

Spring 2012

Honors Student Eric Dolan Shares his Alternate Spring Break



Eric Dolan

Eric Dolan is currently a freshman in the Honors College, and he spent his spring break in Biloxi Mississippi doing some very interesting volunteer work as part of United Way's Alternate Spring Break. We had a chance to sit down and ask Eric some questions about this meaningful once in a lifetime experience.

What exactly was your alternate spring break?

ED: Basically it was a program through United Way Worldwide where they host a week of activities based entirely around giving back to the community, working through the local United Way in Mississippi who coordinated the projects for the week.

What kind of work did you do in Biloxi Mississippi?

ED: A lot of work! I was on the land trust project, basically they are two volunteers who spent two months living on the gulf, and my project was to build a hiking trail for blind people. The first day we worked at a no kill animal shelter where we organized their thrift store which was used as a fund raiser so that they would not have to put down the animals. Throughout the week we were bouncing all over the place, 7am to 4pm of nonstop community activities.

What was your most memorable moment of the trip?

ED: One of the nights the local people came to donate food to us. We were all eating and I went up to the owner of the restaurant who had donated the food to thank him and shake his hand and instead he said "No thank you" and he shook my hand. It was the moment when I realized all that we were doing for this community. Also walking down highway 90 and it was a beautiful beach on one side and empty lot after empty lot of space on the other. All that's left of some houses is a staircase to nowhere and there aren't enough finances to rebuild many of these areas.

Anything else?

ED: It's important to be aware, that even though it's not the main focus and MTV isn't going down there, of how natural disaster affects an area. Right down our road in Paterson there is a United Way branch, and next year I am trying to get a United Way branch on campus. There are places right down the road that need just as much help as the area I was in.

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Honors Student Named 'Best College Radio Talk Program Host'



Stephan Bisaha

Honors student Stephan Bisaha was awarded first place for the Best College Talk Program Host on William Paterson's WPSC 88.7 Brave New Radio. His talk program, *The Monday Morning Blend*, incorporates a wide variety of news, politics, and other pop-culture. Stephan is a member of the Honors Literary and Performing Arts Track. In his free time, Stephan hosts the Pioneer Players, and improv group on campus. We caught up with Stephan and asked him a few questions.

What is the award and what does it mean to you?

SB: The award is from the intercollegiate Broadcast System Organization (IBS) with over 1,000 college stations as members and I was given the national award for best talk show program. It's validation of what I work so hard for, since with any broadcast you don't get much feedback. It really pays off and it makes us all want to work harder to improve segments and make the show even better.

What are you planning on doing for your Honors Thesis in the Literary and Performing Arts Track?

SB: I am planning on doing a radio drama. I have a lot of ideas and am planning to use experimental concepts that no one has ever done before. It is under wraps right now, but it has the potential to be a really great piece.

How do you think that winning these awards will impact the station?

SB: The variety of awards and finalists awards will help gain recognition for the station. The awards will also help to inspire the DJ's on the station to excel further and take the extra steps to make it better. It doesn't make you lazy, it makes you want more. Brave New Radio will be doing bigger and better things in the future.