On March 9 and 10, the University Honors Program held its inaugural Honors Institute on “Creativity and the Brain” featuring world-renowned physician and author Dr. Oliver Sacks. A record audience of nearly 1,000 attended his address, a collaboration with the WSU Presidential Lecture Series.

A capacity crowd of 250 participants attended Friday’s Symposium. Peggy DesAutels (Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Dayton); Judy Leasure (Executive Director, Partners for Community Living); Michael Stadler (Associate Director of the Honors College, University of Missouri-Columbia); Lawrence Goldstick, M.D., and Alan Jacobs, M.D., F.A.A.N. (Neurology Specialists); and Wright State faculty Linda Farmer (Associate Professor of Philosophy), John Flach (Chair and Professor of Psychology), Patricia Schiml-Webb (Research Assistant Professor of Psychology), and Kelli Zaytoun (Director of Women’s Studies) presented concurrent sessions on the brain, gender, aging, and disability.

Eighteen campus and community agencies that provide services in areas related to the Institute topic staffed information tables for the participants.

The inaugural Institute was made possible by more than 50 Founding Sponsors, as well as generous grants and support from:

- Abbott Laboratories
- The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi Neurology Specialists, Inc.
- The Ohio Humanities Council
- The Portz Fund

Additional support was provided by WSU’s Office of the President, Division of Curriculum and Instruction, and the School of Professional Psychology.

Watch for information on the 2007 Honors Institute. This year's topic: Poverty

More on the 2006 Institute...
Honorable Mentions

More on the Honors Institute . . .

Dr. Sacks (center front) poses with UH 400 seminar students at the reception following his keynote address.

Mrs. Goldenberg, Dr. Sacks, Dr. Barr, and President Goldenberg at the Student Union reception.

Students in the UH 400 service learning seminars worked with Judy Leasure, Executive Director of Partners for Community Living, on their service projects. Judy (center) and Symposium participants view displays of the students’ projects, which included the development and enhancement of the organization’s Web site, display board updates, archival work for a documentary film, and a personnel handbook. A children’s book that portrays empathy and understanding for individuals with special needs was also created.

(left) Honors alum Michael Stadler (B.A. ‘85 Psychology), Associate Director of the Honors College at the University of Missouri-Columbia, presents at the Symposium’s session on “How the Mind Works: An Interdisciplinary Forum.”

Dr. James Zull, Professor of Biochemistry and Biology at Case Western Reserve University, interacts with the Symposium’s luncheon crowd during his presentation on “Nature’s Creative Mind.” Following lunch, Dr. Zull hosted a book signing featuring his book *The Art of Changing the Brain.*
A huge thank you to everyone on the tremendous success of the first annual Honors Institute! It was a delight to meet our keynote speaker, Dr. Oliver Sacks, and it was wonderful to see him interact with our Honors seminar students. Likewise, the Symposium presenters and luncheon speaker, Dr. James Zull, offered fascinating and well-received presentations. We also owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the many external funding agencies, community partners, Institute Founding Sponsors, and university offices, especially the Office of the President, that made this event possible. And, of course, the Honors Program staff and our Honors Institute student fellows deserve a standing ovation for their incredible dedication and hard work. We are already planning next year's event, so watch for more information in the coming weeks.

On a personal note, one of the most rewarding aspects of the Honors Institute was the incorporation of service learning into my UH 400 seminar on “Madness and Civilization.” It was a privilege to work with Judy Leasure of Partners for Community Living and to see firsthand how much the students were transformed by their service learning projects. In that spirit, we have developed a new program we are calling “Honors in the Community.” Funded by a generous grant from the Provost’s Office Teaching Enhancement Fund, “Honors in the Community” will introduce service learning and civic engagement in at least six sections of the Honors General Education substitution courses: UH 201, 202, and 203. Each course will be tied to a specific theme in the community: Honors in the Arts Community (UH 201), Honors in the Social Service Community (UH 202), and Honors in the Scientific Community (UH 203). Our hope is that this program will motivate our first- and second-year Honors students in the same way that the Honors Institute inspired the civic imagination of junior and senior Honors students.

As we conclude this path-breaking year, we look forward with anticipation to our next Honors Institute and to the launch of “Honors in the Community” in 2006-07.

DIRECTLY SPEAKING . . .
NOTES FROM DR. CARRAFIELLO

2006 MEHA Conference

“Bringing It All Together” was the theme of the 2006 Mid-East Honors Association conference held in Toledo, OH, April 7 - 9. Susan Carrafiello, Amy Morgenstern, Roger Fecher (junior Biological Sciences) and Georg Lastoskie (senior chemistry) presented a well-received session entitled A Pedagogical Ecosystem: The Honors Institute.

