Honorable Mentions is a publication of the Wright State University Honors Program

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HONORS STUDENT WINS GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP

Senior Micah Fuerst has won a prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship awarded nationally to outstanding science students. Micah came to Wright State from Delphos Jefferson High School where he was Valedictorian. He was awarded a full-tuition Valedictorian Scholarship and an Honors Program Scholarship to attend Wright State University. He is a math major with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Goldwater Scholarships reward undergraduates who are active researchers. Micah works with Dr. K.T. Arasu on the existence and nonexistence of circulant weighing matrices of given parameters. Micah was selected for nomination by a committee chaired by Associate Professor Richard Mercer, who serves as the faculty representative to the Goldwater Foundation. Only 310 Goldwater Scholarships were awarded nationwide. Micah was one of 29 math majors selected.

Goldwater recipients have been successful recently in also winning prestigious post graduate scholarships such as the Rhodes or Marshall. The Goldwater Foundation is a federally endowed agency established by Congress in 1986 to honor the memory of Senator Barry M. Goldwater. The Goldwater is the premier undergraduate award of its type in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering.

Two other Wright State University students have won Goldwater Scholarships in the past: Chemistry student Becky Hammer Grinstein and Biology major Michael Woeste.

TWO NEW SPACES MAKE LIVING IN THE HONORS COMMUNITY EVEN BETTER!

Thanks to Vice President for Student Affairs, Dan Abrahamowicz, the Honors Community has a new multipurpose space on the second floor. This large room can be used for speakers, meetings, or social events (such as the Student Honors Association’s Game Night pictured below.) It is currently furnished with tables and chairs, and there is talk about some decorative touches in the near future.

On the same level as the C-Store is the new fitness center which houses various aerobic machines, some free weights and other weight training equipment. The students show their appreciation by using it regularly.
HONORABLE MENTIONS

The University Honors Program has enjoyed another outstanding year. Honors Program enrollment continues to grow, with over 900 undergraduates currently involved in the Program. We also offered a record number of UH200 and UH400 courses this academic year, and we thank the Office of the Provost and the faculty involved for making these courses possible. I am particularly pleased to note that our 2003 Distinguished Honors Alumnae, Dawne Dewey, developed and taught a very well-received UH400 seminar last fall on Dayton’s aviation heritage.

Perhaps the best evidence of the continuing vitality of the University Honors Program, however, is the success of Honors students. Honors Math major Micah Fuerst was the recipient of a prestigious Goldwater Scholarship, the first at Wright State since 1998. In addition, Honors students continue to serve as student leaders across campus, from Student Government, to Residence Life, to the student members of the Board of Trustees. Honors students are also pursuing numerous study abroad programs. This fall, for example, the Honors Faculty in Residence, Bobby Rubin, will again lead a group to Costa Rica.

The culminating event of the year will be the third annual Honors Research Colloquium on May 26. We invite the entire campus community to come see the variety and quality of Honors student research projects and presentations. Please also join us as we celebrate and recognize the achievements of Honors Sophomores on May 13 and of the Honors graduates on June 9. We look forward to even greater success for the Honors students in 2004-2005.

DIRECTLY SPEAKING...
NOTES FROM DR. CARRAFIELLO

Administrative Specialist Deborah Merrill joined us at the beginning of winter quarter. Deborah recently returned to her Ohio roots after spending many years in California where she worked for production studios as an office manager and film editor. She is taking classes and hopes to finish her degree in Communications soon. She enjoys writing, hiking and singing in church. Deborah’s two children are Jessica, 19 and Adam, 16.

Patty Conrady is a first-year student who is already a sophomore. She is majoring in Nursing PreMed. Patty grew up mostly in New York but graduated from McNicklas High School in Cincinnati. She lives in the Honors Community on Third East.

Paul Webb is also a first-year sophomore. He picked up extra credits by going to Clark State while he was still at South Eastern High School in South Charleston. Paul is an Electrical Engineering major who lives on Second East.

Mindy Watters rounds out the student crew. She is almost a junior, majoring in Middle Childhood Education and Chemistry Education. She has been involved in Honors Residential Government and the Pep Band. This fall she will be a Peer Leader for First Weekend.

