Spring 1990

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Debra Curry, Victoria Peagler, Christopher Sesslar, Shirelle Hayes, Chad Pierce and Becky Nienaber with Honors Program Director, David Barr

Spring Scholarship News

Six students received Honors scholarships for spring quarter. Recipients were selected on the basis of their Wright State University academic records, faculty references, and a personal essay. The University Honors Program wishes to acknowledge Ann Wendt, Ira Fritz, Joel Mondary, and David Brackman for serving on the selection committee.

Anuj Kumar, Bhairavi Patel, and Merry DeLeon were awarded grants from the Research Fund Subcommittee, chaired by Tony Cacioppo. Some fund money is still available. Any Honors student with research expenses is encouraged to inquire about reimbursement before the end of spring quarter.

The Incoming Scholarship Subcommittee has been almost overwhelmed by the selection process this year. Almost three hundred high school seniors applied for about twenty four-year Honors scholarships ranging in value from $10,000 to $12,000.

The selection process was a rigorous one. Each application contained two essays, one on a significant event and the other on educational goals, two teacher references, and a high school transcript. Every application was read in its entirety by two committee members. From this initial reading, approximately 55 were selected; all committee members read these applications. After a selection committee meeting, the list was cut to approximately 35 students who were invited for campus interviews. After three afternoons of interviewing and another committee meeting, the 35 applicants were ranked ordered. Letters of offer were mailed to the top 25.

Reaching decisions on these applicants was more difficult this year than usual; more than 25 applicants had first-rate credentials. Fall classes will be enriched by these dynamic minds and energetic debaters. Look for names and photos in the fall newsletter.

This hardworking committee was comprised of David Barr, chair, Mary Kenton, Becky Hammer, Richard Mercer, and (serving for a third year) Bobbe Gray. Steve Hansell assisted with the reading, but was out of the country for the fun part, the interviewing.
Did You Know

...the mean ACT composite score of WSU new degree first-year students was 18.7?

...that 18.7 was also the national average?

...the mean ACT of WSU first-year Honors students was 25.3?

...WSU first-year Honors students achieved an average of 3.226 in the fall?

...the average GPA for all other Honors students is 3.584?

...there are more cars in Southern California than there are cows in India?

Random Thoughts Late at Night——

As I approach my third Spring as Honors director, I am amused at some of the things I have learned about Honors education, Honors students, Honors faculty.

- There is no way to predict how incoming students will behave as Honors students, though I never cease to try.

- The most consistent predictor of success in Honors seems to be not test scores or even GPA or class standing (our three criteria), but how diligently the student has learned to apply her/himself. It is probably the one trait shared by all those who succeed.

- Sometimes the simplest things take the longest. I have spent two years trying to get the university database on incoming students modified to include high school GPA and rank. Still not done.

- Honors faculty tend to expect too much from Honors students, especially first-year students.

- Honors students can get quite distressed when a professor tells them they have written a C essay. But too often they are more concerned with the C than with learning what the professor has to offer.

- The university gives surprisingly little attention to learning-readiness and almost no attention to an orderly progression to higher cognitive challenges as the student progresses through the curriculum.

- It is always easier to do it the way we did last year than to rethink our options.

- People very seldom respond to anything one says in a newsletter.

- High schools generally teach students to conform, keep their mouths shut, and give teachers “what they want.” They find it difficult to grasp that the behavior that has served them so well for 12 years is now the worst thing they could do to succeed in Honors.

- There are a lot of people around the university willing to help you out if you let them know you need help.

- E-mail is five times as efficient as regular mail and ten times as efficient as the phone.

- Honors students are capable of much more responsibility and independent action (in and out of the classroom) than most of us are willing to grant.

- It’s more fun being an Honors director than just about anything else in the university.

Valentine Party

On February 9 the Honors Program revived a Valentine Party tradition. About 60 people turned out on a Friday evening to hear Ce- cile Cary as Guinevere, Elizabeth Harden as Mary Shelley, and Jim Sayer as Hugh Heff- ner. Tom Whissen moderated in evening clothes. Cecile and Elizabeth were beautiful in period costumes, and Jim wore evening clothes of another sort—his jammies. The panel was brilliant, witty, and wise.

I would invite you all to see the videotape, but rumor has it that when Elizabeth took it to Media Services for some copies, they erased it. She has not yet brought herself to confess and this public notice will negate the necessity for it. Forgiveness is already ex- tended. Those of us who were there have our memories, and the rare essence of the even- ing wasn’t on the video anyhow. Becky Nienaber sang for us after the panel. We had no idea she was so good.

Poems were read, songs were sung, engagements were announced, the food dis- appeared, and everyone had a great time. We’ll do it again next year.