Also attending the conference were Danielle Bliss, Ralph Casarenno, Mary Case, Joy Davis, and Korinne Lusterio. All of the students found the exchange of ideas with students from other institutions very rewarding. They also particularly enjoyed the “City as Text” activity, which included touring various areas of Toledo and visiting COSI (Center of Science and Industry) and the Toledo Museum of Art. Although the group didn’t win the “Spam” award at the talent show, their humorous skit about airport check-in won them the title “Airport People” for the remainder of the conference. Overall, it was an outstanding experience for everyone.

Ralph’s design was selected as the conference logo, used on t-shirts, programs, and other conference materials. Here he models his MEHA t-shirt.
Attention Alumni: Wright State’s chapter of the national honor society Phi Kappa Phi is currently reinvigorating its membership. If your membership has lapsed and you would like to renew, visit www.phikappaphi.org. Check out the latest membership benefits, and watch for activities sponsored by WSU’s chapter.

Amanda Smith (junior social work) was recognized for receiving both the WSU and State of Ohio Student Employee of the Year awards. In addition to being an outstanding three-year employee in the Center for Urban and Public Affairs (CUPA), Amanda’s survey exploring the role of high school preparation on student careers and college planning is being implemented at more than forty public high schools in southwest Ohio. Her CUPA supervisor David Jones noted that the ongoing use of the survey “has positioned WSU to be at the forefront of education research for many years to come.”

Michela Miller (senior biological sciences) received an internship with the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden beginning May 31.

Holly Cantrell (senior communication studies) was offered a $20,000 financial aid package to attend Ohio Northern University Law School. Holly helped fund her undergraduate education while working with an agency that provides 24-hour care to individuals with mental retardation. She became interested in the practice of law when she observed the hardships that people with developmental disabilities endure because they cannot defend themselves. She is interested in employment law and litigation, as well as healthcare malpractice law.

Roger Fecher (junior Biological Sciences) has acquired a position with the Neuroscience, Cell Biology, and Physiology Department as a research assistant. Roger will work with Dr. Robert Fyffe, Director of the Center for Brain Research and Associate Dean for Research Affairs, in conducting research on the spinal cord, focusing on how damage can affect the motor function of neurons.

Honors students LeAnn Meyer (second from left), Nicole Devendra (far right), and Clint Clark (not pictured) each received a Spring 2006 Dunbar Library Student Assistant Award, which included a certificate and $500. Students are selected based on excellent service to the library from supervisor recommendations.
HONORS COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

It has been an active year in the Honors Community. Dr. Guy Guzzo, Honors Faculty-in-Residence, coordinated a wide range of activities to tap into a variety of student hobbies and interests. Book club members read and discussed *The Da Vinci Code*, *1984*, and *Wicked*; several professors showed foreign films (French, Spanish, German, and Korean) as part of a Foreign Film and Food Series; and a biological sciences professor led students and some parents along the campus nature trail for a tour of the fall colors and gave an informal local natural history lesson. Late night/early morning snacks, coffee, and hot chocolate were provided during finals week to lend support to students’ study efforts. Critically acclaimed movies were regularly shown in coordination with Michael Allbright, Honors Community Director. A series of wheelchair dance sessions were held to introduce physically-challenged and able-bodied persons to an alternative form of expression and recreation. A two-week trip to Switzerland is planned for Summer 2006. Dr. Guzzo’s first year as Faculty-in-Residence has been an exciting and stimulating experience. He has already begun planning for next year’s events and activities.

NSRC News

The National Scholarship Resource Center (NSRC) congratulates Brian Schell (B.A. ‘06 Religion) for winning a $2,000 Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Award of Excellence. Forty Awards of Excellence are granted each year for post-graduate study at accredited institutions of higher learning. Before coming to WSU, Brian first earned two associate degrees at Sinclair Community College in business management and computer information systems. This fall, Brian will begin studies toward an M.A. in English at Wright State University.

Congratulations also go to the following students and alumni who were nominated for prestigious national awards: Elizabeth Brenner (senior English) - Fulbright and Marshall Scholarship; Dylan Borchers (junior Political Science) - Truman Scholarship; Steven Ballmer (junior chemistry) - Goldwater Scholarship; Brian Birkmire (sophomore engineering physics) - Goldwater Scholarship; and Jay Delaney (B.S. ’01 Marketing) - Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Scholarship.

Every quarter the NSRC hosts an informational program on preparations for the national scholarship application process. Be sure to look for email announcements!

Honors Alumni Updates . . .

Mary Beth Caudill (Lengefeld) (B.A. ’94 Psychology; M.A. ’96) is a soccer/tennis coach and P.E./health lecturer at Muskingum College. She and her husband, Tom, are the parents of Tanner Austin, born in December 2005.