First Weekend

Students had been supplied with a common text—Nickled and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich—when they came for summer registration and orientation. During First Weekend, the new students had discussion sessions about the book and then heard the author speak at the Sunday evening convocation. Dr. Ehrenreich signed books for about an hour after the convocation and dined with a group of Wright State faculty and staff.

The new students were treated to a host of fun activities were in the Student Union—everything from a Dive-In Movie at the pool to a Club Fair with Food at the Atrium. The Honors Program staff had a chance to meet with around 150 incoming students on Saturday afternoon of First Weekend.

So, from the sunny and uneventful move-in to the exceptionally well-attended Freshman Convocation, First Weekend was a rousing success. Because of the Labor Day holiday, First Weekend for fall of 2004 will be four days and will include an on-campus service opportunity. The book for this fall is Parker Palmer’s Let Your Life Speak. With more sponsors and more activities, this year promises to be even better.
Dawne Dewey graduated from Wright State University with Honors in Anthropology and History in 1980. She then went on to earn an MA in Public History in 1984. She went to work in the Paul Lawrence Dunbar Library and was named Head of Special Collections and Archives in 1997. Over the years Dawne has become an internationally known expert on the Wright Brothers papers, housed mostly at Wright State. She has been invited to speak in France and Italy, and has welcomed countless scholars and special guests to the campus to view and use the collection. In 2000 she co-edited a coffee table volume entitled Wilbur Wright’s Flights in France: Leon Bollee’s Photographic Record, 1908-09. In September, she appeared on a Discovery Channel documentary, “The Wright Brothers: First in Flight”. This fall she is teaching an Honors Seminar entitled “Dayton’s Aviation Heritage,” sharing with students her unparalleled knowledge and access to other experts in the field.

Dawne Dewey delivered the 2003-04 Distinguished Honors Alumni Lecture on Monday, November 3. Her title was “Wright State University and the Legacy of the Wright Brothers”. In addition to being an Distinguished Honors Alumnae, Dawne received the Outstanding Alumni Award from the Departments of History and Anthropology in 2003. The department she heads also received the President’s Award for Excellence for Outstanding Unit in 2003.

UH 400 COURSE DEVELOPMENT GRANT COMPETITION

The University Honors Program is pleased to announce the continuation of the UH 400 Grant Competition for 2004-05.

Fully-affiliated faculty members are invited to submit course proposals for consideration. Honors Seminars are topical, interdisciplinary courses restricted to junior and senior Honors students. Recent topics have included the idea of celebrity, science and creation, and parents, children and the state. The purpose of the grant is to allow a fully-affiliated faculty members release time to develop a new UH 400 course. Three $1500 grants will be made.

Recipients are expected to teach the new course at least twice over a three year period.

To apply, submit the course proposal (including a tentative syllabus), your curriculum vitae, and a letter of support from your department chair and dean, indicating their willingness to allow you to teach the new UH 400 course. The deadline for the first round of competition is June 11.

Reply to: Susan Carrafiello, Director
University Honors Program
243 Millett Hall
honors@wright.edu
This fall Honors Dialogues followed last year’s pattern—excellent attendance, lively discussion, and a diverse audience of students, faculty, and staff.

David Barr led off the annual series with a talk on September 24 entitled “On Being Left Behind: The Politics of the Second Coming.” We carried in about 15 extra chairs and some stood in the doorway of 401 Millett. Dr. Barr had to defend his position against some strong challenges.

Liam Anderson presided over the second dialogue on October 9 in the Honors Residence Hall. His topic was “The Prospect for Democracy in Iraq.” Dr. Anderson’s book on the subject, The Future of Iraq, was published this year by Palgrave MacMillan. It is available in the University Bookstore. Dr. Anderson adroitly handled some tough questions. He is convinced that dealing with the two major minority populations—the Kurds and the Sunni—is central to any potentially successful democratic experiment. Dr. Anderson traveled in Iraq Spring quarter. He’ll no doubt have some great stories to tell.

The final fall dialogue, “Food and Human Evolution” was led on Friday the 24 of October by Anna Bellisari. Many readers remember that Dr. Bellisari left the Honors Program for a sabbatical to work on her book about food and fat and evolution. She is nearing the end of the project and shared her work with a group of current Honors students as well as a group of high school students who are interested in the Honors Program. Dr. Bellisari was ably assisted by Honors student Paula Ackerman.

