Service Learning Enhances Honors Experience

The 2008 Honors Institute on Creating Sustainable Environments featured enthusiastically received lectures by Pulitzer Prize recipient Jared Diamond and Carolyn Watkins of the Ohio EPA. But another key component of the Honors Institute was Honors classes that included service learning experiences. In his article below, instructor Hunt Brown describes the profound impact of the New Orleans service project he led with the students in his Winter Intersession UH 203 class: Working Towards Sustainability.

Service learning adds a dynamic dimension to traditional learning, connecting the classroom with the community. The classroom component of my course focused on learning basic concepts of sustainability—that our current short-term economic,

Examining Free Speech

During the 2008–09 academic year, the WSU community will examine free speech from a variety of perspectives. Addressing this topic, the 2009 Honors institute will feature two prominent American journalists: Nicholas Kristof, Pulitzer Prize–winning columnist for the New York Times, who will deliver the Keynote Address at 7 p.m. on Monday, January 26; and Eleanor Clift, a Newsweek contributing editor and regular panelist on the McLaughlin Group (a long-running public affairs television program), who will be the luncheon speaker at the next day’s Honors Institute Symposium. The January 27 symposium will examine in depth the role of the media in preserving the freedom of expression that is vital to any democratic society. Watch for Web and mail updates on the 2009 Honors Institute.

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We enjoyed a tremendously successful third Honors Institute this past January as we explored “Creating Sustainable Environments.” We were delighted to host Jared Diamond in conjunction with the Presidential Lecture Series on January 28 and Carolyn Watkins of the Ohio EPA at the Symposium the next day. Most importantly, students in the classes associated with the Honors Institute engaged in service projects that ranged from handing out compact fluorescent light bulbs to a service learning trip to New Orleans (see cover article).

As always, we want to thank our generous sponsors—the WSU Office of the President, Division of Curriculum and Instruction, and College of Science and Mathematics, Sodexo, Dayton Power and Light, and numerous Honors Institute patrons—as well as our faculty and staff for their participation. We invite everyone to join us for another memorable event in January 2009 as we explore the media and free speech.

We have a few staff changes to report. We must say farewell to our current faculty-in-residence, Dr. Guy Guzzo. He has done incredible work in the Honors Residence Hall, and we will all miss his inimitable sense of humor. Happily, he will continue to teach Honors courses. We wish him the best and look forward to his continued collaboration with the program.

We are privileged to welcome our new staff: Alex Wenning joined us as our new assistant director in January, and Jane Blakelock will become our new faculty-in-residence this fall. Some of you may remember Alex as an outstanding undergraduate Honors student and student member of the WSU Board of Trustees. He has already advised numerous incoming students and will be teaching an Honors learning community this fall. He also has exciting ideas for new service and leadership programs geared towards our first year students. Jane, meanwhile, has taught Honors courses for many years and also has numerous ideas for service, study abroad, and interaction with Residence Life staff. We look forward to their initiatives and know they’ll be terrific additions to the Honors Program family!
social, and environmental decision making is not ensuring a healthy environment for future generations—and developing an understanding and appreciation for the issues still simmering in New Orleans more than two years after Hurricane Katrina.

But the heart of the course was our service learning experience in the Holy Cross neighborhood of the hard-hit Lower Ninth Ward, where our group spent four days installing radiant barrier insulation in the attics of eight houses and a church. In addition to hard work, the students got to know the residents still trying to rebuild their lives in this devastated area. They learned of their personal histories, ties to the community, personal and property losses, frustrations while navigating the maze of regulatory hurdles, and especially how the daily struggle with issues of race, class, and poverty was compounded manyfold by the storm. Many of the stories were tragic; all were disheartening. But by helping others, the students came home with a heightened civic awareness and a keen sense of the importance of further engagement.

Upon our return, students spoke passionately in class about the experience, and they wrote reflective papers that bore testament to the lasting impact the experience had on them. Several students have continued to spread the word by participating in the 2008 Honors Institute Symposium on sustainability, the Quest Conference in April, and the Association of American Programs in Spain (APUNE) Conference in June.

