Almost everyone seems too young to be doing whatever it is they’re doing. Police officers often look like junior high students all dressed for some career-day project that got out of hand. The most frightening of the under age imitators are those who pose as physicians spouting medical jargon they probably learned from watching Doogie Howser instead of doing their homework. Some of the newer faculty members at Wright State surely cannot be old enough to have gone to graduate school for half an eternity, but they swear they’re Ph.Ds. Long held convictions of perpetual youth are more and more challenged by reality, and premature retirements don’t help.

How can it be that Jim Hughes is old enough to retire? First it was Jerry Hubschman, then Charles Berry, now Jim. Since there was an Honors Program Jim Hughes has taught Honors students. No one has done more for the Honors Program for less. He served for years on the Honors Committee, including at least one year as chair. He developed UH 201: Studies in the Humanities and taught it for 15 years. He was the first recipient of the Honors Teacher of the Year Award and could have won it over and over if the rules permitted. He regularly offered seminars on such topics as Homelessness and the Vietnam War. He is again teaching the Great Books course for Honors students this spring. He has been the English Departmental Honors Advisor from the beginning, with scores of Honors theses produced under his direction. As faculty advisor for the Wright State Chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta, he has attended numerous meetings and receptions and pronounced the Greek correctly at every fall induction ceremony.

Countless student evaluations and teaching awards attest to what a truly fine teacher he is. Years after graduation, Honors students can (and often do) recall specific classes when they learned something important from him: how to read a poem, connections between literature and architecture, tolerance, how to write a poem or an essay, empathy, what makes Henry James or Emily Dickinson great or why it’s important to read every word of Moby Dick--la joie de vivre et d'apprendre. God knows we will miss him. What makes his going tolerable is the knowledge that next spring he has promised to come back to teach a new seminar: On Being Gay and Lesbian. In the master’s hands, a topic with the potential to divide and confuse will instead be an enlightening, inspiring, and unifying experience for everyone lucky enough to participate.
An Invitation to the WSU Faculty

At first I noticed only the differences between them. He was a quiet student who always sat in the same chair on the far side of the room, apparently deeply engaged in class presentations which he carefully recorded in his notebook. His very few, but penetrating comments and questions indicated that he was concentrating on the course materials at more than a superficial level. He did not interact with other students and left quickly after each class ended.

She was conspicuous from the very start, leaning back in her chair in the exact center of the room, feet propped on her pile of books and other possessions, closely surrounded by several other students who frequently talked with her before, during, and after class. She took notes in a seemingly desultory way, and often nodded and smiled at those around her. She asked at least one question per class session. Her bright eyes were a clue to her interest and engagement in the class.

Even before the end of the quarter it was clear that these two students were the best in the class. And, as it turned out, they shared some very important characteristics despite their obvious differences. Both invariably came to class fully prepared and eager to discuss the reading assignments; they explored the subject matter, responding to examination questions with enthusiasm, thoroughness and great depth; they related the concepts covered in the course to their major fields and their personal concerns; they volunteered to lead class discussions; and they organized a study group. They even challenged my professorial assertions with their well-supported arguments and insights. In short, they contributed tremendously to the success of the course.

Neither one was an Honors student. He thought honors courses would be too difficult, and she just had never thought of applying for admission. When I told them of the advantages of the program -- small classes taught by the finest of the WSU faculty, increased student participation and responsibility, special interdisciplinary courses and seminars and research opportunities, among others -- they appeared interested but regretful. They were convinced that they could not qualify. She had had difficulty adjusting to college and ended her first year with a mediocre GPA. As a result of an automobile accident during his sophomore year, he had suffered a severe setback resulting in several very low course grades. Besides, they had already completed most of their general education courses and could not afford to extend their university education to include the number of honors courses required for full participation.