Queen Guinevere (Cecile Cary), Mary Shelley (Elizabeth Harden), and Hugh Heffner (Jim Sayer).
Alpha Lambda Delta

Letters inviting first-year students to join Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD) were mailed in April. Students who achieved at least a 3.5 GPA for their first two quarters should have received notification. Sometimes the computer does not understand all the nuances of AP credit, Summer Scholars participation, or becoming full-time. If you believe you qualify for membership, but did not receive a letter, contact the Honors Office.

On Monday, May 14 President and Mrs. Mulholland will host the annual spring reception for all ALD members. Students who are interested in becoming officers for 1990-91 are especially urged to attend.

SHA–ALD Visit Chicago

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of spring break the Student Honors Association and Alpha Lambda Delta joined forces to penetrate the Windy City, Chicago. After mastering the Chicago bus system that first day, the group finally arrived at the Shedd Aquarium to see some friendly lizards and fish.

Later on Monday, the evening was highlighted with dinner at the “Rock-N-Roll” McDonald’s and a trip to the top of the world’s tallest building, the Sear’s Tower.

The next morning, the group headed to the Field Museum of Natural History, and that afternoon, walked up Lake Shore Drive to the shopping mall, Water Tower Place. After spending money on souvenirs, the group met at the Art Institute where there were many photo opportunities.

Wednesday included a special tour of the University of Chicago and a visit to the huge Museum of Science and Industry followed by lunch at Edwardo’s, home of Chicago’s greatest pizza.

Those who went on the trip will want to thank SHA members Christine Sears, Andrea Feldman, and Marty Hammonds for their hard work in making this trip successful and exciting.

SHA Picnic and Softball Challenge

After many years of humiliation, the Honors staff have determined that they will field a competitive softball team against the students. So far Marianne Moore has said that she and Perry will play. Both Jim Sayer and Bob Prueit said, “sure,” and David Petreman and Bob Wood sounded enthusiastic about upholding the honor of older collegians. The new Honors Program graduate assistant, Andy Blair, says he’ll play and Dennis Rome and Allan Spetter signed contracts.

Director Barr has made an executive decision that all alumni who volunteer will be assigned to the Faculty/Staff team. A covered dish picnic and cookout will precede the game. Get your name on a team roster soon. Spectators are also welcome. The picnic is scheduled for Sunday, May 20 at noon, probably on Base or at John–Bryan State Park. Watch the mail for a more detailed flyer.

Annual Reunion and Recognition Dinner

May 19 is the date for the third annual Honors Program dinner. Once again we will gather at the Holiday Inn 1-675, maybe over beef this time. We have done everything possible to keep the cost down and the quality up. Dinner will be served at 7:30 pm and will be followed by the recognition of graduating seniors, presentations of awards to outstanding students and faculty, and a talk by Donna M. Schlagheck, the 1989 Honors Teacher of the Year.

Becky Nienaber will play and sing for us, and we’re recruiting other Honors talent. If there is enough interest, the undergrads may put together a DJ’ed dance. It promises to be a great evening. Return your reply card or call the Honors Office (873-2660) to reserve a seat.

Left to right: Phuong Truong, Becky Hammer, Bob Hale, Beth Gillen, Randy Carlson, and Chris Sesslar.
Olive Schreiner was an English woman raised in South Africa who came to see that the subjugation and freedom of all peoples are intertwined. Daughter of missionary parents, she devoted her life not to the church—which often stood with the oppressors—but to the people. Her powerful, imaginative writings stung the consciences of many. Few listened, however, and her life was what many would call wasted—pursuing a dream with few apparent followers. The extracts below are from her work called Dreams, written in 1900. The first is from a story about a woman called on to cross a raging stream, almost certain to sweep her away. As she hesitates she encounters an old man, who asks: “Have you ever seen the logistics they cross a stream? First one comes down to the wateredge, and it is swept away, and then another comes, and then another, and then another, at last with their bodies piled up a bridge is built and the rest pass over.”

She said, “And, of those that come first, some are swept away and are heard of no more; their bodies do not even build the bridge?”

“And are swept away, and are heard of no more—and what of that?” she said.

“And what of that—” she said.

“They make a track to the water’s edge.”

“They make a track to the water’s edge—” And she said, “Over that bridge which shall be built with our bodies, who will pass?”

“He said, “The entire human race.” And the woman grasped her staff.

And I saw her turn down that dark path to the river.

The second catches something of her vision of what might be:

I saw a woman sleeping. In her sleep she dreamed Life stood before her, and held in each hand a gift—in one Love, in the other Freedom. And she said to the woman, “Choose!”

And the woman waited long; and she said, “Freedom!”