Experiential learning helps solve community problems and builds bridges between students and the larger community. For many reasons, this class was a profound experience, both for the students and for me.

See more photos from the 2008 Honors Institute events in the Photo Gallery at www.wright.edu/academics/honors.

Acknowledgments

This service learning project was made possible by a Provost’s Teaching Enhancement Fund; the Honors Program staff; Senior Vice President Lillie Howard, who generously provided support for student attendance at the APUNE Conference; and Cathy Sayer, Director of Service Learning, who gave important input, both before and after the trip.
May 22 Colloquium Features
Student Research Projects

The University Honors Program’s annual Research Colloquium was held on Thursday, May 22, in the Millett Hall Atrium. Graduating seniors and Honors students who had completed their research projects were invited to present to the campus community. Presenting this year were:

**ROSS BOBBI (PHYSICS)**
“Terahertz Spectroscopy of Water for Combustion Monitoring”  
(Project Advisor: Dr. Douglas Petkie)

**JENNIFER BORDIER (PSYCHOLOGY)**
“Ego Threat, Hormones, and Implications for Male Aggression”  
(Advisor: Dr. Martin Gooden)

**SCOTT EILERMAN (PHYSICS)**
“Flipping Light with Fabricated Materials”  
(Advisor: Dr. Jason Deibel)

**ROGER FECHEL (BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES)**
“Polymorphism of the Human hSL2 Enhancer and TLDD-induced Modulation of the 3’IgH RR”  
(Advisor: Dr. Courtney Sulentic)

**DANA FLEETHAM (ANTHROPOLOGY)**
“The Breastfeeding Effect: Benefits That Last a Lifetime”  
(Advisor: Dr. Anna Bellisari)

**DAVID GLASSMEYER (MATHEMATICS)**
“Origami Constructions”  
(Project Advisor: Dr. Joanne Dombrowski)

**T. J. HUFFORD (BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES)**
“Muscle Differentiation: A Role for Nuclear Speckle Proteins”  
(Advisor: Dr. Paula Bubulya)

**JAY OLSON (MODERN LANGUAGES)**
“Practical Learning: First-Year Undergraduate Students Develop Cultural Understanding When Volunteering in Dayton’s Hispanic Communities”  
(Advisor: Dr. Xenia Bonch-Bruevich)

**THOMAS PEMBERTON (COMPUTER SCIENCE/COMPUTER ENGINEERING)**
“A Xilinx ISE Design, Implementation and Simulation of the LC-3 Microcomputer”  
(Advisor: Dr. Travis Doom)

**ALLISON PERKEYBLE (PSYCHOLOGY)**
“Anti-Inflammatory Influences on Behavior during Psychosocial Stress”  
(Project Advisors: Dr. Michael Hennessy and Dr. Patricia Schiml-Webb)

**MARIE PETSENBARGER (EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION)**
“A Study on Value-Added Assessment”  
(Advisor: Dr. Colleen Finegan)

**NISHANT VYAS (BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING)**
“Artifical Kidney/Six Sigma in Health Care”  
(Advisors: Dr. David Reynolds and Dr. Govind Bharwani)

**NICOLE ZIMMERMAN (MARKETING)**
“The Field of Event Planning”  
(Project Advisor: Dr. Charles Gulas)
The University Honors Program is pleased to welcome 61 Honors competitive scholarship recipients for Fall 2008. We look forward to working with this new group of outstanding students. Congratulations and welcome to the University Honors Program!