Fortunately, I explained, there is a solution for students who do not quite meet the usual qualifications but who bring some special contribution, enthusiasm, or determination to the program. In these cases the recommendation of a faculty member can be the basis for admission to the Honors Program and to selected courses at any time during the academic year. As we approach the end of the Spring Quarter, we might consider those among our students who are bright and committed to learning, who enjoy the challenges of unique and demanding courses, and who are willing to accept responsibility and to contribute to the education of their peers and classmates. A letter from a faculty member to the Honors Office documenting their academic potential and their interest in the program is all it takes to open the doors to new opportunities for deserving students. Please contact us if you have any questions or recommendations.

Anna

Hook Up With the Big Book House

The Honors Office is newly equipped with a terminal that connects to the Ohio Link library system. Without ever leaving Millett Hall you can order books from any participating library in the state. You can scan holdings and get accurate bibliographic information. The terminal is on the desk in the lounge area. Just turn it on with the power strip switch and follow the easy instructions. Thanks to Gordon Welty for his help in making the arrangements and setting up.

Winter's Top Honors Teachers
Summa Summa Summa Summa

Jimmy Chesire + + English
Neal Rote + + + Microbiology
Jerry Savells + + Sociology
Roy Vice + + + History
Honors Outreach

Several Honors students began a service project at Lincoln Elementary School in Dayton just before the Easter break. Lincoln is the largest elementary school in the city system, with over 700 students. It is best known for its music program; almost 75% of intermediate students participate in one of the bands or choruses. Lincoln, under the direction of its dynamo of a principal Odessa Johnson, is seeking to cultivate a volunteer base. Wright State students can contribute in many ways. This spring students will go to lunch with the kindergarten classes and go out to the playground afterwards. The idea is to help model good nutrition and table manners and to help teach games and the rules of fair play. Other Honors students will read stories to students and listen to them read. They may also teach board games that help develop reading skills.

We hope to continue and expand this work next year. The goal is to have as many Honors students as possible involved in one way or another. We will have on-campus events for some students and maybe some field trips, but the bulk of our work will take place at Lincoln School. There’s room for alumni, staff, faculty involvement. Kids need caring adults in their lives. Expect to be asked early next fall to contribute time, expertise, maybe even money. Lincoln school has a great staff, a terrific principal, and a ton of promising kids. It is an ideal service-learning environment. Our students will get back at least as much as they give. Stay tuned for updates.

Dinner at Kitty’s

The annual Honors dinner to celebrate our graduates, gather faculty and students, and lure back alums is Friday, May 26 at 7:30, at Kitty’s banquet facility downtown. Although it is not a perfect location, it was the one most people recommended. The food will be good and all speeches are guaranteed to be short, brilliant, and funny. Plan to be there. To reserve your spot, send a check for $20 per person to the Honors Office, 179 Millett Hall, WSU, Dayton 45435, by May 17. Alumni, get a group of your old friends together and make a table. We’ll help supply addresses and phone numbers.

Computers for Maple Hall

Three new computers were installed in Maple Hall late in April, thanks to funding from Lillie Howard, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and perseverance from Honors Director Anna Bellisari. Instead of a television in the first-floor lounge, residents will find a Power Macintosh Performa with multimedia capabilities, one IBM compatible 486-DX, and one IBM PS2 386-SX. One laser printer will serve all three machines. WordPerfect, Microsoft Excel, and Mathematica are already installed. Additional educational software will be provided as needed. Call the Honors Office with suggestions.

Honors Association Meets in Columbus

A total of ten Wright State folk trekked up I-70 to the Holiday Inn on the Lane for the annual MEHA conference. The keynote address was a computer demonstration of the information superhighway. Much of it was old hat for us Ohio people who are used to the LINK system for our libraries. Those from more backward states were suitably awed by Ohio’s advances.

The Wright State students did not enter the Talent Show, thereby making it a lesser event. The traditional canned ham that goes to the worst act disappeared from the Honors Office sometime during the last year. No one will own up to removing it. When queried about it at the conference, Mary Kenton said it was one of those Thomas à Becket/Henry II things: Will no one rid me of this damn ham? In any event, a ham of sorts—really a plastic pig—was awarded, but neither it nor the act that it honored lived up to previous porcine performances. Maybe next year.

