Winter, 1998

In Brief

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University Honors Program graduates were recognized at a luncheon on December 4 in the Student Union. From l to r: John Jones, Jennifer Seeger, Denise Scarpelli, Matt Fox, Suzanne Snead, Robert Chaplin, Carrie Kroeger, Jenny Jones.

December Honors Graduates

University Honors Scholar

Jennifer A. Foley
Major: Electrical Engineering
Advisor: Larry Smith

Departmental Honors Scholars

Robert L. Chaplin, Jr.
Major: Nursing
Advisor: Jane Doorley

Carrie M. Kroeger
Major: Nursing
Advisor: Susan Praeger

Jessica E. Pichta
Major: Nursing
Advisor: Susan Praeger

Eric J. Powers
Major: Electrical Engineering
Advisor: Larry Smith

Suzanne L. Snead
Major: Nursing
Advisor: Judy Boris

General Studies Honors Scholars

Matt K. Fox
Major: Computer Engineering

Jennifer Sue Jones
Major: Elementary Education
Specific Learning Disability, Developmentally Handicapped

John N. Jones
Major: Secondary Education

Denise Ann Scarpelli
Major: Marketing

Jennifer L. Seeger
Major: Accountancy

Honorable Mentions is a publication of the Wright State University Honors Program
Anna Bellisari, Director
Mary Kenton, Associate Director/Editor
Beverly Rowe, Secretary/Graphic Designer

We welcome contributions from our students--former and current--our faculty and friends, but reserve the right to edit contributions for space and style. Material should be sent to Mary Kenton, University Honors Program, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435, or emailed to mkenton@wright.edu.
Nin hao ma! The warmth of their greeting exceeded even the mid-June heat in Beijing and permeated our month-long Student Ambassador trip to China. Wang Yanhua, deputy director of the Beijing Normal University International Programs Office, and her assistant Yang Jin were perfect hosts. I had the pleasure of serving as faculty advisor to the Student Ambassadors to China, Honors students Becky Dayton, Naomi Holt and Uriah King, along with Michael London, adjunct faculty member in English (pictured below). We called ourselves the “Four Rabbits and A Snake” because of the years of our births according to the Chinese calendar.

Our first two weeks were spent in Beijing. While Michael went off to teach English to Chinese students and faculty at BNU, the rest of us attended daily Chinese language classes and lectures on Chinese history, education, economics, and culture. We toured the city each day under Yang Jin’s guidance. She tirelessly procured taxis, fulfilled our wishes to see particular sights, and cured our homesickness with plenty of visits to the local McDonalds. Clearly, China has opened its doors wide to the rest of the world, and at least the urban segment of China’s 1.2 billion citizens is now familiar with massive automobile traffic (interspersed with thousands of bicycles), stock markets, huge construction projects (mostly new banks and hotels, it seems), heavy air pollution, many international visitors, Michael Jordan posters, rock and roll music, all sorts of large and small entrepreneurial projects, computers and faxes. But these will never overpower the unique and special qualities of China, the oldest civilization in the world whose ancient philosophies and practices are still there for any visitor to experience.

A revival of Confucian philosophy among Chinese scholars promotes responsible government leadership and tolerance for ethnic diversity. Traditional Chinese medicine is taught and practiced alongside western-style health care. As in the past, education is highly valued by young people and their parents. Evidence of China’s ancient history is everywhere — the vast and complex Forbidden City which was the official residence of Chinese emperors from the 15th to the 20th centuries, the Great Wall north of Beijing, built more than 2000 years ago to keep out barbarians and now the most important tourist site in the country, the Temple of Heaven where emperors prayed for bountiful harvests, among many others. The Chinese view their great past with a critical eye, recalling that Confucius also advocated unquestioning obedience to the emperors, that the construction of the Great Wall cost the lives of many enslaved laborers, that commoners were forbidden to enter the emperor’s palace on pain of death. The criticisms, of course, reflect China’s communist political philosophy, but that is currently undergoing great changes. Christian churches, Buddhist temples and Islamic mosques are open to some worshippers in the large cities. Although Mao Zedong’s image and tomb dominate Tiananmen Square in the very center of Beijing, he is referred to as the “70-30 Man” (70% of his deeds were good, 30% were bad). And, although such opportunities are not available to all, making money seems to be the major preoccupation of urban Chinese.

