‘Battle’ is a Major Success

Elizabeth Lauri, HM Editor

On Friday, October 3rd, students from different majors and different schools came together to participate in an academic field day of sorts. Battle of the Majors: It’s Not What You Think, an event put on by the Honors Council Academic Committee, in conjunction with the Honors Programming and Events Office was a rousing success. The event featured representatives from the offices of Individualized Majors and Interdisciplinary Studies, who emphasized the importance of following our passions in our studies, whatever they may be.

The event had students, from at least two different schools within the University, form teams and compete in six interdisciplinary events. The goal of the event was to bring together individuals of different skills and talents, in order to promote an appreciation across fields that are sometimes viewed as being incompatible. The event sought to reach across majors and show students the value of having team members who all had different strengths.

There were six events, widely varied in order to force the seven teams to think in different ways. The afternoon started off with a History Timeline, with students racing against the clock to put 50 different events in proper chronological order. Participants were then challenged to create the best paper airplane possible. However there was a twist, students received points not only for distance, but also for construction speed and the aesthetic merit of the plane. Later on, students played pictionary, testing knowledge of Business, Political Science, and Math, as they tried to guess the topics their teammates were drawing. The students then had to find a creative use for a household product, and then use their public speaking and presentation skills as they presented a business pitch to the entire room. A “Complete the Pun” contest rewarded teams who could come up with the Wittiest end to the pun read by HC President Dan Arndt. Finally, the students quick-thinking and rhyming skills were put to the test, in a Beastie Boys themed game. Students had to create a line that would rhyme with a predetermined word, but instead of saying the whole line, teammates were responsible for guessing the proper rhyme.

Students found the whole event to be extremely enjoyable, especially since it allowed them to be on a team with friends they rarely get to work with.
Honors at Peter Singer’s Discussion on The Omnivore’s Dilemma

Beth Lamonte, HM Staff Writer

On Thursday October 9th, Jorgenson Auditorium was filled with curious spectators waiting for a renowned philosopher—Peter Singer—to make an entrance. Students from various disciplines, encouraged to attend the lecture by faculty members, joined professors, and other curious adults from the area to hear what Singer was going to propose in his argument against eating meat, which he titled, “No Dilemma for Vegans.” Two disciplines in particular, nutrition and philosophy, attended the lecture with previous knowledge of the discussion topics. In fact, almost the entire Honors Colloquium Nutrition class attended the lecture as part of their lesson regarding the topic of dietary restrictions. Many philosophy students attended as well, and even prepared questions to ask Singer after his lecture ended.

Singer’s argument was a response to Michael Pollan’s, The Omnivore Dilemma, which is this year’s UConn Reads “A Book That Changed My Life.” Everyone is encouraged throughout the school year to read this book, as it has been singled out as a compelling and enlightening source of information regarding our eating habits—something that affects each and every one of us. At the beginning of his talk, Singer clarified several points, including that he agreed with most of what Pollan said in in book. However, Singer also shed light on facts about the ethical side of omnivorous eating that most meat-eaters would prefer to be kept in the dark. Singer’s discussion emphasizes his idea that while Pollan considers choosing the food he eats to be a dilemma, Singer feels that it is rather an active choice in which the consumer must take a stand.

Throughout this lecture, he brings up instances that reflect on the fact that animals—vertebrates at least—can feel pain just like the humans that consume them, and should be given moral consideration. He challenges the factory farming industries’ practices for their lack of sympathy with regards to the pain that the animals feel, recalling that pain is something that every human has experienced and to which everyone can relate. He discussed ideas from his book Animal Liberation, calling for each of us to either defend our way of living with something that we believe in, or changing it so that it becomes something we feel comfortable representing. This challenge is one that Honors students are encouraged to accept in not just the food aspect of their lives, but in their academic endeavors as well. The task was offered to the entire audience, drawing them to question their current behaviors with regard to food.

His lecture had different effects on audience members. However, since it was a philosophical discussion regarding how veganism can alleviate the need for factory farming and with it a moral dilemma, it was meant to raise questions and opinions in those who truly confronted the issue. This is something that UConn students, especially in the Honors Program, are encouraged to do—ask questions, both of themselves and of their academic exposure.
On October 2nd, the University of Connecticut hosted a governor debate between the incumbent Democratic candidate, Governor Dannel Malloy, and Republican contender Tom Foley. The event was held at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts at the Storrs campus. Strong support for both sides came out as the venue was packed with people eager to become better informed about the two candidates. Foley ran against Malloy during the 2010 election cycle as well and ended up losing just slightly. From 2010, the results were 49.51% of the vote for Malloy and 48.95% for Foley. In the 2014 election cycle Malloy and Foley are joined by Joe Visconti. Visconti is running as an Independent, though he has had strong ties to the Republican Party as well.

Numerous debates are held every year in order to ensure that the voters can have well informed decisions. A recent debate in New London was the first debate of the election cycle to have all three candidates in it. Other debates have been held at the Norwich Free Academy, the University of Saint Joseph, and the Hilton in Hartford. With the polls showing Malloy and Foley neck and neck, watching the debates is a great way to figure out which candidate to support for those on the fence. Pay close attention to the substance of the arguments and don’t fall prey to talking points or looks. United States democracy works best when its voters are best informed, so I challenge you to take time out of your day to use your right to vote and make change in the world.

Walking around campus, you may have been asked if you were registered to vote by some organizations. If you’re already registered and know where to go, that’s great, but for those that don’t, here’s some information. Up until October 28th, a person may register to vote in person at the office of the Registrar of Voters. There is also online voting for those who signed up in time to take advantage. For more information regarding voting at UConn, the voter registration page of UConn’s office of the Registrar is here: http://registrar.uconn.edu/voter-registration. There you can find how to cast absentee ballots if you’re registered in another town as well. I hope everyone ends up registering and picking the candidate that best supports their interests, happy voting!
Dear Jonathan,

I’m really concerned about gaining weight. I heard about the "freshman 15" and I want to avoid it. I also hate running so I don't know what to do for exercise around here.

Love, Anonymous

Woof!

Being health conscious is an excellent way to go through life, as long as you don't get too stressed and remember to enjoy yourself on occasion as well. There are many options for staying fit on campus, many of which don't involve running. If you like to work out, you can hit the gym from 6:00 AM to midnight. There are also various sports clubs and intramural options. Additionally, if you prefer fun, organized workouts, Bodywise classes are run daily in the Putnam dining complex. But working out isn’t the only important aspect of staying healthy here at college.

Eating healthy in a dining hall can be tricky, especially when there are so many less healthy options available. However, it is possible. Each dining hall has a Healthy Husky option at every meal, and all of the nutrition and serving size information is posted for each item. It's also extremely important to keep aware of mental and emotional wellness. Counseling services and events at Health Services are great ways to make sure you keep feeling your best. Eat right, stay active, and remember that college is one of the best experiences of your life, and you need to make the most of it.

Remember that you are paw-fect,
Jonathan Husky
Have questions? Send them to askjonathanhusky@gmail.com

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Students on Honors Council and in various Honors dorms were surveyed to find out what the favorite candy in Honors might be. Every candy with 2 or more votes is represented on the graph to the left.


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Honorable Mention Staff: Ellie Lauri Colby Buehler Beth Lamonte