And Life said, “Thou hast well chosen. If thou hast said ‘Love’, I would have given thee that thou didst ask for; and I would have gone from thee, and returned to thee no more. Now, the day will come when I shall return. In that day I shall bear both gifts in one hand.” And I heard the woman laugh in her sleep.

[Both extracts are from A Track to the Water’s Edge: The Olive Schreiner Reader (Harper & Row, 1973) Howard Thurman, ed., pages 55, 56, & 60. Available in the Dayton Public Library (828 S3781).]

This winter Teresa Pace Dixon stopped by the Honors Office and gave us an update. She married Steve Dixon on July 15, 1989. Shortly after the wedding, the couple headed for Penn State where both are attending graduate school.

Teresa is teaching and taking classes in a doctoral program in electrical engineering. She says she learned a lot about teaching the first semester and hopes for an easier time in the spring. She feels good about the way Wright State University prepared her for graduate school, although the workload was a bit of a shock. This spring she will begin a research project with Dr. Bose in digital signal processing.

Teresa and Steve share their home with a 56 pound Bassett hound named “Hubert” and an African Red Rump called “Tweety is the Bird.”

Teresa can be reached at 260 Toftrees Avenue, #220, State College, PA 16803.
D'Anna Henderson has been accepted into WSU's Ph.D. program in Biomedical Science. She was awarded a renewable $11,000 fellowship and tuition remission. She plans to get involved in the human genome project. D'Anna's ultimate goal is to teach genetics at a medical school.

Merry DeLeon has been accepted into the WSU Medical School for fall.

Joel Mondary has accepted a research assistantship to study geology at Cornell. One possible project will involve a trip to Tibet to study reflection seismology.

Rob Hegstrom (1989) is working as an engineer at WPAFB. His job requires a lot of travel, and he loves it.

Victoria Peagler won a scholarship to help support her study trip to the Holy Land.

Eric Ruppert landed a teaching assistantship in the WSU English Department.

Amy Rowe is doing her bit for the national security by serving lunch to officers and gentlemen at the WPAFB Officers' Club on MWF.

Thom Brex started work as a CA in the Woods on April 6. Rumor has it that he plans to enforce the rules. Pizza delivery cars will have to learn a new campus address.

Danyse Lichty plans to take a whole ten days of vacation in sunny Minnesota before returning to Dayton to work, work, work the summer away.

David Orenstein will be on sabbatical all next year.

Donna Schlagheck will offer a new topic in UH 202, probably something on Japan.

Former Honors Director Jacob Dorn underwent successful back surgery and is recuperating at home. He'll be on leave next year working on a book on Christian Socialism.

Erica Hines will spend the summer in Baltimore working for an investment banking firm.

Missy Hedden has recently become a nanny for a Dayton family. Her charge is nine years old. In addition to looking after him and carting him around to various activities, she will have some responsibility for household management. Perks include her own room in an historic house, all she can eat, and plenty of time to study.

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**Not Food for Thought**

Into a medium bowl drop butter, shortening, sugar and salt. Stir with a wooden spoon until well blended and smooth. Add 1/2 cup flour and a pinch of baking powder. Follow with a portion of the milk and lemon juice. Stir to blend. Continue adding flour and milk alternately. The mixture will be smooth and soft but will stiffen when chilled. Wrap and chill in refrigerator four hours or longer; remove about an hour before you plan to roll it. Preheat oven to 425 degrees and fill pan. Let the filled pan relax in the refrigerator for about 20 minutes. Prick shell thoroughly and weight with rice or pie weights. Bake 15 minutes, remove weights and bake another 20 minutes or so watching carefully. Don't let the crust scorch.

**Filling**

1 quart strawberries, hulled
1 C. granulated sugar
2 T. cornstarch
1/4 C. water
2 or 3 drops red coloring, if needed
3 Oz. cream cheese
Whipped cream, if desired

Select about 25 to 30 berries to be placed later on the crust, large end down. Put the choice berries aside. In the food processor puree the remaining berries, about 1 1/2 cups. Place the puree in a saucepan. Heat slowly to a boil. Add sugar. Mix cornstarch and 1/4 cup water into a smooth paste in a small bowl and add to the strawberry-sugar mixture. Allow to cook to the clear stage, bubbling slowly, over medium heat for about 5 to 8 minutes. Stir frequently. Remove from heat and add butter and food coloring if the mixture needs brightening. Set aside.