Communication Chair Jim Sayer led off winter quarter. His talk, “Osama Ain’t Nuttin’! We’ve Been Scared Before,” made some fascinating comparisons between the Red Scare following WWI and the current political climate.

Biology Professor Dan Krane finished out winter quarter with a discussion of “DNA and the Courts.” Dr. Krane is a regular expert witness in cases involving DNA evidence.

John Morrisette returned to the dialogue circuit with a talk on April 15 called, “Deep in the Heart of Taxes,” or “Be Careful What You Wish For, You Just Might Get It.” He even contributed a sing-along inspired by Don MacLean’s “American Pie” revised by our ValerieFelmut’s new “Amendment Pie” lyric.

History Professor Joyce Kannan will deliver the final dialogue on May 7. She will discuss “South Africa: Ten Years After Apartheid.”
LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Bobby Rubin and Punam Bush taught *Culture, Identity and Film* for the third year. According to everyone, this was the best iteration yet. This coming fall they will to do it as a living learning community.

Cathy and Jim Sayer repeated their very successful community, *“The Language of Politics.”* For Fall 2004, the theme will be the ongoing election campaign.

The PreMed group had a floor in the North Wing again this year, and we added a Service Learning floor. Both groups share classes, out of class activities and living arrangements. KT Mechlin worked closely with the premed group and Terree Stevenson taught the linking seminar for the service learning group. Debbie Bertsch was the composition instructor and Tracey Steele handled the SOC 200 component.

The classes’ first major project was a voter registration drive. More than 60 members of the campus community were registered to vote and 40 absentee ballots were distributed.

*History’s Reach,* a learning community built around two web based classes will be back again this fall with the same crew: Susan Carrafiello for HST 101, Jane Blakelock for ENG 101, and Valerie Felmet will teach the only face to face component of the course—UH 101.

Upgrades for fall 2004, consist of a second PreMed community for commuters. We also hope to add a Learning Community for teacher education majors. The eventual plan is to have an Honors Learning Community for all incoming Honors students.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sophomore Recognition</td>
<td>Thursday, May 13</td>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td>E156 SU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honors Research Colloquium</td>
<td>Wednesday, May 26</td>
<td>10:30 AM–5 PM</td>
<td>E156 SU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honors Graduates Recognition</td>
<td>Wednesday, June 9</td>
<td>1-5 PM</td>
<td>SU Multipurpose</td>
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HONORS PRESENTS

Honors Director Susan Carrafiello, Associate Director Mary Kenton, and Faculty in Residence Bobby Rubin traveled to Chicago in November for the annual conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council.

The theme for the conference was *“Finding Common Ground,”* and the Wright State delegation presented a paper entitled *“Planting the Seeds of Excellence: Honors Learning Communities.”*

Honors also participated in a panel on *“Service Learning and Volunteerism in Honors Programs”* at this April’s Mid East Honors Association meeting in Indianapolis. Honors Director Susan Carrafiello was named Vice President of MEHA at the meeting.
HONORABLE MENTIONS

RECENT HONORS GRADUATES

A luncheon to recognize those Honors students graduating in November was held on Thursday, November 20 at noon in the Student Union.

Congratulations to all completing students and their advisors!

UNIVERSITY HONORS SCHOLARS

University Honors Scholars have completed at least eight Honors courses and seminars according to a prescribed distribution as well as the departmental Honors Program in their major.

Peter Ernst Buxa
Major: Computer Engineering
Project: A Software Package for the Prediction of Water Molecule Solvation Sites on Proteins
Advisor: Travis Doom

Rachel Colleen Howell
Major: Integrated Language Arts/English Education
Project: This Little Light of Mine
Advisor: Nancy Mack

April S. Leaverton
Major: Middle Childhood Education
Project: Misconception about Moon Phases in Middle Childhood Education
Advisor: Steve Hansell

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS SCHOLARS

Departmental Honors Scholars have completed significant independent work in their disciplines, ranging from laboratory and library research to creative projects. In many cases, these projects entail more than a year’s work.

