Out of everything I've done in my life, I think I've really gone down the rabbit hole with this one. I must have asked myself a thousand times if I'm really cut out for Honors. From my perspective, I don't belong. Do I really deserve to be here? Am I really cut out for this privilege? Or should there be someone else in my place? The answer is: I don't know. Everyday I face this question staring back at me in the mirror. It should be daunting, but I love it in some crazy way. It's as though I'm facing down a challenge from myself, a challenge to be better and to do more. The Honors' writing seminar has been a large part of this challenge. It is a collage of trial and tribulation to keep up with the in depth thinking I need to do just to keep up with my peers. As daunting as it is to be surrounded by people so much more gifted than I am, I find it all the more thrilling to be exposed to different perspectives and interact with foreign trains of thought. It's exciting to have everyone looking though a different glass at the same article or question. The discussions are phenomenal and it is an honor to be surrounded by people so much smarter than me. To be able to have informal Socratic Seminars without the desire of any one answer, but instead to simply glean a complex and thorough understanding of anything and everything is remarkable. To have such incredible peers as well as phenomenal professors is wonderful and slightly terrifying, I can only hope to hold my own in this vast sea of knowledge and wisdom.

Upcoming Events!

Fall Fest on October 29th in Main Hall 333 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Be sure to come so you can register for classes! No dinner this time—we will be serving only snack food, so please eat beforehand.

-Emily Getz's Senior Thesis Defense at 1:00pm in Main Hall 333 on November 10th. Come out and support your fellow honors student as she defends her thesis.

-Honors Lunch on November 21st! Be sure to come hungry, as we will have plenty of delicious food and wonderful company.
Words from Dr. Kleier

I love this question because I think it helps us explore our true desires in life. In college, I had plenty of time (compared to now) and little money. Now, I have a little money and no time. However, if I had all the time and money in the world, I would be doing exactly what I’m doing now. I love teaching and researching, I love botany and ecology. I love my friends on the faculty and the students at Regis. Sure, with unlimited time and money, one might travel more or ski every day in the winter, but then those things aren’t special anymore. The question is about finding out what really motivates you and then working to do that anyway, without the excuses of time and money. If you really want something, either accept that it’s out of your reach (i.e. for me being Lindsay Vonn) or work to make it happen (being a college professor).

Words from Dr. Leininger

I would like to help an established film director to direct a film that tells a compelling story. I love films and I would like to learn from a great director how a great film is made – and have the opportunity to contribute to the making of it.

It is not a priority right now in my life. However, I do listen to interviews with film directors and actors on Fresh Air with Terry Gross as well as Charlie Rose. In addition, I watch great films and sometimes watch some of the commentaries by/interviews with the director in the extra features on the disc. In these ways, I am learning about that process.

Questions or comments? Email Connie at cgates@regis.edu, James Persichetti at jpersichetti@regis.edu, or Michael Sucharski at msucharski@regis.edu.
As the summer dreams fade into this golden Autumn, and as the world outside dims with the ever shortening days, the bastion of the classroom walls have perhaps never felt so welcome. Winter is coming of course, and with it all of the summer’s excitement, be it wars between nations and fundamentalist, or the threat of rising oceans, must continue to be contemplated, albeit in a colder and more bleak setting. No wonder then that the readings, writings, and assignments with tacit solutions designed into the questions attract our attention away from the maddening quarrels and quandaries that besiege the academy. How can we begin to confront the ‘real world’ issues before our understanding of justice, tradition, innovation, the university itself, and essence of quality have been thoroughly examined?

Two June’s ago I found myself confronting this head on (on much smaller stage), entering the labor force as a research assistant working to better understand the neural foundation of pain cognition. And while the material of my courses wonderfully prepared me for the content of the work, it surprised me thoroughly that these muscles where not exercised as much as the subtle skill of communication that Honors had so carefully instilled. My contribution to the greater community came not simply through efficacious ideas, but through the effective communication of those ideas. Graduating with Honors came with the humbling realization that perhaps the university, and ‘real world,’ is not there to bestow us with honors (through a diploma), but rather as a reminder that we are here, and have learned and questioned, to better honor them. Honor’s in this sense is an unceasing duty to the future, rather than a stagnant laurel begging one to lean. Keeping this call in mind, the life of letters and the life of politics (of communal action) meld into one honorable pursuit.