Next year will be at Maumee State Park outside of Toledo, where we will have a lake, the park facilities and the resources of the city to enjoy. Mary Kenton was elected to the Executive Committee and will have a hand in planning the conference. Could this be the year to encourage MEHA alumni to attend? If Becky Nienaber came back, we could win the talent show outright. Consider the seed planted.
Ellen Murray has taught Sociology and English courses at Wright State University for 28 years, since the year that WSU became a fully-accredited university. She says that it is a "joy to teach," and that she will "miss teaching, especially the Honors students at WSU." Although she is officially retiring at the end of this year, she promises "to be around."

Betsy O'Ryan (93 International Studies) has been accepted by Ohio State for a Ph.D. in political science. She will have a Teaching Assistantship and a fellowship. She can't wait to get back to Ohio from Washington, D.C.

Heidi Riffle (94 ED) is teaching math at Meadowdale High School and loving every minute of it. She is still with DP&L part-time. She has a new Taurus and is thinking about striking out on her own. She looks great and seems pleased with the way the world is treating her.

Master Michael Bernard is now 18 months old. This picture was taken just before the Easter weekend flu hit. His mother, Martha Scholl Bernard, (85 MA ENG) calls attention to a "striking resemblance to the young Ron Howard (i.e., Opie Taylor) -- especially around the ears!"

Kathy Blough (92 SPN) taught high school Spanish in Rock Hill, South Carolina after earning an M.Ed. She wasn't thrilled with the experience and was in Ohio this spring looking for another job.

Catherine Queen (83 ENG) [a.k.a. C.Q.] moved to Beavercreek (We have now tracked her from urban to rural to suburban) and was recently named Assistant Director of the University Division with responsibility for testing.

Anne Strothman (91 ENG) wed Santiago Saegleo on October 1, 1994. He is finishing his first year of law school at the University of Dayton. Anne is working on teacher certification at Urbana.

Charles Powers (94 EL EGR) got a job with Maxima Federal Systems designing the Local Area Network for the site. He hopes to begin his doctoral studies this fall.

Jay Horton (94 ED) took his sports car over a cliff and into the river while doing 40 to 50 mph in a curve. Only the car was badly damaged. He is teaching weight training, basketball, and racquetball at Colorado State University. However recreational his current job as a T.A. might be, fun is not always enough for those like Jay whose work-ethic is as well developed as his biceps. He is thinking of applying to medical school.

Jeff Warmen continues to hustle up opportunities for himself. After spending fall in NYC, he will be a White House Intern this summer. Looks like Jeff will be positioned for a network news job upon graduation. Let this be a lesson to the rest of you communication majors.

Missy Davis became engaged to Mark Thompson on December 5. They plan to be married on July 22 in Kentucky. She will be teaching elementary school this fall.

Kirsten McCaw (94 PLS) survived the first year of law school at Seton Hall. You may remember how she agonized over deciding on a school. She seems to have made the right choice. She loves her classes and her professors have been excellent.

Sally Struthers exhibited photographs she took in Greece at the Sinclair Annual Fine Arts Faculty Art Show.

Terence Lau has been accepted at several law schools nationally. He has accepted a fellowship to attend Syracuse University Law School.

Kimberly Kolb and Michael Johnson got engaged in December. Both will graduate in June. The wedding has been set for August 12. Kim will continue her studies in French at Ohio State where she has been awarded a graduate teaching associateship.

Michael hopes to find a job that will use his English major/psychology minor. Best wishes in all their endeavors.