Sunna Babar
Majors: Communication Studies and Political Science
Project: Participation in Model United Nations
Advisor: Donna Schlagheck

Chatam Miracle
Major: English
Project: Implied Multiple Christ
Advisor: Gary Pacernick

GENERAL STUDIES HONORS SCHOLARS

General Studies Honors Scholars have earned A’s or B’s in eight Honors courses and seminars and have maintained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.4.

Michelle E. Dillemuth
Major: Psychology Minor: Marketing

Matthew D. Hayes
Major: Management Information Systems

Ryan M. Hemmert
Majors: International Business and Accounting

Rachelle Sedenik
Major: International Business

Jessica Lynn Strimbu
Major: Psychology

Kristen N. Troup
Major: Mass Communications

Elizabeth Jean Tucker
Major: Marketing
Minor: Management

THIS YEAR’S CLASS

This year, the Honors Program welcomed 315 new students. Following a well-established trend, 64% are women and 36% are men. Of a total minority population of about 15%, African Americans account for 8 1/2 %.

All in all, it’s a typical class of incoming Honors students. They enrolled in learning communities in record numbers and have filled up the winter and spring classes, too. Those living on campus love the Honors Residence Hall, and the commuters figured out parking the first week.

Numbers for Fall 2004 look even brighter, with a record number of students requesting Honors housing. This could be the first year we fill the building entirely with Honors students.

At this year’s ALD induction, new members lined up for procession into the ceremony.
TRUSTEES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS SELECTED

Each year the Honors Scholarship Committee selects two students to receive scholarships that cover tuition and fees, room and board, and books. These students must rank in the top 5% of their graduating class and score in the top 5% on the ACT or SAT. This year’s recipients are Lauren Elise Cuff and John Harrison Platig.

Lauren is currently a senior at Washington High School in Washington Court House. She has been involved in the school musical all four years. She was an active member of the Trebuchet Team that placed second in the Wright State competition. This year she is a state finalist in the Ohio University American History Test. She has also been active in the Episcopal Church in Washington Court House that her father pastors. Lauren is still undecided about her major and is considering everything from engineering to history to elementary education.

John Platig is Valedictorian at New Knoxville High School. He was named a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Competition. He edited the yearbook, ran cross country, won an Excellent ranking at State Science Day, and served as a starter on the Varsity Scholastic Bowl Team. In his leisure time he enjoys jazz guitar and tae kwan do. John plans to study physics.

DONATE TO HONORS

You may choose to:
• Donate to the University Honors Program Development Fund to support extracurricular activities for Honors students.
• Designate your College Scholarship Campaign contribution to UHP to support traditional scholarships for Honors students

□ Enclosed is a check for $___________________ payable to the University Honors Program Development Fund.

□ Please charge $___________________ to my _______ MC _______ VISA _______ Discover

Card number: __________________________ Expiration date: __________________________
Print name of card holder: __________________________ Authorized signature: __________________________

Name________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Address______________________________________________________________________________________________________
Street                                                               City                           State                  Zip
SHA MEMBERS ENJOY GAME NIGHT

UHP's Student Honors Association members mix it up at game night in the new Honors Community multipurpose room. SHA is a student-run, student-driven organization open to all Honors Students. They hit the ground running this fall, with over 130 members. They've also sponsored a toga party/movie night, and bowling and dinner parties, and have cleaned at Ronald McDonald House as well. They sent five students to the Mid East Honors Association conference in Indianapolis this spring, and, as usual brought home the Spam Award!

Congratulations to this year's new officers: President—Ankit Punatar, Vice President—Valerie Felmet, Treasurer—Zontaye Bloodsoe, Secretary—Andrew Maley, Activities Coordinator—Pamela Daley, Historian—Shantelle Strait, and Publicity Coordinator—Jimmy Uphaus.

Alpha Lambda Delta’s annual induction ceremony was held February 17 in the Student Union. Ninety-five new students were added to the chapter rolls. To qualify for membership, first year students must earn a 3.5 grade point average.

Phi Kappa Phi

The annual induction for Phi Kappa Phi is scheduled for Thursday evening, June 3, in the Student Union. Provost David Hopkins will be the speaker.