ANNOUNCEMENTS

Writing Studios
Tuesdays 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Fridays 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
LRH Great Room

Science & Math Studios
Tuesdays 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
LRH Conference Room

Freshman Symposium
April 23

Senior Symposium
March 28

Spring Mentoring Programs
March 5
April 9
May 7

Spring Semester Finals
May 12 - 17

PEER MENTORING NEWS
CAP371 is the CAP Peer Mentoring course. It “provides an experiential learning environment” where students can learn, receive training, and develop new skills as they mentor in groups and one-on-one. The course is specifically for Capital Scholars Honors students, and meets the Engaged Citizenship Common Experience requirement. It can be taken for one or two credit hours. The peer mentors usually put on various events throughout the year, so stay tuned to find out more. For more information, please see Nikki Overcash in the CSHP.

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CAP BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

1 Danielle Cherry
3 Brandon Baker & Ari Kirkwood
6 Jennifer Hickey & Samuel Zielke
7 Celia Figueroa
8 Carin Fearing & Pagie Heiser
10 Evelyn Rivera & Hristina Minchev
11 Benjamin Johnson & Alexander Johnson
12 Meghan Milewski & Elizabeth Janeteas
13 Jasmine McAllister
15 Lisa Gary
16 Scott Turton
17 Marc Cox
18 Robert Quance, Kathryn Woodford, & Ashley Bokamp
20 Amanda Gosbeth
21 Kendra Baber, David Sye
23 Lisette Moreno
26 Emily Lyon
27 Hannah Fyfe
28 Keyi Zhao
CAP STUDENT PROFILE

BY Shayne Phillips

Michael Lotspeich is a first year student in the Capital Scholars Honors Program at UIS. He is majoring in political science because he is interested in the research and development of educational policies. Michael is hoping that if he contributes to the research on a macro level, it will reach as far as the classroom population. He wants to move to Washington DC after he graduates, and chose the UIS honors program particularly because of its close proximity to the state capital while still getting that U of I degree.

As a high school student, Michael was a student advisor for the Illinois State Board of Education, where he uncovered the importance of educational policy in shaping communities. As he transitioned into the Honors Program at UIS, he decided to try to take that interest to a Federal level. He searched online and found information for an internship with the US Department of Education in the Office of Communication and Public Outreach. After a few late nights spent constructing his application and a rigorous interview, the position was finally his. He is “ecstatic at this exponential learning opportunity as it is another giant step in gaining a liberal education.”

Two of Michel’s favorite things regarding the CAP Program are the ability to explore and understand the power of interdisciplinary outlooks and interacting in a living-learning community. When asked about his living-learning experiences, he replied, “Where else could you talk about mass communication at 2:30 in the morning?”

Michael tries to keep active both within and outside the honors community. He is a UIS cheerleader, as well as a peer tutor in the Center for Teaching and Learning, working mostly with students in ENG101 and ENG102. He says that he was a very competitive athlete in high school, and cheerleading was a way to bond with some of the other students on campus. “My flyer is in CAP, and it makes a big difference with how we interact with each other.”

Michael loves the CAP question courses and how they give him a more “sociological perspective and emphasize interdisciplinary methods” which he can use to further solve some of the real world problems as he progresses on his political journey.

You can probably find Michael running around on campus from SGA meetings to classes to the CTL and back.

FAST FACTS ABOUT MICHAEL

- His favorite meal from PAC’s Food Emporium is a hamburger and onion rings
- He loves caffeine in all its forms
- His favorite song is Katy Perry’s “Firework”
- His favorite thing to watch on Netflix is West Wing

Do you want to be featured in a CSHP Profile in next month’s newsletter? Contact Shayne Phillips at sphil6@uis.edu
ENTERTAINMENT

MOVIE REVIEW: REQUIEM FOR A DREAM

BY Sean Flamand

The film’s plot is a dynamic work of art that left me speechless at the end. The movie begins with Harry (Jared Leto) and his best friend Tyrone (Marlon Wayans) wheeling a TV down the streets of Coney Island to pawn it for drug money. This sets the tone for the entire film, demonstrating the tip of an iceberg which embodies what these people will do for drugs. In the beginning, the story meanders. But the movie’s intensity begins to increase exponentially until the last 20 minutes. The conglomeration of addiction-driven poor choices made throughout the film by each of them comes falling apart when everything that could go wrong in these poor souls’ lives does. The end of the film is akin to a train wreck in that it is a horrifying spectacle from which it is impossible to look away.

When I first looked at the cast of this movie, I had no idea what to expect. Jared Leto was the only actor I had heard of. However, I was awed by the acting in this movie. Wayans and Jennifer Connelly performed well; their characters were fairly straightforward, but the portrayals were still excellent. Leto slipped into his role wonderfully; his scene in the hospital is particularly noteworthy. But it was Ellen Burstyn’s performance as Sara Goldfarb – Harry’s elderly, widowed mother – that is the main reason that this film is among the most frightening I’ve seen. Sara lives alone, with no one to keep her company other than her television. She eventually descends into her own drug addiction, and is left to deal with it all on her own. Imagining something like this happening to my own parents is heart-wrenching and will resonate with viewers long after the credits have rolled.

The score of the film is a constant dramatic reminder that, even in happy moments, these people’s joy is short-lived. The most well-known piece from the soundtrack is often referred to as “Requiem for a Dream” – though it is actually called “Lux Aeterna” – and the piece is just that: a death song for all of the characters’ hopes and desires. At times the score can be a little stale, but it is certainly a wonderful addition to the movie and helps to further the plot and themes of the film.

The cinematography was different from most films I’ve seen. Some of the split-screen scenes were a bit unnecessary (there is a reason, after all, that we don’t see it used anymore). However, there were plenty of times where the method of filming made the scene perfect (again, the hospital scene with Harry springs readily to mind). Finally, the imagery drove home the most lasting messages really made this film what it is. The dark colors and grey pervade the piece, with bright colors generally only showing up early on or in dreams. The brief mash-up scenes that imply drug use (without showing it happen) stick with the viewer a great deal, Sara’s refrigerator is terrifying even if you know it’s coming, and the auditory imagery rounds out the piece.

Having watched a plethora of movies, I can say that this film is near the top of my “must-see” list. This movie lowered my desire to do drugs from 0% to somewhere well into the negatives. I can think of few films that have left anywhere near the emotional mark on me that this has. A film that almost requires being viewed alone, and that will haunt you long after viewing, “Requiem for a Dream” is the best movie you’ll never watch again.
TIP OF THE CAP
CAPITAL SCHOLARS HONORS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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And stay up to date on Program and campus events