Honors InSight: a CHC student blog

Mission Critical: Are You Sure About That?

By: Parker Sweet

My first blog post will be more about who I am and less about what I have to say. The posts afterward will be the opposite. I’m dedicating the content of my blog not to personal pontification, but to showcasing the accessibility and diversity of the knowledge and wisdom in the community. This could be from faculty, classes, or a conversation on the street. Wherever it comes from, I want to present not what to think, but ways of thinking, arguments, stories — all to show you my journey in learning how to think. Critically. I welcome comments and hope that, at the very least, it gets read....  

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Meet Our Honors InSight Bloggers

Amberly Lerner

Amberly is currently a junior at the CHC. She is double majoring in English and Communication. Writing in general is one of her favorite things in the world. Whenever she is not writing or studying, Amberly is probably watching/analyzing TV shows and memes, or goofing off with her friends and her brother, Ryan.

- Amberly's Answers: What's the Role Politics Play on Campus?
- Amberly's Answers: Has College Changed the Way You Look at Your Future?
- Amberly's Answers: Do you ever get tired of people on such a populated campus like UMass?
- Amberly's Answers: Do You Feel at Home at College?
- Amberly's Answers: Would You Say You Are Still Adjusting?
- Amberly's Answer: Pros & Cons of Dorm Life
- Amberly's Answers: Would You Want College to be Shorter or Longer?
- Amberly's Answers: College is the Best Four Years of Your Life, Right? Not For Everybody

Claire Healy

Claire has a passion for writing and reading, and nearly any form of visual art. She listens to music more or less at all times of the day that she is not in class. Claire's life goal is to travel the world, and work in investigative journalism and social work.
before pursuing a career in politics. Currently, she is taking Arabic and she is somewhat proficient in Spanish. On campus, Claire is a part of a couple clubs--she is an event coordinator for Sisters on the Runway and writes for the Daily Collegian.

- Campus Activism: Class Registration
- Campus Activism: Language Studies
- Campus Activism: This Week's Racist Incidents and Dr. Ford's Testimony
- Campus Activism: Vote, Vote, Vote
- Campus Activism: Cultural Appropriation
- Campus Activism: Ethical Shopping
- Campus Activism: Vegan Season
- Campus Activism: Beginning with Self-Care

Zoe Cullen

Zoe Cullen is a Junior at CHC and is working towards a degree in journalism and a minor in English Literature. Aside from being a Communications Assistant for CHC and a full time student, Zoe enjoys reading, writing, and poetry in her spare time.

Former Student Bloggers

Hannah Depin

Hannah is a Communications Assistant at the Commonwealth Honors College. She is a senior studying Journalism and minoring in Education and French. In her free time,
Hannah loves to read and write, try out new recipes in tiny dorm kitchens, and explore new restaurants, hiking spots, and museums in the UMass area.

- **Dining Diaries: What's Next?**
- **Dining Diaries: Pizza Night!**
- **Dining Diaries: First Day of Final Semester**
- **Dining Diaries: Books, Brie, and a Busy Weekend**
- **Dining Diaries: Finals and Chocolate Chip Cookies**
- **Dining Diaries: Thanksgiving**
- **Dining Diaries: Making the Most of Fall Semester**
- **Dining Diaries: Catching Up**

**Timothy Scalona**

As a sophomore studying a wide range of disciplines - from Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, to English, to Spanish, to Political Science - Tim is very much undecided on where he will head in his academic future. In addition to being an honors blogger, Tim is a Senator in the Student Government Association in the Social Justice and Empowerment Committee for the Class of 2020, writes for the Daily Collegian, works in a food science lab, and has recently taken up fencing. Tim is passionate about activism, with a focus in advocating for the homeless and the poor, but also for students of other marginalized communities and backgrounds.

- **New Beginnings: Survive**
Jessica Gindelsky

Jessica is a senior at the CHC this year. After transferring from the University of Connecticut, this is Jessica's third year here at UMass Amherst. She is an avid reader and likes all types of cheesecake. In addition to the work Jessica does as a Communications Assistant for the Commonwealth Honors College here at UMass, she also is a member of several different clubs and organizations here on campus. When she's not in class or at work, Jessica likes to paint, watch cooking shows, and travel to new places.

- Saving for the Scenery: Looking at the Finish Line
- 11 Things We're Grateful for this Thanksgiving
- Saving for the Scenery: Weeks 3 and 4 of Travel
- Saving for the Scenery: Fun Weekends Away
- 10 More of the Spookiest Phrases a College Student Can Hear
- Saving for the Scenery: Apple Tree-ting Myself to Crisp and Cider
- Saving for the Scenery: Leaf-in Time to Relax
- Saving for the Scenery: Flights and the Fall

Sabrina Victor

Sabrina Victor is a senior theater and journalism major, and a transfer student, also pursuing the multicultural theater certificate and a member of the honors college. She loves to perform and is an avid participant in the UMass theater department. She is sharpening up her writing chops in the journalism department and is super happy to have her own blog. She's also an office assistant at the FAC Box Office. After graduation she hopes to continue acting, preferably on Broadway, and explore entertainment journalism on the side. She wouldn't mind being a correspondent for an outlet like E! News. She loves to sing, act, and dance. For her honors thesis, she plans to write her own play, then mount and direct it.

