The Honors Program is pleased to announce that three Honors students have recently received national scholarship recognitions.

Roger Fecher (junior, biology) is the recipient of a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship—the premier undergraduate award of its type in the fields of mathematics, natural sciences, and engineering. The fourth student from WSU to receive this scholarship, Roger is an active researcher who has worked with Dr. Robert Fyffe and the Wright State Comprehensive Neuroscience Center (formerly the Center for Brain Research) on improving the understanding of the nervous system's communication mechanisms in health and disease, with primary focuses on neuronal development and response mechanisms to disease and injury. Roger plans to pursue an M.D./Ph.D. in neuroscience toward the goal of conducting medically-oriented research at a prominent university.

Also, David Neff (B.S. ‘07 Mechanical Engineering; UHS) was awarded a $2,000 Phi Kappa Phi Award of Excellence for graduate study. David plans to study materials engineering at Wright State with a focus on alternative energy.

Finally, Morgan Patten (senior, political science/women’s studies) was a finalist for the prestigious Harry Truman Scholarship, which supports students pursuing graduate degrees in public service fields.

Congratulations to Roger, David, and Morgan!
What a wonderful year for the University Honors Program! Our second annual Honors Institute generated great interest, with capacity crowds for both our keynote address and symposium on January 30-31. We were thrilled to meet Professor Wangari Maathai and enjoyed her riveting presentation on “Empowerment and the Escape from Poverty.” We were all similarly impressed with the personal insights that Ambassador Tony Hall offered the next day on “Changing the Face of Hunger.” Many people in attendance were openly moved by both speakers. I am certain that both visits with Dr. Maathai and Ambassador Hall will remain a special memory for me and for all the events’ participants.

Needless to say, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the numerous faculty, staff, and community members who took time out of their busy schedules to contribute to this year’s Institute and to our patrons who made this event possible: Sodexho, the Office of the President, the Office of the Vice President for Curriculum and Instruction, the School of Professional Psychology, the Office of Communications and Marketing, and Student Union and Event Services. And, of course, the Honors Program staff and our Student Fellows can’t be thanked enough for their incredible dedication and hard work. We plan to focus on the environment for next year’s event, so watch for more information in the coming weeks.

Perhaps the most gratifying aspect of this year’s Honors Institute was the impact it had on our students. Honors students in the UH400 seminars participated in a variety of service projects, including working with the House of Bread in downtown Dayton. Most significantly, our three Institute Fellows were inspired to initiate a microfinancing campaign. They worked tirelessly to raise funds to establish a village bank in Malawi, as you will read in the article on Page 3. At press time, we were preparing to mail a check for more than $5,100 to FINCA International. We would like to express our sincere thanks to all who supported and contributed to this campaign and especially to Iris Harvey for her assistance to the students throughout the process. As I said to the students involved, their efforts will make a significant difference in the lives of many! Thanks again!

We now look forward to next year and all of the special events it will bring—from the arrival of our new first-year class to the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the founding of the University Honors Program. I hope you will be able to join us in the coming year!
HONORABLE MENTIONS

STUDENT MICROFINANCE CAMPAIGN EXCEEDS $5,000 GOAL!

The Campaign
Related to the 2007 Honors Institute’s topic of poverty, Student Fellows Dylan Borchers, Sarah Wilson, and Roger Fecher set an ambitious fundraising goal of $5,000 to establish a Village Bank through FINCA International in the African country of Malawi. The Village Bank provides basic financial services—such as insurance, savings accounts, and loans—all of which are necessary for economic growth.

What is Microfinance?
Microfinance empowers people to end the cycle of poverty. By issuing small loans—sometimes as little as $75—the Village Bank provides immediate opportunities for families to lift themselves from poverty. As these loans are repaid, the money is then cycled to other families, providing a sustainable method to achieve economic growth and empowerment.

Why Malawi?
Malawi is one of the world’s least developed countries, with 65% of its population considered poor and 29% living in dire poverty—less than $1 a day. Like many African countries, Malawi suffers from a very high rate of HIV/AIDS, a situation exacerbating the levels of poverty.

In addition to making presentations to classes and speaking to student organizations about the project, the Fellows coordinated various methods for raising the funds, including hosting a spaghetti dinner, placing canisters in campus dining areas, and participating in a 24-hour treadmill run. Special thanks go to Dr. Sarah Twill for integrating the campaign’s goals into her class, and to Dr. Donna Schlagheck, Dr. Paul Leonard, and the Model UN Team for their generous contributions to get the campaign started. The Honors CAs, Student Government, Phi Kappa Tau, the WSU Running Club, Dr. Yvonne Seon, and Megan Cronenwett were also especially helpful. And finally, the Honors Program and the Fellows appreciate the guidance and direction of Iris Harvey and the cooperation of Wright-Patt Credit Union in this worthwhile endeavor.