After the frantic pace in Beijing, it was a relief to spend the last two weeks travelling at a more leisurely pace in other areas of China with Yang Jin — Xian, site of the ancient capital city and the first emperor’s tomb containing thousands of terracotta soldiers, Guilin, Guangzhou, and Hong Kong, the former British colony returned to China on June 30. To be present at the celebration of this historic event was very exciting.

The students took full advantage of every opportunity to increase their understanding of China and its people. Becky conducted an independent study of child development, Naomi explored the educational system, and Uriah learned martial arts and observed the new Chinese legal system in action. We photographed and videotaped everything we could in order to bring home something of our experiences to share with others. Needless to say, we highly recommend the China experience to all WSU students and to faculty members who want to serve as advisors. Contact Maricy Schmitz in the University Center for International Education to find out more.

Anna Bellisari
Honors Program Dialogues

An innovation for this year’s incoming students is to require them to attend at least one of seven Honors Program Dialogues sometime during the year. Donna Schlagheck started off the series with a discussion of terrorism. In November David Barr examined ideas about the millennium. In January Dan Krane will look at DNA and the legal system. All are welcome to attend and participate in dialogues. Check the Honors bulletin board and the list serves for upcoming times and topics.

SHA Report

by Amy Ballweg, President

The Student Honors Association got off to a great start this year! Once again, membership totals reached an all-time high. Over 100 Honors students joined the association during fall quarter. Fall activities included a dinner outing, SHAloween party, and monthly trips to the Ronald McDonald House. During winter SHA plans more service trips to Ronald McDonald House, a trip to a WSU basketball game, and a booth at May Daze. Officers for the remainder of this year and fall of next year were elected in November.

In cooperation with the Honors Program, SHA organized a peer mentoring program for new students. Incoming freshmen were paired with continuing Honors students. Throughout the year mentors and mentees will stay in touch with each other to discuss scheduling, classes, and adjusting to college life. The Mentoring Program kicked off the year with a reception during Welcome Week and a pizza party on November 6. More than 50 mentors and mentees enjoyed good food and conversation. There was even a card game or two! Thanks to all who attended and all the others participating in this year’s pilot program. If you are interested in helping organize and implement this worthwhile program next year, contact Amy Ballweg through the Honors Office or email her at s007ash@wright.edu.

Phi Kappa Phi

The Wright State Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi Honorary Society is seeking applications from outstanding students to nominate for a national Phi Kappa Phi scholarship. Two Wright State students have won these awards in past years. Successful nominees need a high GPA along with outstanding test scores (GRE, LSAT, GMAT, etc) and significant undergraduate accomplishments. For further information, contact David Barr (dbarr@wright.edu) or see Mary Kenton in the Honors Office.

Phi Kappa Phi Bulletin

President
Amy Ballweg
Gina Wurst
Colleen Kopytek
Jay Delaney
Rachel Marchal
Teresa Hensley
Omea Kirkland, Rachel Marchal
Wendy Merkert, Missy Ratliff
Steve Walls and Jenny Garringer

by Gina Wurst, Historian

This year the national academic honor society for freshmen is up and running. Alpha Lambda Delta has been in existence at Wright State since 1987, but in the last few years there has been little activity. Now with seven officers, ALD has come into full bloom. So far, ALD has sponsored a picnic at John Bryan State Park and a dinner outing to Olive Garden. Members contributed canned goods for a Thanksgiving Basket project for needy families in the Dayton area. The officers encourage all chapter members to attend upcoming events. Early in winter quarter a pledge breakfast and induction ceremony (February 5) for new members will be held. The officers will also be formally installed at the induction ceremony. In the planning stages are two community service projects and another dinner outing. We hope all ALD members will take an interest and come join the fun next quarter. Watch the ALD bulletin board outside the Honors Office for news of other coming events.

President
George Adams
Vice President
Jennifer Stowe
Secretary
Cheryl Hudkins
Treasurer
Tim Hoffman
Volunteer Coordinator
Annie Kasler
Publicity Coordinator
Sheryl Powell
Historian
Gina Wurst

Phi Kappa Phi

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News and Gossip

Matt Fox completed his CEG degree in a little over four years. He has multiple job offers and expects to start comfortably over $40,000.

Denise Scarpelli has had interviews for several inside/outside sales jobs. She is anxious to get the chance to put all that she learned from Dr. Daley, Dr. Carusone, Mr. Dovel, and Dr. Saunders to work.