Send us your news and pictures. We have published every baby picture ever received. Everyone wants to see you and yours--especially if you’ve gained 50 pounds or your hair has fallen out. Next issue will be out early in September. Some summer action and bathing suit (suck it in) shots would be great!
Book of the Quarter

Vietnam Redux

It used to seem to many of us that the U.S. would never get out of Vietnam. The war stretched endlessly, capturing and killing thousands who were practically babies when it started. Now it seems that we will never get over Vietnam. We cannot achieve a consensus about the most basic questions: Was Vietnam a just war? Was it bad national policy? Did those who fought in Vietnam act honorably? Was resistance a more moral choice? It is now commonplace to see Honors courses based entirely on the literature of Vietnam. There are many first-rate books to consider. Some are what we have come to call healing: Bobbie Ann Mason's *In Country*, for example; others are disturbing and divisive as Robert McNamara’s *In Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam* is shaping up to be. Still others are harder to categorize. Such is Tim O’Brien’s prize winning *The Things They Carried*.

Winner of the 1990 New York Times Book Review Editor’s Choice Award, *The Things They Carried* was wildly praised by publications of every political stripe. It was called to my attention by a college freshman who considers it maybe the best book he’s ever read (and he has read more than a few others). Not quite a successful novel by my standard, it is nevertheless a great read. A powerful collection of prose poems, reflective essays, meditations, it stirs memories, inflames old passions, and forces a thoughtful reexamination of whatever position you may have started with.

The title piece, “The Things They Carried,” first appeared in *Esquire*. It describes the multitude of burdens, both physical and psychic, that soldiers carried in Vietnam. “To carry something was to hump it, as when Lieutenant Jimmy Cross humped his love for Martha up the hills and through the swamps. In its intransitive form, to hump meant to walk, or to march, but it implied burdens far beyond the intransitive.”

My favorite chapter is “On the Rainy River.” This story, which O’Brien claims never to have told to anyone before, describes a long struggle with his conscience. “I had taken a modest stand against the war. Nothing radical, no hothead stuff. . . .” After his draft notice arrived, he tried to flee to Canada, but when the moment came, he found he could not cross the border. “All those eyes on me—the town, the whole universe—and I couldn’t risk the embarrassment. It was as if there were an audience to my life, that swirl of faces along the river, and in my head I could hear people screaming at me. Traitor! they yelled. Turncoat! Pussy! I felt myself blush. I couldn’t tolerate it. I couldn’t endure the mockery, or the disgrace, or the patriotic ridicule. Even in my imagination, the shore just twenty yards away, I couldn’t make myself be brave. It had nothing to do with morality. Embarrassment, that’s all it was. . . . I was a coward. I went to the war.”

O’Brien concludes with a meditation “On the Lives of the Dead.” It is, of course, first through our dreams and then our stories that the dead live. All of O’Brien’s dead come together in this last chapter, in a story that proves the truth of Dylan Thomas’s observation: “After the first death, there is no other.” This is the story of Linda, the little girl he loved, who died from a brain tumor when they both were nine. Hers is the death that incorporates all the others, and when he tries to save her life—even at this late date—with a story, he knows who it is he really must help. “I can even see Timmy skating with Linda under the yellow floodlights. I’m young and happy. I’ll never die. I’m skimming across the surface of my own history, moving fast, riding the melt beneath the blades, doing loops and spins, and when I take a high leap into the dark and come down thirty years later, I realize it is as Tim trying to save Timmy’s life with a story.”

mek

Featured Alums

**Eric Ruppert** (93 MA ENG) and **Kate Sorauf Ruppert** (93 MS BIO) are living in Seattle. They love the weather and the scenery. Eric says that on clear days they can see the Olympics, the Cascades, and Mt. Rainier. They plan to wear their new MEHA t-shirts this summer when they hike the Olympics.

Kate is working at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center as a Research Technician in the Molecular Cytogenetics Lab. She develops and performs diagnostic procedures to monitor bone marrow transplant patients. She plans to apply to the University of Washington Molecular and Cellular Biology Ph.D. program soon.

Eric has been accepted to the University of Washington Graduate School in the Education Program for the fall of 1995. He plans to teach English to middle or high school students. He says he spent the last several months recovering from a motorcycle accident—no further details.

