The University Honors Program is proud to announce a new initiative linking scholarly activity and civic engagement — The Wright State University Honors Institute. Each year the Institute will focus on a different contemporary intellectual issue of ethical importance. The inaugural Institute will focus on Creativity and the Brain and is scheduled for January through March 2006.

The Honors Institute is a quarter-long, multi-track learning experience for WSU Honors students that includes two interdisciplinary seminars and a service learning project coordinated with community organizations related to the year’s topic. Ultimately, the Institute aims to produce civic-minded, creatively engaged students who feel invested in their community.

The Institute’s Winter Quarter 2006 academic component will culminate during National Brain Awareness Week with a 7:00 p.m. keynote address on March 9 and the day-long symposium on March 10 for both students and the general public. The keynote address will feature Dr. Oliver Sacks, world-renowned neurologist, humanist, and author.

Perhaps best known for his book The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat, Dr. Sacks is concerned above all with the ways in which individuals survive and adapt to different neurological diseases and conditions. Equally interested in diseases and people, theory and drama, science and romance, Dr. Sacks has made it his task to “restore the human subject at the centre—the suffering, afflicted, fighting human subject . . . .” His best-selling books, widely used in university humanities courses, have served as inspiration for artists working in forms as varied as poetry, essay, documentary, drama, painting, dance, cinema and fiction. His book Awakenings (1973) became a play and later a movie (1990) by the same name, starring Robert DeNiro and Robin Williams.

Like Sacks’s keynote address, the day-long symposium on March 10 is free and open to the public and will further explore the theme of creativity and the brain from three separate, complementary approaches of inquiry: liberal arts, science, and medicine. Regional scholars and community representatives will hold concurrent sessions on topics such as gender and the brain, the creative impulse, and the meaning of consciousness. The symposium will feature morning and afternoon concurrent sessions and includes a continental breakfast and lunch for all participants. Community organizations also will offer informational tables throughout the day.

The 2006 Institute is supported in part by a Promotion of Excellence Grant from the Honors Society of Phi Kappa Phi; additional sponsorship support is available.

Online registration will be available beginning January 2, 2006, at www.wright.edu/honorsinstitute.

For more information, call the Honors Program at (937) 775-2660.
Welcome to fall quarter from the WSU Honors Program! The entire program staff especially wants to recognize and welcome the over 300 new Honors students. We look forward to getting to know each and every one of you.

The Honors Program enjoyed another remarkable year in 2004-2005. Over 900 undergraduates participated in the program. A record number of 100 students graduated with an Honors designation, including 25 University Honors Scholars, 30 Departmental Honors Scholars, and 45 General Studies Honors Scholars. The Student Honors Association engaged in numerous service projects, and several students joined me for the annual conference of the Mid-East Honors Association in Columbus.

The 2005-2006 academic year, meanwhile, promises to be an even more exciting one for the program. We will continue our many fine ongoing programs, including the Honors Dialogues and annual Research Colloquium. Most significantly, we will present the first annual Honors Institute during Winter 2006. Supported in part by a generous Promotion of Excellence grant from the Honors Society of Phi Kappa Phi, this inaugural institute will explore creativity and the brain and will culminate in the Honors Institute Symposium on March 9-10. We invite our alumni, faculty, students, and friends to join us for the keynote address by world-renowned neurologist Dr. Oliver Sacks. Watch for additional news about the Honors Institute in upcoming mailings and electronic communications.

So once again, the new academic year promises many stimulating and rewarding events and opportunities. I hope to enjoy them with each of you!

Lori Dock joined the Honors Program in August as the new Administrative Specialist. Lori has been a WSU employee since 1984 and is a graduate of the College of Liberal Arts (B.A. English). Her experience at WSU has included working for Developmental Education, Alumni Relations, Liberal Arts, and Development. Lori has enjoyed supporting WSU’s academic and outreach efforts over the years and looks forward to continued service to the Honors program and its exceptional students.