The Honors Office mascot of a few years ago, Teething Tyler Cromer, is growing up. Here he is at four with a full set of choppers. Mom Heather Wessel Cromer (96 BSED) teaches school in addition to chasing Tyler around.

Todd Locher (84 BSEG, BIOMED) stopped by on his way to Arizona, where he will be a hospital-based pulmonologist, with wife (also a physician) and two cute kids in tow. He had just finished a trying fellowship in New England and the whole family was looking forward to building a new home on three acres of pristine desert.

Matt Sauer (83 MA, HST) and Judy Lambes Sauer (82 BS, CS) stopped in to introduce a prospective student. They are staying busy in Cincinnati and Matt is thinking about training for the Episcopal priesthood.

LaShawn Jackson (96 MA, LIT) is working at the U. D. Library and still writing and reading her poetry about town. She says getting used to the public takes some effort.

Paul Zwart (95 BSEG, SYS) married Sheryl Ward of Pekin, Illinois on June 28. Paul is employed at Catapillar and is working on a masters’s in engineering at Bradley University in Peoria.

Leslie Hyll (81 BS, CS) was promoted at TRW to a beginning management position. She is now certified as an ASQC Software Quality Engineer. She also teaches international folk dance at Wright State.

Marty Hammonds (92 BS, BIO) and wife Crystal have moved from Florida to Beavercreek. Marty is still with Cargill and has agreed to serve on the Honors Advisory Committee.

Michelle Dayton (96 MD) and husband Lee are the proud parents of Abigail Rosalie, who checked in on September 15 at 7 lbs 9 oz. Michelle continued to work until the contractions were 6 minutes apart and returned to the hospital November 1.

The City as Text

Jim Hughes’ class, UH 201: The City of the 21st Century, toured the Oregon historical district in Dayton. The National Collegiate Honors Council encourages such walkabouts, including one, in fact, at every NCHC conference for the last decade or more. This fall Anna Bellisari tromped through conference-site Atlanta learning about the spirit of the place. Where could you take your class? The Beavercreek Wetlands, the Cleveland Museum of Arts, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame? The Honors Program will help financially and logistically whenever possible.
BOOKS FOR ALL SEASONS

Toward the End of Time by John Updike

I bought this book for myself while doing Christmas shopping at the annual Books and Company sale. It’s as though Updike rather than Browning issued the command: “Grow old along with me. The best is yet to be.” In this novel (started but not yet finished), set in 2020 following a war between China and the US, the 66-year-old protagonist is a wealthy retired financial planner (Ben) living in Massachusetts with his second wife, a stern disciplinarian, Gloria. In the first section, Gloria disappears (is she dead? murdered—perhaps by her husband?), and Ben takes up with a thefting prostitute and her extortionist sidekicks. In passing we learn about deer tracks, the existence of the Gore Administration, and the daily indignities of growing old. It’s Updike at top form for those who never tire of that.

Updike often offers his readers the chance to play little games with him. Toward the End of Time gives us a good example and a modest research project. On page 85 the narrator tries to remember a poem:

I heard on the radio this man with a mellow voice from Minnesota reading an old poem about spring, and as soon as I got back I tried to write down some lines. When March is scarcely here a color stands abroad on solitary fields that science cannot overtake but human nature feels. This color waits upon the lawn (maybe I got it wrong) and shows the furthest tree and almost speaks to the poet but then, as horizons step or noons report away (probably misheard), it passes and we stay. It was like being a psychotic and hearing the sick neurons, the degenerate voices of the gods, broadcasting inside your head. I had never heard the sadness of spring expressed before: A quality of loss afflicting our content, and then something about encroached (it sounded like) upon a sacrament. Eerie, magical stuff. I never heard the poet’s name.

Both former Honors Directors have books coming out soon. David Barr’s narrative commentary on Revelation should be available in early 1998. Titled Tales of the End, it presents the Apocalypse as a set of stories designed to foster resistance to Roman rule. These stories are analyzed for their plots, characterizations, points of view, and other narrative elements. The first comprehensive treatment of the Book of Revelation in narrative terms, Tales of the End aims to make the work understandable to a general reader and to make a contribution to scholarship. Jacob Dorn has completed the arduous task of serving as editor of a volume tentatively titled Socialism and Christianity in Early Twentieth Century America. It is dedicated “To the memory of those who worked,” in the words of The Christian Socialist, “for the Golden Rule against the rule of gold.” Containing chapters by both the editor of Honorable Mentions and Professor Dorn, it hopes to prove that religion is at its best when it focuses on the here and now instead of pie in the sky, by and by. Current Honors Director Anna Bellisari and Ojo Arewa, OSU Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, are translating a 1915 article by an Austrian scholar on indigenous African number and counting systems. The monograph, which includes a lengthy introduction, will be published by Ohio University Press.