Eric and Kate remember their Wright State years fondly. Kate was one of the first student trustees and Eric was a member of the Model UN team. We have fond memories of them as well, and what a pretty picture it makes for the mind’s eye to imagine them clambering up the Olympics in their MEHA shirts. Send a picture, please.
Not Food for Thought

Lemon Custard and Strawberry Supreme

This is a long-time spring favorite. You need to start early in the day or the night before because it has to chill for several hours. Use a flan pan with a removeable bottom or a 9 inch glass pie plate.

Pastry for a single crust 9 inch pie
1/2 cup of granulated sugar
4 teaspoons cornstarch
1/2 cup water
1 beaten egg yolk
2 tablespoons butter
3 tablespoons lemon juice
3 cups sliced fresh strawberries
2 3-ounce packages cream cheese, softened
1/4 cup sifted powdered sugar
1/3 cup flaked coconut
3/4 cup whipping cream
1/4 cup flaked coconut toasted

Fit pastry into pan, prick shell, and bake in a 450 degree oven for 10 to 12 minutes. Cool. In a saucepan combine granulated sugar and cornstarch. Add water, egg yolk, and butter. Cook and stir till thickened and bubbly; cook 2 minutes more. Remove from heat and stir in the lemon juice. Turn into baked shell. Cool. Top with sliced berries. In a small mixer bowl beat together cream cheese and powdered sugar. Fold in 1/3 cup coconut. In another bowl beat whipping cream to soft peaks, fold into cream cheese mixture until combined. Spread atop berries. Sprinkle with toasted coconut. Chill 4 hours or overnight.

Edna St. Vincent Millay

The Goose-Girl

Spring rides no horses down the hill,
But comes on foot, a goose-girl still.
And all the loveliest things there be
Come simply, so, it seems to me.
If ever I said, in grief or pride,
I tired of honest things, I lied;
And should be cursed for evermore
With Love in laces, like a whore,
And neighbors cold, and friends unsteady,
And Spring on horseback, like a lady!

Winter Challenge Met

Jim Walker of the Political Science Department was the first to answer the Winter puzzle correctly, and he wins four tickets for the Honors dinner. Mike Stadler, Honors alumnus and psychology professor, logged in on e-mail. He can’t come from Missouri for the dinner so he requested and received WSU sweatshirts for his kids, Josh and Jessica. By pony express from Seattle came a correct solution with a correction (Thomas Stearns, not Sterns) from alums Eric Ruppert and Kate Sorauf Ruppert. Since they fell in love at MEHA many years ago, they requested and received 1995 MEHA t-shirts. For those of you who have some lingering interest but didn’t bother to look it up:

Virginia was an English Literature major.
Her dogs were named for P.G. Wodehouse
(Pigs Have Wings), W.H. Auden (Lullaby),
A.E. Houseman (Terence, This Is Stupid Stuff),
D.H. Lawrence (Odor of Chrysanthemums), and
T.S. Eliot (Journey of the Magi).
Illegal Immigrants: Prophets of a Borderless World

by Richard Rodrigues
originally in New Perspectives Quarterly Winter 95

We might have expected it in France, in Germany, or in Japan. But is America, the land built and sustained by immigrants, also becoming intolerant of them? Is that the message of the resounding vote in California last fall in favor of Proposition 187, the measure that seeks to end illegal immigration by denying government services to illegal immigrants and their children?

Let’s face it: America has never really liked immigrants, at least not when the immigration was actually taking place. America ended up romanticizing the nineteenth-century immigrant, but only generations later. Today, illegals are an outrage to suburbanites in San Diego who each night see the Third World running through their rose garden. They are often adolescent, often desperate or reckless. They are disrespectful of American custom and law. They are also among the most modern people in the world.

The notion of the “legal immigrant” allows us to forget that all immigrants are outlaws. Immigrants violate custom; they assault convention. To be an immigrant is to turn your back on your father and your village and to break your mother’s heart. The immigrant is as much a scandal to his ancient mountain village as to suburban Los Angeles.