Beginning this fall, Gaetano “Guy” Guzzo is the Honors program’s new Faculty-in-Residence. Dr. Guzzo is also an instructor in the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, specializing in applied sociology, rural sociology, program evaluation, organizations, and the Amish. He considers this a “dream job” because it provides the opportunity to facilitate learning beyond the classroom and foster a positive, collaborative atmosphere between students and academia. Dr. Guzzo has some interesting student activities planned for the Honors Community residents, including a book club, movie nights, and field trips. Watch your e-mail and the Honors Web site for updates!
What is the National Scholarship Resource Center (NSRC)?

Since 2004, the NSRC has provided WSU students with comprehensive, up-to-date information on national scholarships. The Web site links to a list of scholarships, other scholarship search engines, and guidelines for constructing a strong, competitive application. Tips for faculty members writing recommendation letters are also available. For more information, visit www.wright.edu/academics/honors/nsrc.

What is a national scholarship?

National scholarships are extremely competitive, with students across the country participating in a very intense process. Some of the most prestigious national scholarships are the Rhodes, which supports study at Oxford; the Truman, which supports graduate study for students interested in public service; the Fulbright, which supports study in countries all over the world; and the Goldwater, which awards undergraduates with strong research projects in science, math, or engineering. More information about these and others can be found at the “Scholarships” link on the NSRC Web site.

Have you had any winners?

Yes! Following Micah Fuerst in 2004, we have two 2005 recipients. Alex Gutman, an undergraduate education major, won one of only two nationwide $10,000 annual scholarships provided by Texas Instruments for students planning to teach high school math. Heather Kaiser, who graduated last spring and is attending Ohio State University’s medical school, won a $2,000 Award of Excellence from the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Why should WSU students apply for national scholarships?

In addition to lifelong recognition for being a recipient, some recipients have opportunities to work at government agencies, study at world-renowned institutions and be involved in high-level research projects, become immersed in other cultures, enjoy international travel, secure contacts, and join the network of other scholarships’ distinguished alumni. National scholarships open doors, and I would like to see more WSU students enjoying the many benefits. Then again, even if an applicant is not selected, the process is a valuable experience. Students learn more about themselves, improve their writing and interviewing skills, define and articulate their academic and career goals, and develop relationships with mentors. And a scholarship application can easily be turned into an application for graduate school.

What is your role at the NSRC?

I wear many hats as I work with faculty, advisors, and administrative staff in identifying our most talented students. I spend a lot of time mentoring students throughout the application process, helping them choose appropriate scholarships, secure letters of recommendation, make contacts with programs abroad, and develop personal essays. I really enjoy watching students become more poised and persuasive in presenting their accomplishments, skills, interests, and goals and supporting faculty members as they write their letters of recommendation that contribute to the student’s overall application package. I also serve as the liaison between the student and the granting institution. For some of the scholarships, like the Fulbright, I collaborate with other university units.

Will the NSRC be taking any new directions this academic year?

I am currently developing the Early Identification Program, which involves locating WSU’s high achieving students with 3.7+ GPAs at the end of their first year of study and inviting them to a formal reception with faculty, administrators, and past scholarship recipients at the beginning of their sophomore year. The program will further involve small group mentoring sessions for sophomores and juniors followed by a sustained course of one-on-one advising six months to one year before the respective scholarship deadline.
The academic year’s Honors Dialogues kicked off on September 21 with a timely discussion by Liam Anderson, Assistant Professor of Political Science, on “Iraq: What’s Next.”

Students, faculty and staff attended the Dialogue, a follow up to Anderson’s Fall 2004 discussion on “The Prospect for Democracy in Iraq.” Having visited Iraq in Spring 2005, he presented a first-hand account of the civil unrest in Iraq, following the constitutional compromise between Iraq’s two primary groups, the Kurds and Shiites, which excluded the Sunnis who were previously in control. According to Anderson, the election divided rather than united the country.

Additional Dialogues are scheduled throughout the academic year, and all are welcome to participate.

*NOTE TO FIRST YEAR STUDENTS: Please remember that all freshman Honors students are required to attend at least one Dialogue during their first year to maintain their Honors priority registration. Please sign the attendance sheet!

UHP Welcomes 302 Freshmen!

