

DELGADO HONORS PROGRAM WOWS AT 2009 CONFERENCE

Delgado Honors students and faculty played a major role in the Louisiana Collegiate Honors Council (LCHC) 2009 conference at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The theme of this year's conference, which was held Feb. 13-14, was "Peace, Love and Honors." Delgado is the only active community college member of the LCHC, and Dr. Brenda Bryant was this year's LCHC president and will preside as past president in the upcoming academic year.



Dr. Shameem Choudhury, who was chosen to be the keynote speaker at this prestigious statewide event, made a presentation entitled "An American Journey," a narrative of what it took for him to become an American citizen and embrace this country as his homeland. Based on reading a number of his poems that marked the defining moments in this transformational journey, Choudhury's presentation resonated well with an audience of some 200 college students and faculty from across Louisiana. Dr. Julia Frederick, director of University Honors Program at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, said in a letter to Choudhury: "Your talk was electrifying for many of my students, especially those who had never stopped to think what it would be like to be an immigrant to this country. I myself was brought back to 9/11 and my emotions that fateful day as you read your poem."

Delgado's Honors students participated significantly in a wide variety of events, including the following: five rounds of quiz bowl competition against Louisiana State University, Louisiana University at Lafayette (which won the tournament), Southern University of New Orleans, University of New Orleans and University of Louisiana at Monroe. Delgado's team was called the Delgado Cyclops Killers, named after student Heidi Martin's art piece, a Cyclops mask. Honors student Jennifer Stanley wore the Cyclops mask at the opening ceremonies and was chased by the rest of her team, who bore Mardi Gras spears. Delgado quiz bowl team members under the leadership of Dr. Philip Mabe were Burke Beyer, Emily Boudreaux, Samantha Coslan, Chris Coulter, Devin Hughes, Michelle Hodges, Jeremy Grego, Nicholas Langkopp, Rubin Lewis, Michelle Saucier, Jennifer Stanley and Neely Vaughn.



Beyer presented her paper, "Clytemnestra: Justifiable or Certifiable," based on Clytemnestra's motives for revenge in the Greek play *Oresteia* by Aeschylus. The paper was written for Choudhury's Structure of Western Thought class and argues that Clytemnestra's role of the

grieving mother who murders her husband Agamemnon because of his role in their daughter's death is not ultimately justifiable because her actions stems from sadistic megalomania.

Coulter and Langkopp, from Professor Missy Diaz's Madness in Literature course, presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Ken Kesey: Senor Taco Loco," in which they examined the life of Kesey, his acclaimed novel *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and the U.S. government's role in the LSD trials.

At the poster board session, three creative art pieces were on display from Bryant's Honors class, *The Structure of Western Thought*: Heidi Martin's Cyclops head, a Mardi Gras papier-mâché head of the one-eyed Cyclops; Lynette Coleman's Odyssey board game, in which players with handmade wooden ships obtain cards from each of the islands where Odysseus landed before they can head home to Ithaca (the first player to reach Ithaca wins); and Mikkell Allen's "Gaze of Athena," a computer generated graphic art design that has been placed on canvas that depicts Athena surveying the Greek world where she speaks to the world through Homer about justice and elite civilization.



The Delgado Cyclops Killers