**Director’s Note: October 2014**

—Dr. Howe, Honors Program Director

On college campuses across the country, fall is the time for matriculation—the beginning of the academic year and a time when new students are formally welcomed into the university community. At Regis, we’ve begun the year with a wonderful class of new honors students, a group full of promise and containing a variety of talents and gifts. As we welcome them into our community, we are also inviting them into a larger, lifelong conversation about a good number of timeless and crucially important questions; questions that ask about the meanings and values of human life, our place in the cosmos, and how we should best live with one another. One of the most interesting things about this conversation is that the boundaries between the disciplines that make up our university are fluid when it comes to thinking about these big questions. Recently I was speaking to one of our first-year students, Hunter Therron, and he told me that the biggest difference between high school and his first three weeks at Regis is how frequently topics of conversation from one class spill out over into what he’s learning in another. Megan Slater, another new student, tells me how impressed she is with her Regis College faculty and the genuine passion they show for the things they teach. This is no fluke. Rather both are part of the great insights implicit within Jesuit liberal arts education and govern the heart of your Honors classes. Learning is an integrative activity, both by bringing together the best insights, books, and thinkers on the questions that most exercise us and by insisting that we seek to unite our heads and hearts. Seniors are in the midst of working on their Honors thesis projects and bringing to paper (and in one case, canvas) culminating parts of this conversation in an impressive collection of projects. One student is making a passionate plea for the importance of classical music in the lives of young people, while another is working through the philosophical implications of our search for medical longevity. There are studies being completed in the areas of dance therapy and neuroscience and investigations into the ways in which technology has consequences for thinking about love. There are more than a dozen additional projects and I encourage all of you to ask a senior about his or her project. When you do, you’ll realize that while these theses span the disciplines, they all have the common characteristic of being something about which their creators are passionate. These are students who are finding compelling, creative, and profound ways of putting their education in dialogue with things they deeply care about as human beings. They are actively engaged, asking questions, discerning responses and going in new directions.

For the new students, welcome to Regis and to Honors! For all of you returning students, welcome back!
Honors Mural, Honored Memories
—Chiara Gonzales, Class of 2015

What's new?
Many of you may have noticed quite a few changes to the Honors mural in our Study Room, a reflection of the evolving Honors discussion throughout our time here at Regis. There's a treeline and a couple clouds—but most importantly—a few fun figures representing our memories and stories. This is a list of a couple of the things I've added, and a shout-out to anyone in classes down the line interested in adding to the wall. Here's to watching our story as a dithyrambic community evolve!

Take a closer look at Main Hall—there's brick labeled Phaedrus somewhere. Sometimes, we just need to be reminded that looking at each brick one by one is what we need to overcome our troubles, to see our own impact, and to build our way to a more cohesive “big picture.”

Left window, Main Hall: the silhouette of Virginia Woolf. For A Room of One's Own, which teaches us to understand, dissect, and affect our place within our own minds, society, and in fiction.

Stairs, Main Hall: Dr Bruhn as a pirate. Because it’s fun when our professors dress up. That “R” on his book is for Romanticism. Yep, one of his academic gems.

Balcony, Main Hall: St Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits!

Right window, Main Hall: the silhouettes of Tiny Tim’s crutch and a wheelchair. Cheesecake Factory-Christmas Carol shenanigans—one of the program's favorite traditions—brings about memorable laughs and facepalms every year (“God breshush ....................... EVERY-ONE!”). And a shout-out to Dubus with the wheelchair brings our iconic handicapped together.

Right side shrubbery: Dr Palmer in Colonel Brandon’s hat. Shrubbery, a seemingly odd subject our professor invested himself in during his Fall '14 Austen course.

Trees: Rainbow donkey pinata. Fun story—the class of 2015 took out their Newman frustrations on a pinata in the quad. Newman’s Cane remains missing. Reward if found?

Mountains: Dr Bowie on Pirsig’s motorcycle, a little shout-out to our director’s love of Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance, and the telling of stories over a journey.

Annie Dillard, strapped to the fuselage, as per her memorable closing words to For the Time Being: We start and end our time at Regis with Dillard, and many continue to travel with her long after.

You'll notice Dr Narcisi rollerblading down the roof of Main Hall. Famous for her bright and exuberant personality, a burning love for literature, and ridiculously good baked goodies, we find our newest Freshman Seminar professor moving speedily towards good ol’ Virginia Woolf—ready for a little chat (is that possible with Ginny?) over chocolate chip cookies!

High up on the tallest mountain is Dr Kleier, our very own botanist and biologist! Having spent some time in Wellington, New Zealand, she's sporting a tee printed with the islands. That cute little plant she's pontificating over? A pin cushion, the focus of her research! If anyone knows the beauty of Colorado greenery, it’s definitely Dr Kleier.

And last but not least, Dr Howe throwing lightning from the clouds! Both a Religious Studies and a Chaos and Order expert, it seemed fitting that Dr Howe would be throwing bolts of insight down upon the masses. And really, he’s pretty sassy.

This is only the first step in forming the mural. If you’d like to help out, contact Connie Gates! We’re looking to add as the students—and years—move on.