Who are they, and where do they come from? Here are some statistics on Fall 2005 Honors freshmen. They are:

- 65% female and 35% are male.
- all 18 to 20 years old.
- 80% Caucasian, 9% African-American, 2% Asian, and 1% each Hispanic and international (remaining 8% unknown).
- mostly unmarried (98%).

- intended or declared majors in engineering (24%), liberal arts (20%), science and math (19%), business (12%), and nursing (10%).

- High school graduates from all over the state, with at least five each coming from Kettering Fairmont, Beavercreek, Meadowdale, Northmont, Centerville, Fairborn, Greeneview, Miamisburg, Wayne and Colonel White, and Fairfield High Schools.

UHP OPEN HOUSE

September 8

UHP opened its doors to welcome new and continuing students (over 900) to another academic year. At right, David Barr, Bob Thobaben and Carl Becker chat about their classes and the new crop of Honors students while Mary Kenton (far right) provides assistance.
Marcia (Lack) Frobish (B.A. ’99 German/Math) married Dan Frobish in July at Buffalo Rock State Park in IL. Marcia, who now has a Master’s degree, and Dan, who is completing a doctoral degree in statistics, both enjoy teaching and will likely pursue careers in academe.

Lisa Pasquinelli (B.A. ’05 History/Latin) lives in Columbus, OH, and is Assistant to the Director of Instructional Technology at Denison University. (Lisa is pictured on Page 8.)

Debra Rolland (B.S.N. ’04) received the Arnedia Smith Award for Best Undergraduate Paper at the Spring 2005 OAGE conference in Aurora, OH. Debra is a registered nurse at the Dayton V.A. Medical Center and is involved in community service with the Alzheimer’s Association of Dayton.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

A recent review of approximately 1600 Honors alumni records showed that about 36% live in the Dayton area, 73% live in Ohio and the remaining 27% live outside Ohio in the U.S. Four Honors alumni have international addresses.

And given their diverse academic backgrounds, Honors alumni are employed in the accounting, arts, business, communication, computer, education, engineering, finance, medical, science and social services fields, just to name a few. Many are business owners or high level administrators; one of the largest employment groups is medical doctors.

Employment data were available for only 26% of our graduates. Help keep us updated, and “Send Us Your News!” (See Page 7.)

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Alumni Updates . . .

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The University Honors Program was proud to recognize its graduates at a special reception on Wednesday, June 8 in the Student Union Apollo Room. Seventy-seven graduates received special academic honors at the June 2005 commencement ceremony in the Ervin J. Nutter Center. In addition, eight Honors scholarship recipients and the 2005 Teacher of the Year were recognized (see photos below and right). Congratulations and best wishes!

**UNIVERSITY HONORS SCHOLARS**
Laura A. Bedrossian
Hiloni M. Bhavsar
William C. Bicknell
Dean P. Brown
Jennifer Brubaker*
Andrew J. Diller
Amanda Duling
Micah J. Fuerst*
Gregory M. Glaus
Amanda M. Hardy
James T. Mosher
Lydia M. Myers
Lisa M. Pasquinelli*
Rachel D. Peterson*
Jeffrey A. Shininger
Pride K. Starnes
Cory D. Taylor
Randy J. Tobe
Erin Troup
Amy M. Woods

**GENERAL STUDIES HONORS SCHOLARS**
Paula D. Ackerman
Craig M. Baudendistel
Matthew G. Bell
Nicholas Bushey
Sarah E. Cooney
Laura R. DeStephen
Katie M. Dysinger
Jennifer A. Eckhart
Rebecca L. Englebrecht
Jennifer A. Evers
Stephanie M. Fischer
Renee Li-Yuan Goff
Anthony J. Halley
Ryan M. Hohman
James R. Knapp
Erin M. Langenkamp
Brian M. Lovewell
Benjamin M. Mack
Lowren T. Manger
Christopher M. Mason
Jenna A. McMillen
Jessica L. Neidigh
Bich-Doan Tuong Nguyen
Jessica L. Parthemore
Jeffrey S. Price
Ashlee J. Purdy
Erl B. Riegel
Jamie A. Riley
Alanna J. Romansky
Christie L. Ropp
Christopher G. Smallwood
Andrew M. Smith
Shana N. Stanley
Sara E. Stevens
Krista M. Thiel
Ryan C. Vikan
Samantha R. Warren
Lisa M. Wierzbicki
Laurie A. Wireman
Kristen N. Wrenn