Honors Semester in Greece

The 1998 National Collegiate Honors Council Semester is being held at Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece. Participants will earn 16 semester hours in four courses: The Political and Economic Integration of Greece and the European Union; Greece and the Balkans; Arts and Archeology; Thessaloniki, Crossroads of Cultures and Civilizations (The City as Text). Students will also complete an independent research topic. All courses will be taught in English. Honors students from across the United States will gather in Greece for the 24th NCHC site-specific educational project. Past Honors students have participated in Honors Semesters in New York and Washington. Most see these unique experiences as the chance of a lifetime.

Fees for the semester total $5,395, which covers academic charges, room, orientation, some meals, and field experiences. Transportation, food, books, and incidental expenses are not included. Wright State scholarships can be applied towards fees and federal grants should be also be applicable. The University Honors Program will award one $500 scholarship to help defray costs. Other scholarships are available from the National Collegiate Honors Council. Contact the Honors Office for additional information. Early admission application deadline is January 15; regular admission—March 1, 1998.
**Sayer Sayer and Lockhart**

The fall Honors learning community seems to have gone exceptionally well this year. The faculty say the students are great, and the students love the faculty. The same group of students enrolled in an Honors section of PLS 200 taught by Jim Sayer, an Honors section of ENG 101 taught by Cathy Sayer, and a regular section of HST 101 taught by Paul Lockhart. Each Friday they got together in UH 101 to try to make sense of it all. A true spirit of community developed as these students and faculty worked together in learning, service, and social activities. I doubt very much if these particular students feel unvalued as individuals. Maybe one of the things they have learned fall quarter is that individuals often feel most fulfilled as part of a caring community.

**Much Madness is Divinest Sense**

Emily Dickinson

Much Madness is divinest Sense—
To a discerning Eye—
Much Sense—the starkest Madness—
’Tis the Majority
In this, as All, prevail—
Assent—and you are sane—
Demur—you’re straightway dangerous—
And handled with a Chain—

**Scholarships Available**

Four $500 scholarships will be awarded for spring quarter to Honors students who were admitted to the program before January 5, 1998. A strong preference will be given to those applicants who have little or no other scholarship support. Application forms are available in the Honors Office, 179 Millett Hall. Completed applications are due in the Honors Office by 5 pm on Friday, February 13. Late applications will not be considered.

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**Not Food for Thought**

*Cooking Light* magazine has a regular feature called “Lighten Up” where the editors take a traditional favorite recipe and, well, you know, lighten it up. Featured in the November/December 1997 issue, this recipe for Chicken in Wine Cream Sauce is amazing.

- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 2 teaspoons dried basil
- 1 ½ teaspoons dried rosemary
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder (or substitute fresh garlic)
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ⅛ teaspoon pepper
- ¼ teaspoon paprika
- 4 teaspoons olive oil, divided
- Cooking spray
- 8 chicken thighs skinned (about 2 ¼ pounds)
- ⅛ cup all purpose flour
- 2 ¼ cup low-fat milk
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 2 cups sliced mushrooms
- ¼ cup tub-style light cream cheese
- 2 cups hot cooked wild rice

Combine first 7 ingredients and 2 teaspoons oil in a small bowl; rub over chicken. Heat 2 teaspoons oil in a large skillet coated with cooking spray over medium-high heat. Add chicken; cook 5 minutes on each side or until browned. Remove chicken from pan and set aside.

Place flour in a bowl; gradually add milk and wine, stirring with a whisk until blended. Add to skillet, scraping pan to loosen browned bits; bring to a simmer. Return chicken to pan; cover, reduce heat, and simmer 30 minutes. Add mushrooms; cover and simmer 5 minutes. Remove chicken from pan; cover and set aside. Add cheese to skillet; until cheese melts, stirring constantly with a whisk. Garnish with oregano sprigs and cranberries.

Serve with a bright white—German Spatlese or a Pinot Grigio or Pinot Blanc. A crusty, chewy brownish bread seems essential—no butter, of course, or there goes the fat total.

