Philadelphia - Scholars got the opportunity to experience historic Philadelphia in this one-day trip across state lines.

Trivia Night - Scholars went head to head in a four round trivia competition focused on music, entertainment, sports, and Binghamton University trivia.

Ballroom Dancing - For any Scholar who dreams of getting his or her groove on, this event was both educational and fun!

Open Mic Night - Scholars had the chance to show their stuff at an event that featured singing, dancing, and standup comedy, and more.

Ice Cream Socials - If there’s one thing college students can’t resist, it’s free food. Scholars proved no different when there was ice cream involved.

End of the Year Banquet - An end of the year dinner and ceremony to celebrate the accomplishments of all Scholars, and to recognize Scholars who excelled this year.

Pumpkin Carving - Scholars had a night of Halloween thrills and chills with candy and pumpkin carving in October.

Cram Jam - Finals can be rough, but by getting Scholars out of their rooms and giving out much needed food, this event had everyone ready for tests.

THANKSGIVING

The Scholars Council has carved pumpkins, taken field trips, and most importantly, fed the Scholars. On a day in November, Scholars from all over gathered for the family dinner that was to come. Preparation had begun long ago, with Google docs set up for the Scholars to participate and contribute to the dinner. The thought and planning put into such an event should be credited to none other than Eliza Anderson and other Scholars Council members. Not only did they organize and plan the event, they were responsible for most of the cooking and decorations as well. With the various cultures embodied by these Scholars, different recipes were brought to the table. On the morning of, Eliza and a few other mentors went to purchase the many ingredients needed for such a feast. A whirlwind of shopping and purchases soon led our fearless Council to the Endicott kitchen, ready to take the challenge head-on.

Scholars hard at work preparing their delicious Thanksgiving feast.

As most would agree, the center of every good Thanksgiving meal is the large bird we refer to as the turkey. This specific turkey was a 25-pound monstrosity that took over six hours to prep and cook. Though they wrestled and fought with the bird, the end result was a crisp, brown masterpiece. Throughout the day, Scholars would stop by for their shifts and help cook their respective dishes, most even staying after just to relax. Freshman Zach Weinstock recalls, “The mashed potatoes got everywhere, but it was really fun to make.”

By the time most of the Scholars had arrived, a long table of delicacies had been set out. Boys and girls dressed in button-downs and fancy blouses littered the Endicott Great Room. They soon began to rearrange the room, putting all the chairs to form a circle to encompass every Scholar. After a quick message, the wait was over. Dishes of mac and cheese, stuffing, mashed potatoes, salad, crescent rolls, sweet potatoes, and multiple pies held their spots on the table in giant silver containers. The turkey was cut up and prepared and sat in its own little corner. With the large variety of food, it was hard to not fill one’s plate. The giant line soon withered down to a few, and as they began to eat, chatter floated throughout the air. Stories were shared, and while some were satisfied with one plate, many were not. Seconds and even thirds were gotten. Scholar, Billy Yang commented, “It was one of the best Thanksgiving meals I’ve had.”

Sated and stuffed, many claimed they could not eat a bite more until dessert was announced. It was a time of bonding, sharing, and appreciation for the upcoming Thanksgiving. Though we may not have known everyone, new friends were made and smiles were shared over plates of stuffing and goodness.

Scholars enjoy their long-prepared Thanksgiving feast.
LEARNING COMMUNITIES

How Scholars live and learn... in the same place

Two Scholars relax in Newing College, home to the Scholars learning community.

Just one of Binghamton University’s amazing facets is the practice of setting up Learning Communities. The university knows that learning in college takes place just as much outside the classroom as it does inside the classroom. Learning Communities are places where people with similar interests in academics, community service, living styles, and a host of other criteria can live together and extend their learning beyond lectures and discussion sections. The Scholars Learning Community is located in Endicott Hall in Newing College. Starting in the 2011-12 school year, all freshmen were required to live together in “clusters,” marking the beginning of the Scholars Learning Community.

The main advantage of the Learning Community is that it brings Scholars together and helps create a sense of community that encourages and facilitates the students’ ambitions. Students, especially those in pre-health and engineering, often take the same first-year courses. This enables Scholars to more easily discuss and collaborate on projects and studying, pushing them to learn more. The Scholars Learning Community also features several upperclassmen, called Scholars Leadership Mentors, who live alongside Scholars and help them with homework, planning schedules, making friends, and any other needs that may arise. Living with a group of peers and advisors makes the transition to college life easier for incoming freshman.

In addition to acting as advisors, these Leadership Mentors also plan many events that are exclusively for Scholars such as weekly dinners and ice cream get-togethers. These events bring the Scholars who are living together even closer by intermingling with the clusters and the Scholars who live on different floors. Because of this, it is not uncommon to see a group of Scholars made up of students from different floors of the building studying together or going to the dining hall. The Learning Community brings the Scholars very close together.

The Scholars Learning Community has been so successful that this year it was ranked ninth in the nation for Top Honors Residence Halls according to Public University Honors. The rankings evaluated facilities, location, support, and programs. The freshmen Scholars are so pleased with the Learning Community that many of them decided to continue living in it again next year. Along with the incoming freshman Scholars, thirty sophomore Scholars will be living together in Endicott Hall for the 2012-2013 school year. As the Learning Community grows, it will continue to facilitate more conversations and exchanges of ideas and become an even more amazing resource for Scholars than it already is.

Studying doesn’t have to be limited to the classroom, as shown by these two Scholars.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Scholars Program alumni have gone on to do fascinating things with their lives. There are Scholars spread from coast to coast: New York, South Carolina, Illinois, Washington, and Connecticut. There are even some overseas! But it isn’t all about where they go; it’s also about what they are doing. Scholars alumni have careers ranging from English Teachers to Software Development Engineers to Actuaries.

Moshe Cohen, class of 2004 and a mathematical science major, has a post-doctoral research position in the Mathematics Department at Bar-Ilan University outside of Tel Aviv, Israel. The Scholars Program helped Moshe get into graduate school at Louisiana State University where he earned a PhD in Mathematics. Moshe credits the Scholars program with his expanded educational horizons. “Despite being a mathematician, these were amongst my favorite classes at Binghamton,” he said.

Psychobiology major Lindsey Krecko, class of 2004, is the Dental Director for Sidney Hillman Health Centre, a not-for-profit organization in Chicago, IL. Lindsey says, “Being a Scholar allowed me to become a better leader, which is important not only in my dental practice, but also in the organizations of which I am a member: the Chicago Dental Society, Illinois State Dental Society, and American Dental Association. It taught me how to be diplomatic, how to think critically, how to truly work hard, and how to stand out. From it, I have taken with me a desire to succeed and constant striving towards excellence in all that I do.” The Scholars Program helped Lindsey get into one of the best dental schools in the country and even impacted her life outside of academics. “One of my favorite things about the Scholars Program was the friends I made in it. Twelve years later, my circle of best friends are the ones I met in my Scholars class first semester freshman year. My Scholars friends are lifelong friends; maturing together as we did is a bonding experience that is not easily broken,” Lindsey said.

The Scholars Program has endless long-term benefits. It helps one network, and it can help one get into medical school, law school, or graduate school. It can lead one to places one has wanted to go all one’s life but also to places one never thought one would end up. The Scholars Program is not just four years of learning; it’s a stepping stone for a lifetime of success.
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