Thanks to all who made this project a reality. At press time, more than $5,100 was being forwarded to FINCA International.
Honors Institute 2007

Is poverty a moral issue? Why are people poor? How does microfinancing help end poverty? How does the media portray poverty? These questions—along with discussions of poverty and health, education, and community—are just a few of the issues addressed during the second annual University Honors Program’s Honors Institute. The January 30 keynote address—in collaboration with the Office of the President—kicked off the two-day event and featured 2004 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Dr. Wangari Maathai, who spoke to a Student Union crowd of more than 1,000 on “Empowerment and the Escape from Poverty.”

The next day, nearly 250 people attended the symposium, which brought together WSU faculty, staff, and students, as well as community experts for discussions of poverty from social science and humanities perspectives. The symposium’s featured speaker was Ambassador Tony Hall.

The University Honors Program would like to thank the Office of the President, Sodexho, and its alumni and friends for their generous support of this year’s Institute.

The 2008 Institute will focus on the environment. Watch your mail and the Institute’s Web site for updates.

www.wright.edu/honorsinstitute

Following her keynote address, Maathai (right) graciously signed copies of her books at a private reception in her honor. Here, Dr. Irwin Abrams (left) gets his book signed. Maathai’s daughter Wanjira (center) assists her mother.

Middle school students from Yellow Springs show off their display board featuring Maathai and her work with the Green Belt Movement in Africa.

Ambassador Tony Hall encouraged the January 31 luncheon crowd to “do what’s in front of you” during his talk on “Changing the Face of Hunger.”
Honors is very pleased to welcome a new group of 47 outstanding students who are recipients of Honors competitive scholarships beginning Fall 2007. Congratulations and welcome!

Renee Albers—St. Henry
Jennifer Bauer—Roger Bacon
Adam Blake—Gallia
Sarah Boss—Port Clinton
Matthew Brady—Piketon
Lan-Anh Bui—Wayne
Andrew Cline—Greeneview
Michael Cozad—Houston
Edward Craft—Celina
Brittney Crist—Little Miami
Caleb Dukeman—Beavercreek
Brandon Egbert—Botkins
Megan Fisher—Tecumseh
Jennifer Garber—Brookville
Zachary Gaston—Madison
Amanda Haag—West Carrollton
Sarah Hardenbrook—Stivers
Joshua Hayes—Greenon
Sarah Heinig—Beavercreek
Nathaniel Hodson—Washington
Tiffany Johnson—Fairborn
Jordin Kear—Carey
Amy Kistler—Northwestern
Amanda Leese—Riverside
Oriana Lerner—Clonlara
Amanda Lyons—Butler
Matthew Marangoni—Black River
Bryan Martin, Jr.—Brookville
Jessica McGrew—Morgan
Kevin McReynolds—Lafayette
Kathleen Meyer—Hamilton
Angelina Papio—Beavercreek
Corey Pennington—New Richmond
Valerie Reaper—Oakwood
Leah Reed—Valley View
Nathan Reiter—Liberty Christian
William Schumacher—New Richmond
Christina Sherrill—Wayne
Timothy Smith, Jr.—Bellefontaine
Erin Stevning—Olentangy Liberty
Elizabeth Swartzwelder—South Point
Jessica Swope—Stivers
Isaac Voehringer—Waynesville
Nicole Wise—Fairborn
Jessica Wynn—Mapleton
Audrey Yorde—Brookville
Amber Ziemen—Bellbrook
**Honors Alumni Updates . . .**

**Michelle Buschur** (B.A. ’06 English: Integrated Language Arts; UHS) is pursuing a masters degree in classroom teaching (7-12) and serving as a long-term substitute at Coldwater High School, where she will teach 11th-grade English next year.

**Sarah Cooney** (B.S. ’05 Psychology; GS) is working on an Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree at the University of Dayton. Next year she will intern at Xenia Community Schools and plans to be a school psychologist. Sarah’s musical interests include playing bass in a local band, Towhee, that just recorded its first full-length album.

After finishing a psychiatry residency in 1998, **Merry DeLeon, M.D.** (B.S. ’90 Biology; M.D. ’94; UHS) was in private practice until 2004 and was recently appointed medical director for Aurora Pavilion, a 47-bed psychiatric hospital in Aiken, SC. She lives in Lexington, SC, with her husband, Christopher Krueger, and daughter, Isabella.