- A College Girl Pageant Queen's School Survival Guide: Midterms Season
- A College Girl Pageant Queen's School Survival Guide - Where's Your Survival Kit?
- A UMass Amherst Survival Guide: 5 Study Tips for Finals Week
- A UMass Amherst Survival Guide: 5 Ways to Eat a Balanced Meal throughout a Busy Day
Anastasia Fegbeitel Finn

Anastasia is a driven Honors student majoring in Management with a focus on Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management at the Isenberg School of Management. She was born and raised in Germany and moved to the U.S. five years ago. Currently, she is a junior and works at the Learning Resource Center. After graduating with her BBA, she is planning on completing her MBA as well. One of her biggest passions is traveling. A while back she took a year off and traveled on her own to Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, and the west and east coast of the US to learn more about other cultures and widen her horizon. Check out her Instagram account “TravelTenderness” to see her beautiful travel photography. Anastasia enjoys being in nature and uses her free time to go on adventures to explore more of the area. On a typical Sunday, she cuddles her cat “Alibi,” and watches too many TED talks.
Marie MacCune

Marie is a junior in Commonwealth Honors College studying political science and legal studies. She is an Assistant News Editor for the Massachusetts Daily Collegian where she enjoys covering stories on state and local politics. She also enjoys working on community service projects with the Political Science Honors Society Pi Sigma Alpha. Outside of the University, Marie has worked as an intern for the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. After graduation, she plans to obtain her J.D. and use her legal expertise to make the judicial system more accessible and equitable for people regardless of income, gender, or race. When she’s not out looking for her next story, Marie spends as much time as she can reading on the beach back home.

- Letters to Kate - See You Around
- Letters to Kate - Some Final Class Advice
- Letters to Kate - Running on that Positive Spin
- Letters to Kate - Come Together
- Letters to Kate - Sneezing at the Polls
- Letters to Kate - Forty-Four Pages Done and a Few Gray Hairs
- Letters to Kate - It's Who You Know
- Letters to Kate - Task Master

Emily King

Emily is a senior Honors student studying Marketing in the Isenberg School of Management. Currently, she is an Isenberg Twitter Ambassador, Teaching Assistant for
Fundamentals of Marketing, and Vice President of Marketing at the Isenberg Undergraduate Consulting Group. During her free time, Emily likes to drink tea and catch up on the latest episodes of Scandal, Downton Abbey, or Big Bang Theory. She also loves to craft and go on spontaneous adventures with friends. Feel free to contact her with any questions regarding a student’s perspective of CHC and UMass.

- Eight Thanksgiving Conversations You Don't Want to Have
- Bizblog: The Little Things
- BizBlog: Elevator Pitch
- BizBlog: The End is Near
- 10 Reasons We’re Lucky to Go to UMass
- BizBlog: International Women’s Day
- BizBlog: Exceed Interview Expectations
- BizBlog: The Great Internship Search

Matthew Hlady

Matthew has only a vague idea of what he wants to do with his life. He is pursuing English and an interdisciplinary examination of western laws and ethics because those are the subjects that he loves. His end-game is to become a novelist and in the meantime writes short stories for whoever will read them and is working on his first book. His fiction has appeared in “Down In The Dirt,” “The Quick Brown Fox,” and “The Bowsprit.” A voracious learner, Matt wishes to experience everything from academia to traveling and various jobs in order to become a more balanced and worldly person. What he misses most from home and what he thinks about every day is his dog, Thurber. His parents are probably somewhere in his mind too, but he’s not too sure.

- Love, The Old Man: Time to Say Goodbye
- Love, The Old Man: Not So Far Away
- Love, The Old Man: Getting Ready to Adult
- Love, The Old Man: Does This Make Sense to Anyone?
- Love, The Old Man: The Hunt
- Love, The Old Man: I Found What I’m NOT Looking For
- Love, The Old Man: Listening With Your Heart
- Love, The Old Man: Ready to Move On?
Emily Esten

Emily is a Communications Assistant and member of the Commonwealth Honors College with an anticipated graduation in 2016. She is studying History and Digital Humanities through BDIC program. During her time at UMass Amherst, she has served as a research assistant within the UMass History department, participated in Team Mead, and interned at UMass Press, all the while exploring her interest in public history. Outside of the university, Emily has also interned for the Rhode Island Historical Society and the New Bedford Whaling Museum. In her spare time, Emily enjoys visiting museums large and small, as well as conquering her ever-growing to-read list.

- A Guidebook in Reverse
- MassURC: The Snake-Fighting Portion of Your Defense
- #MyResearchStory, pt. 3/3: What's Next?
- #MyResearchStory, pt. 2/3: Methodology
- #MyResearchStory, pt. 1/3: Objective
- A Moral Voyage: BDIC and the Senior Summary
- A Moral Voyage: The First Draft
- A Moral Voyage: Revisions, Revisions, Revisions

Zac Bears

Zac is a senior at the University. He is pursuing dual degrees in political science and economics. Zac is the Opinion & Editorial Editor of the Massachusetts Daily Collegian, a copy editor, and a Collegian columnist with a column running every other week for the

- Jumping In: False Starts
- Jumping In: Unexpected Discoveries
- Jumping In: Why I Got Involved
- Eight Thanksgiving Conversations You Don’t Want to Have
- A Real-World Journalism Education at the Daily Collegian
- A Year in the CHC Residential Community
- Go Vote on Election Day

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