Kaela Bilski—Perrysburg  
Jonathan Binns—Wayne  
Corazon Britton—Wayne  
Marja Broline—Oakwood  
Jordan Brown—Boulder (CO)  
Sarah Caupp—Kettering Fairmont  
Allison Church—Findlay  
Courtney Cochrum—Licking Heights  
Amber Crowley-Gall—Colerain  
Joseph Czupryn—Northmont  
Amanda Dahlman—Kettering Fairmont  
Abigail Demmitt—Troy Christian  
Brendan Eck—Eaton  
Michelle Erford—Patrick Henry  
Lenae Everette—Ponderosa (CO)  
Benjamin Floyd—Eaton  
Aaron Fouts—Otsego  
Stephanie Fox—Butler  
Sarah Frontz—Big Walnut  
Michael Garison—Butler  
Nicholas Garvin—Central Catholic  
Christopher George—Xenia  
Michael George—Patrick Henry  
Ellen Gillaugh—Cedarville  
Addie Grate—Johnstown-Monroe  
Renea Hamilton—Oak Hill  
Brittany Harper—North Adams  
Emily Harris—Jonathan Alder  
Kelly Hoehne—Fort Loramie  
Sarah Kelly—North Allegheny (PA)  
Kaitlin Klinsing—Dayton Christian  
Matthew Kuntz—Beavercreek  
Chelsey Kuttler—Eastern  
Rebecca Leonard—Brookville  
Mallory Lyle—Wayne  
Sarah McClain—Beavercreek  
Katelin Moore—Fort Loramie  
Erica Morgan—Normandy  
Lauren Orians—New Riegel  
Michelle Post—Lima Central Catholic  
Jessica Rinderle—Saint Henry  
Megan Rinderle—Saint Henry  
Keith Saum—Fort Jennings  
Caleb Schiller—Lebanon  
Breanna Schroeder—Riverside  
Eric Schwenker—Kettering Fairmont  
Matthew Sink—Covington  
Cory Snyder—New Riegel  
Heather Spangler—Circleville  
Ashley Stamper—Wilmington  
Kelsi Stover—Benjamin Logan  
Elena Svisco—Wayne  
Kelly Swartzmiller—Genoa Area  
Anna Talbert—Dayton Christian  
Huong Thao Tran—Northridge  
Kyle Wagner—Central Crossing  
Thayer Wallace—Lynchburg-Clay  
Austin Williams—Edgewood  
Luke Wortley—Saint Xavier (KY)  
Victor Zimmer—Carroll  
Adam Zink—Gahanna-Lincoln

A. J. Krofft (junior, biological sciences), a student employee in the Honors Program office, received a $1,000 McDonald’s Corporation scholarship, one of only two awarded in the State of Ohio. A. J. has been employed at McDonald’s in Zanesville, OH, since 2005.

Sarah Minnix was named Bachelor of Social Work Student of the Year by Region 7 of the Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers at a March 2008 ceremony. The association recognizes individuals in the social work profession who exemplify outstanding leadership, advocacy for clients, program development, and research. Sarah graduated this spring as a University Honors Scholar.
Megan (Palm) Andrews (B.S. ’02 Nursing; UHS) is a nurse practitioner with Cardiovascular Care of Northern Carolina in Durham. She also earned an M.S. in nursing from Duke in 2007 and married Rob in June that same year.

Thomas Brex (B.S. ’94 Accountancy; UHS) is a CPA with SS&G Financial Services and is active with the Canal Winchester Chamber of Commerce and treasurer of Elder Choices of Central Ohio. His first child, Julian Thomas Brex, was born in September 2007.

After receiving his M.Ed. from WSU this June, Robert Brownfield (B.S. ’07 Middle Childhood Education; GSHS) will begin working as an assistant technology coordinator and teacher at St. Vincent–St. Mary High School. His 2008–09 courses will include 9th grade algebra, 10th grade American literature, and 11th grade British literature.

Travis Clark (B.S. ’07 Chemistry; UHS) is a chemistry graduate student at the University of Michigan. He lives in Ann Arbor.

Katie Frank Corbett (B.S. ’06 Accountancy; UHS) is working as an auditor for the Air Force Audit Agency at WPAFB. In Fall 2006 she married Michael Corbett (B.S. ’06 Mechanical Engineering); they welcomed their son, Jacob, in August 2007.

Christopher Gamm (B.A. ’96 Organizational Communications; DHS) and his wife, Nicona (also a WSU grad), welcomed their first child, Dillon, in November 2007. Christopher is currently a sales representative for Anixter, a telecommunications distributor.