**Joyce Kremer** (B.S. ’06 Middle Childhood Education; M.Ed. ’07; UHS) begins her teaching career this fall as a 6th-grade language arts/social studies teacher with Troy City Schools. Joyce, an avid runner, plans to run in the September Air Force Marathon. She was recently nominated for the Outstanding Graduate Student Award, and serves as co-president of the WSU Golden Key International Honour Society and on the board for Big Brothers/Big Sisters in Shelby and Darke Counties.

**Ben Mack** (B.S. ’05 Biological Sciences; GS) is finishing his second year of medical school at WSU. Last year, as part of the school’s Global Health Initiative, he organized a volunteer medical mission trip to Haiti. (See photos below.) He is looking forward to beginning hospital rotations next year and his marriage this summer to **Amanda McConnell** (B.S. ’03 Biological Sciences).

**Wendy Merkert** (B.A. ’00 English; GS), a six-year employee of the Victoria Theatre Association, is currently serving as its Annual Fund and Grants Director. In Fall 2006, she completed a Masters in English and organizational communication at WSU.

**Rachel Peterson** (B.A. ’05 English/Religion; UHS) graduated in May from the Bethany Theological Seminary with an M.A. in Theology. She recently returned from a cross-cultural trip to Kenya and plans to pursue a doctorate after taking a year off for volunteer work in the U.S. or abroad.

**Eric Rupert** (B.A. ’90 English; M.A. ’93; DHS) is a full-time faculty member with Klamath Community College in Klamath Falls, OR.

**Anne Strothman** (B.A. ’91 English; UHS) has taught at Greenon High School for five years. She has served as a Pathwise mentor for entry-year teachers and a Praxis III assessor for the Ohio Department of Education. She recently submitted her National Boards for Professional Teaching Standards portfolio in the area of Adolescent English Language Arts and will take the written assessment this summer. This fall she begins pursuing a second masters degree from the University of Dayton.

**Maria Williams** (B.S. ’03 Psychology; UHS) begins her fifth and final year this fall as a doctoral candidate in the WSU School of Professional Psychology. She graduates in 2008.

**Logen Zimmerman** (B.A. ’01 Motion Pictures; UHS) is the administrative coordinator/collections manager for the Boston University School of Visual Arts. In April, he co-presented a paper entitled “A Brief History of Sidewalk Sam: Boston’s First Official ‘Screever’” at the Popular Culture/ American Culture Associations’ joint national conference. An added bonus for Logen was meeting up with his “favorite University Honors Program professor,” Dr. Jim Hughes.
Scott DeHart—WSU’s Student Employee of the Year

Scott DeHart (sophomore, management/French minor) was recognized in April as the 2007 WSU Student Employee of the Year. Scott works as a student assistant in Modern Languages where his creativity, initiative, and ability to treat everyone with respect and courtesy have made him an excellent member of the staff. Nominator David Garrison, chair of Modern Languages, described Scott as “... the most mature, polite, professional, and dedicated student worker I have ever seen.”

A 2005 graduate of Unioto High School in Chillicothe, OH, Scott regularly returns to his high school to promote the importance of taking foreign language classes. His career goal is to work for an international organization blending his skills and knowledge of management with the French language.

(left to right) Layne Crawford, David Garrison, Scott DeHart, Dan Abrahamowicz, and Kathy Morris at the April reception.
Annual Research Colloquium Features Student Research

The University Honors Program's annual Research Colloquium was held on Thursday, May 24 in the Millett Hall Atrium. Graduating seniors and Honors students who had completed their research projects were invited to present to the campus community. This year's presenters and their titles were:

- Rachel Brand (senior, Early Childhood Education) — “Outdoor Play Areas at Schools in the Miami Valley” (Advisor: Dr. Colleen Finegan)
- Travis Clark (B.S. ’07 Chemistry; UHS) — “Orange, Oils, and Allenes: Solving a Chemical Quandary” (Advisor: Dr. William Feld)
- James Dagg (B.S. ’07 Computer Science and Engineering; UHS) — “Linear Proportional Control in Dynamic Level Design for Computer Entertainment Software” (Advisor: Dr. Thomas Wischgoll)
- David Neff (B.S. ’07 Mechanical Engineering; UHS) — “Flow Control Technology for Aerodynamic Applications” (Advisor: Dr. James Menart)
- Erin O’Brien (B.S. ’07 Psychology; DHS) — “Judging Sexual Harassment: Understanding the Influence of Desensitization Primes on Male Perceivers” (Advisor: Dr. Martin Gooden)

Erin O’Brien presents her project at the May 24 research colloquium.