Decades before wealthy Mexicans decided to enroll their children in Ivy League colleges in the United States, Mexican peasants left their villages and trespassed across several centuries. They grew accustomed to thousands of miles of dirt roads and freeways, knew two currencies, and gathered a “working knowledge” of English to go along with their native Spanish.

Before professors in business schools were talking about global economics, illegals knew all about it. Before fax machines punctured the Iron Curtain, coyotes knew the most efficient way to infiltrate southern California. Before businessmen flew into Mexico City to sign big deals, illegals were picking peaches in the fields of California or flipping pancakes at the roadside diner.

We live in a world in which economies overlap, in which we no longer know where our automobiles are assembled. We are headed for a century in which the great question will be exactly this: What is a border?

The illegal immigrant is the bravest among us. The most modern among us. The prophet. “The border, senor?” the illegal immigrant sighs. The border is an inconvenience, surely. A danger in the dark. But the border does not hold. The peasant knows the reality of our world decades before the California suburbanite will ever get the point.

For the opposite point of view, see Alien Nation: Common Sense About America’s Immigration Disaster by Peter Brimelow, an English immigrant to America and a senior editor of Forbes. He worries about keeping America a white Anglo-European sort of nation. He does not see immigration as a natural force against which resistance is futile. The flow of immigration has been stopped twice in the past and the US could choose to do so again. He urges swift political action to reverse the trend toward a society in which whites are a minority. He points out that in 1960 the US population was 88.6% white and cites a Census forecast that projects a drop to 53% by 2050.

Immigration policy is likely to be a major presidential campaign issue in 1996 both within the Republican primaries and in the general election. Any sensible debate on the subject will soon be reduced to mindless slogans and scary TV ads. Now is the time for study and reflection.

Spring Challenge

Be the first to identify those in the photo below and win a chance to sing at the Honors dinner or two free meals—whichever you prefer. This rare photo and many others featuring Wright State's early years were found in the back of an old filing cabinet purchased from ESPM. You'll see more of them in upcoming issues.
Congratulations University Honors Program Graduates
June and August 1995

University Honors Scholars

Christina M. Borgemenke
Directing/Stage Management

Shawn G. Brickles
Secondary Education

Melissa R. Davis
Elementary Education/Math

Jason M. Evans
Computer Science

Christina Hensley
Elementary Education

Danielle A. Jennings
Psychology

Kimberly S. Kolb
French

Terence J. Lau
Political Science

Francis H. Laws, IV
Financial Services

Caleb L McEwen
Theatre Studies

Katy J. McEwen
Acting

Helen T. Newkold
Psychology

Julie L. Pawlak
Psychology

Michelle L. Ringer
Chemistry

Jing Shan
Materials Science and Engineering

Linda Ann Pease Stenger
Social Work

Emily R. Stevens
Elementary Education

Shauna L. Weyrauch
Biological Sciences

Paul A. Zwart
Mechanical Engineering

Departmental Honors Scholars

Holly S. Bautsch
Human Factors Engineering

Kathrynn G. Dueffer
English

Jacqueline S. Dippold
Biological Sciences

Carri R. Eagler
Biological Sciences

Shelley L. Johnson
Psychology

Laura M. Klingler-Homer
Nursing

Michael E. Lenehan
Biological Sciences

Shawn M. McInturf
Psychology

Mark A. Metzger
Directing/Stage Management

Andrea M. O’Malley
Nursing

Melissa A. Parker
Psychology

Karen D. Peura
Nursing

Bethany J. Thompson
Nursing

Donna J. VanGundy
Nursing

Lora L. Williams
Classics

Jerome U. Wray
Nursing

General Studies Honors Scholars

Mark W. Bordner
Regina D. Crawford
Tracy J. Morris
Scott J. Nestich
Jennifer L. Wilcox
Raymond Wong