Jay Delaney (B.S. ’01 Marketing) had his 16mm narrative short film, "The Day the World Saved Shane Sawyer", accepted into the Sarasota Film Festival and screened in April.

Jennifer Rowland, R.N. (B.S.N. ’04) is a labor and delivery nurse with Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, OH. Last fall she was accepted into the graduate nursing program at OSU. She plans to pursue a dual master’s degree in nurse midwifery and women’s health.

Omea Catherine Sorrells (Kirkland) (B.S. ’98 Early Childhood Education) is a teacher with Beavercreek City Schools. She received an M.S. in Education from the University of Dayton in 2003, and in 2005 married Don Sorrells, who holds a B.S. (marketing) and an M.B.A. (finance) from WSU.

The University Honors Program is pleased to welcome 39 Honors competitive scholarship recipients for Fall 2006. We look forward to working with a new group of outstanding students. Congratulations and welcome to the Honors Program!

Tiffany Bodenmiller—Jackson Center  
Jeffrey Bush—West Carrollton  
Elisabeth Cary—Bellbrook  
Kelly Dillahunt—Miami East  
Heidi Giberson—Portville Central  
Daniel Gillaugh—Cedarville  
Abigail Grieser—Northwestern  
Timothy Guindon—Bellbrook  
Rachel Hammons—Lakota West  
Amanda Hawkins—Fairborn  
Melissa Hayes—Miamisburg  
Christopher Huelsman—Marion Local  
Rachael Lamb—Springboro

Lea Lander—Northmont  
Samantha Larason—Tecumseh  
Mary Lash—Vinton County  
Karah Lykins—Marysville  
Alex Magnuson—Xenia  
Charles Mann—McAllen Memorial  
Michelle McCully—Riverside  
Kelsey Miles—Greenville  
Whitney Park—Union Scioto  
Margaret Purk—Port Chester  
Aaron Schaffrinna—Bellbrook  
Benjamin Schmitt—Saint Xavier  
Kevin Sheehan-Wayne

Sabrina Sheetz—Franklin  
Lauren Sloniker—Milford  
Todd Smith—Firelands  
Kristina Solch—Bethel  
Mary Wenning—Associate Professor of Urban Affairs and Geography, discussed the American Humanics certificate program, the importance of the non-profit sector in our society, as well as employment in this area.

In January, William Irvine, Professor of Philosophy, gave a lunchtime talk about sexual desire. Among the questions considered were why sex is enjoyable, why we have the sexual preferences we do, and what determines our “type” in members of the opposite sex. In May, Mary Wenning, Associate Professor of Urban Affairs and Geography, discussed the American Humanics certificate program, the importance of the non-profit sector in our society, as well as employment in this area.

The UHP Web site is being redesigned, improved, and enhanced. Check it out this fall!

www.wright.edu/academics/honors/
BRUNGART RECEIVES 2006 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

Douglas S. Brungart (B.S. '93 Computer Engineering/University Honors Scholar), was honored as the 2006 Honors Outstanding Alumni at an April 25 reception in the Student Union. In 1998, he completed his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at MIT. His presentation included topics such as sound localization, audiovisual speech perception, and noise measurements made on the flight deck of a U.S. Navy Aircraft Carrier.

STAY CONNECTED!

Help us stay in touch with you! Send this form with your news and updates to: Wright State University, Honors Program, 243 Millett Hall, Dayton, Ohio, 45435. Or visit our Web site at www.wright.edu/academics/honors and follow the “Forms” link to “Honors Alumni Update.” We enjoy hearing from our graduates and friends!

SEND US YOUR NEWS

Name ___________________________________________
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Spouse’s Name ___________________________________
If WSU alum, spouse’s degree info ________________
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Employer _________________________________________
Job Title _________________________________________
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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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While many students spend their college spring break relaxing on a beach and enjoying the night life, senior Honors student Greg Segelhorst spent his March break volunteering in the Gulf Coast area devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Led by Bill Shepard, Executive Director of the Student Union, Greg was among a group of twenty-eight WSU students and staff who gutted houses, repaired drywall, and assisted with general clean-up in the Gulfport, MS, area. He felt the trip “would be an excellent opportunity to do a wonderful service project and really give back to those who lost everything.” He had an opportunity to interact with one home owner who felt like she had her house back again after just one sheet of drywall was hung.

On the last day of the trip, Greg’s group drove to the area worst hit by the hurricane. No one was prepared for the level of devastation they saw. Many areas appeared untouched, with families still living in small campers or tents on their empty properties. “I would recommend the trip to everyone, regardless of their ability or skill. Hopefully, I will return soon and have a whole new group of Wright State students with me.”

More than 800 service hours were contributed by the group, and many of the building materials and equipment used were donated by campus staff and friends. Below and at right are a few trip photos of Greg and the WSU group.