**DEPARTMENTAL HONORS SCHOLARS**
Norah Alaifi
Ann M. Alleding
Jessica A. Brown
Amanda Collins
Janet M. Cross
Brandy L. Foster
Taryn L. Federick
April Green
Julie Hooper
Sarah Jensen*
Nancy A. Kinkley
Janine D. Lindgreen
Amir Ali Motamedi Masoudieh
John H. Meyers
RaDenna Ream
Tara A. Rench
Amy Wessel

*Participated in Research Colloquium (See Page 8)
In 1988, the University Honors Program established the tradition of annually recognizing an outstanding member of the Honors Faculty as Honors Teacher of the Year. Throughout the year, Honors students are invited to nominate the Honors faculty member whom they found inspiring and whom they believe best represents the highest standards of academic excellence. The 2005 Honors Teacher of the Year certainly meets those criteria. Dr. Roberta Pohlman, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, has taught a very successful Honors UH203 course on bioethics for the past three years. The students who nominated Dr. Pohlman called her course challenging and engaging and praised her ability to generate stimulating discussion on challenging material. Congratulations to Dr. Pohlman!

ROBERTA POHLMAN

In 2005, Dr. Roberta Pohlman was recognized as Honors Teacher of the Year. She has taught a very successful Honors UH203 course on bioethics for the past three years. The students who nominated her called her course challenging and engaging and praised her ability to generate stimulating discussion on challenging material.

NAME ___________________________________________
Address _________________________________________
City/State/Zip _____________________________________
Degree/Year/Honors Designation ____________________
Spouse’s Name ___________________________________
If WSU alum, spouse’s degree info ___________________
Phone (home) _____________________________________
Employer _________________________________________
Job Title _________________________________________
Phone (work) _____________________________________
E-mail ___________________________________________

Enclosed is my gift of $ ____________ to be used for:
☐ Honors Program Development Fund—Supports Honors student extracurricular activities
☐ Honors Scholarship Fund—Supports traditional Honors student scholarships

You can also give online at:
https://www.wright.edu/php-bin/foundation/online_giving.html

I am interested in other giving options. Please contact me at one of the numbers listed at the left.

Please share your recent accomplishments with us!
_______________________________________________________________________________________
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_______________________________________________________________________________________
NSRC (continued from Page 3)

What can the university community do to help students win national scholarships?

As a community, we need to get into the habit of identifying our high-achieving students as early as possible in their academic careers, supporting them in setting ambitious goals, and referring them to the NSRC. We should strongly encourage students to participate in campus and community activities that demonstrate leadership skills, cultivate good relations with professors, and keep up with their other interests or hobbies (playing guitar, writing poetry, fencing—for example). The jury committees who read these applications look for Renaissance-style, well-rounded applicants. I invite suggestions from members of the university community who can either phone, send an email, or send the student over to see me.

For more information on the NSRC, stop by the Honors office or contact Dr. Morgenstern at (937) 775-2660 or honors@wright.edu.

2005 RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

UHP hosted its fourth annual research colloquium on May 25. Seven students, including one from Sinclair Community College*, presented their research in a lecture style format. This year’s presenters were:

Micah Fuerst presents his mathematics research.

Jennifer Brubaker (Nursing)
Micah Fuerst (Science & Math)
Sarah Jensen (Psychology)
Lisa Pasquinelli (History)
Rachel Peterson (English)
*Christine Retherford (Political Science)
Steven Smith (History)

ALD Has a New Home!

The administrative home for the freshman honor society, Alpha Lambda Delta, has been transferred to University College as of Fall 2005. The move was appropriate, given that University College coordinates most first year student activities. For information, contact Jeanne Fraker, Associate Dean of University College, at (937) 775-5750 or jeanne.fraker@wright.edu.

Lisa Pasquinelli discusses the 1937 Ohio River flood.

University Honors Program
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.
Dayton, OH 45435-0001