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<td>Two pieces per serving</td>
<td>994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calories per serving</td>
<td>80.2 g</td>
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<tr>
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Let me confess that I wasn’t expected to lift a finger when I was growing up. Even when my mother had a full-time job, she cleaned up after me, as did my grandmother. Later there was a housekeeper. I would leave my room in a mess when I headed off for school and find it miraculously neat when I returned. Once in a while I vacuumed, just because I liked the pattern the Hoover made on the carpet. I did learn to run water in my cereal bowl before setting it in the sink.

Where I discovered work was at the stable, and, in fact, there is no housework like horsework. You’ve got to clean the horses’ stalls, feed them, groom them, tack them up, wrap their legs, exercise them, turn them out, and catch them. Minimal horsekeeping, rising just to the level of humaneness, requires many more hours than making a few beds, and horsework turned out to be a good preparation for the real work of adulthood, which is rearing children. It was a good preparation not only because it was similar in many ways but also because my desire to do it, and to do a good job of it, grew out of my love of and interest in my horse.

Probably to the surprise of some of those who knew me as a child, I have turned out to be gainfully employed. I remember when I was in seventh grade, one of my teachers said to me, strongly disapproving, “The trouble with you is you only do what you want to do!” That continues to be the trouble with me, except that over the years I have wanted to do more and more.

My husband worked hard as a child, out-Iowa-ing the Iowans, if such a thing is possible. His dad had him mixing cement with a stick when he was five, pushing wheelbarrows not long after. It’s a long sad tale on the order of two miles to school and both ways uphill. The result is, he’s a great worker, much better than I am, but all the while he’s doing it he wishes he weren’t. He thinks of it as work; he’s torn between doing a good job and longing not to be doing it at all. Later, when he’s out on the golf course, where he really wants to be, he feels a little guilty, knowing there’s work that should have been done before he gave in and took advantage of the beautiful day.

Good work is not the work we assign children but the work they want to do, whether it’s reading in bed (where would I be today if my parents had rousted me out and put me to scrubbing floors?) or cleaning their rooms or practicing the flute or making roasted potatoes with rosemary and Parmesan for the family dinner. It’s good for a teenager to suddenly decide that the bathtub is so disgusting she’d better clean it herself. I admit that for the parent, this can involve years of waiting. But if she doesn’t want to wait, she can always spend her time dusting.
Fall Musings

This fall the Honors Program welcomed its largest class ever, thanks largely to enhancements in the scholarship program, aggressive recruiting from both Undergraduate Admissions and the College of Engineering and Computer Science, and plain old serendipity. Returned applications totaled 256, up over 40% from last year. Fairborn led the way with seven, and six new students joined us from Wayne High School. The average high school grade point average for the incoming class is 3.78 and their average ACT score is 26.73. The peer mentoring program was selected by 137 new students. Overall university enrollments were up about 2.1%, new freshmen increased by 9%, and minority enrollments are up 12%. We managed to find at least one Honors class for every new student who wanted one, and the quarter got off to a rousing start.

The new Honors residence, Boston Hall, is filled entirely with Honors students. All rooms in Boston are doubles, and everyone reports having the best roommate. Students say that Boston is quiet and conducive to study. (A few think it’s a little too quiet.) Community governance is getting geared up to do some programming in winter and spring. Dan Bertsos, the new housing director, brings a wide range of experience to Wright State. We’re looking forward to a productive relationship as we seek to make Honors housing available to a larger percentage of Honors students.

A general complaint at Wright State is that students feel there is little concern for them as individuals. We in the Honors Program share their concern. Believing that nothing can replace a face to face encounter, I required all first-year students to see me in order to activate their priority registration for winter quarter. The first month of fall quarter was incredibly hectic; some days as many as 20 students were scheduled. But it was a worthwhile experience for me. Much can be learned from a personal interview. I have a good idea of which classes went well and which did not. I learned that Boston Hall is a huge success. I learned that parking is even worse than usual for both commuters and residents. I learned that our students work too many hours and too many spend too much time on the road. These meetings give the Honors staff an opportunity to serve the students’ larger interests instead of just solving the problem of the moment. All good Honors Programs are built one student at a time. The door is almost always open. Stop by—we’ll talk.

MEK

Wright State University
University Honors Program
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.
Dayton, OH 45435-0001