Todd Locher, M.D. (B.S. ’84 Engineering) practices chest, critical care, and sleep medicine in Tucson, AZ. He has been chief of medicine and is now chief of staff-elect at a 300-bed hospital. He recently opened a Sleep Center at Oro Valley Hospital in the Tucson area. He is married and has four children.

Christal Morita (B.S. ’07 Psychology; DHS) is completing the first year of a four-year DVM program at Ohio State’s College of Veterinary Medicine. Following graduation, she plans to pursue board certification in either surgery or cardiology.

Michael Peterson (B.S. ’01 Computer Engineering, UHS; M.S. ’03 Computer Science) graduated this spring with a Ph.D. in computer science at WSU. His dissertation, “An Evolutionary Methodology for Optimization of Image Transforms Subject to Quantization Noise,” was a collaborative research effort with WSU, the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology, and the U.S. Air Force Research Lab Sensors Directorate. This fall, Michael will become an assistant professor of computer science at the University of Alaska in Anchorage.

Lisa (Pasquinelli) Rickey (B.A. ’05 History and Latin; UHS) graduated this June with an M.A. in public history from WSU. In August she begins a new job as reference librarian in the archives at the Dayton Metro Library. In May, Lisa married former Honors student Matt Rickey (B.S. ’05 Electrical Engineering). They live in Vandalia.

Christopher Sabine (B.A. ’96 Social Work; UHS) is president of a small business, ONH Consulting LLC, the only national organization dedicated to working with families of children with Optic Nerve Hypoplasia. Learn more about this organization at www.onhconsulting.com.

Kimberly Stewart (B.S. ’93 Nursing; DHS) has been a full-time clinical instructor for WSU’s College of Nursing and Health since 2005. Her Honors experience has come full circle, as she has just completed serving as project advisor for her first Honors nursing student who graduated this June. Kimberly has also worked at Miami Valley Hospital since graduation.

Maria Williams (B.S. ’03 Psychology; UHS) is completing her last year at WSU’s School of Professional Psychology; her Doctor of Psychology degree will be conferred in September 2008.
FAREWELL GUZZO, WELCOME BLAKELOCK

This fall, the Honors Program says farewell to Gaetano “Guy” Guzzo, who leaves the faculty-in-residence position to resume full-time teaching in the Sociology Department. Since he began as faculty-in-residence in Fall 2004, Dr. Guzzo has directed numerous activities for the students in the Honors Community—trips to the Air Force Museum, Cincinnati Zoo, Young’s Dairy, the year-end ice cream social, a book club, and foreign language film and food evenings—and commiserated with them during some unexpected events: severe weather, fire alarms in the middle of the night, power outages, etc. Guzzo also facilitated conversion of the fifth-floor commons area to a 24/7 study lounge with appropriate furniture and atmosphere and assembled a mini-library of resource materials.

Although we will miss his presence in the Honors Community, we are pleased to announce that Jane Blakelock, lecturer in English, will assume the faculty-in-residence role in September. We look forward to working with Jane as she shares her classroom experience and interests with us.

Guazzo was recognized for his service as Honors faculty-in-residence at the June 12 Honors graduation ceremony.

Jane Blakelock
In a recent update from FINCA (Foundation for International Community Assistance), we learned that the more than $5,000 raised during the successful 2007 Student Microfinance Campaign (see Spring 2007 issue) is currently funding 17 Village Banking clients in Malawi, Africa. Average loans of $150 fund or expand businesses like groceries, restaurants, and second-hand clothing stores. Martha Ngwinda used her FINCA loan to purchase supplies, hire additional staff, and expand her nursery school, including building an additional classroom and opening a primary school. “From deep down in my heart, I can say that FINCA has helped a lot. At first, I was nobody. But now I can buy what I want, continue to pay school fees for my youngest daughter, and help my parents, especially my old mother.” The Honors Program will be exploring ways to continue supporting these Malawian entrepreneurs through the Village Bank Sponsorship Program.