In the food processor place the cream cheese and 1 T. of the cooked puree. Blend until mixture is smooth. Spread mixture over the pie crust and arrange berries in a design with the largest fruit in the center, the smaller berries around the sides. Spoon the cooked glaze over the berries. After the glaze has cooled for about 20 minutes, place pie in refrigerator to chill before topping with whipped cream and serving.
March Meeting—

Lights Out at MEHA Conference

The annual Mid-East Honors Association (MEHA) meeting continues to grow. This year, Wright State's delegation numbered 14, the third largest in attendance. Honors programs from Illinois to Pennsylvania to Indiana to Northern Kentucky joined Buckeyes in Columbus on March 31 for the largest, most smoothly run, most rousing conference ever. The conference theme—Modern Technology: Pros and Cons—was illuminated by a keynote address about the virtues of the night by Father John Michael Staudenmaier, Ph.D.

Discussion sessions immediately followed. Many students liked the idea of turning out the lights and resting the night away, but felt too burdened by what they perceived as the necessity for studying to take such a risk. As usual, nothing was ultimately resolved, but everyone went away with something to think about. Most of the WSU delegation lunched at the French Market and some ran off their eclairs on the streets of Columbus.

The highlight of the conference—the annual talent show—was held after dinner in the ballroom. For the first time in MEHA history, Wright State entered an act with genuine talent. Becky Nienaber walked off with a tie for most talented for her rendition of Bob Dylan's "Forever Young." For the fourth year Northern Kentucky's Lethal Stoll brought down the house with her poems that so graphically expose the pain of adolescence one wonders why anyone would ever want to be young in the first place, much less stay that way.

The poem that brought the most cheers, Lethal calls

Why Honors Students Don't Have Sex

At first we thought it was only the old performance thing
and fear that if done poorly
it would affect our glandular GPA
but now we know
it's actually
the specter of being really good
and never being allowed to forget it.

Lethal L. E. Stoll

Later that evening, several Wright State students were observed lighting up the dance floor. Becky Nienaber tried to hide out with the old people, but her student colleagues found her and she was persuaded to dance the night away too. Sunday brought more workshops. One that we hope to duplicate on campus dealt with being a minority student on a predominately white campus. The wrap-up session predicted Toledo for next year's conference site. Plan to be there.

Becky Nienaber, Talent winner at the Mid-East Honors Association conference in Columbus.
Honors Trivia

A copy of *Polar Star* by Martin Cruz Smith or *The Russia House* by John le Carré awaits the first student, staff, faculty, or graduate to identify the following quotation, which commemorates the institution of Wright State's new smoking policy.

Should men not be ashamed, to sit tossing off tobacco pipes, and puffing of the smoke of Tobacco one to another, making the filthy smoke and stinke thereof, to exhale athwart the dishes, and instest the aire, when very often men that abhorre it are at their repast? ...it makes a kitchin also oftenetimes in the inward parts of men, soiling and infecting them, with an unctuous and oily kind of Soote, as hath been found in some great Tobacco takers, that after their death were opened.

...Have you not reason then to be ashamed, and to forbear this filthie noviltie...a custome loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmefull to the braine, dangerous to the Lungs, and in the black stinking fume thereof, nearest resembling the horrible Stigian smoke of the pit that is bottomless.

The Winter Challenge went unmet. The quotation—"Language is courage: the ability to conceive a thought, to speak it, and by doing so to make it true"—is from Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*.

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We Give Thanks

...to Mike Nienaber, Assistant Principal at Patterson Career Center, for all his help in setting up Service First—including but not limited to, spending his birthday with us on campus and not getting too mad when one of his students ran into his car—his big ugly car.

...to Kathy Bough for having such creative and talented friends who made the Honors Suite look so beautiful for the Valentine Party.

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Service First Report

A group of service-minded Wright State University Honors students was busy winter quarter setting up a mentoring arrangement with a dozen college-bound students from Dayton's Patterson Career Center. We've made one visit to Patterson and they've been to campus at least twice. In between group outings many pairs get together for individually planned activities.

In February, the cultural enrichment of the WSU component included the premier of Stuart Sebastian's wonderful ballet, *Dracula*. Another fieldtrip is planned to Cincinnati in April for a Playhouse in the Park performance of *The Boys Next Door*.

This pilot year, funded by a grant from the National Collegiate Honors Council's Portz Fund, was successful enough that another group will be formed in the fall. Anyone interested in a year-long service and cultural enrichment project should contact Mary Kenton before the year is out. The Wright State University group will be limited to approximately 15.

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Left to right: Mary Kenton, Beth Pierson, Jason Crabtree, Dan Blevins, Anne Strothman, David Barr, and Jann Wallace. Craig Powell was the photographer.
SHA Spring Quarter Agenda—

Elections: May 2
Joel Mondary
MB: B061

T-Shirt Sale April
Kim Covert
MB: H542
Joe Piamthipmanus
MB: H042

Lunch on Mondays
Bob Hale
MB: S310

May Daze: May 4
Thom Brex
MB: L044
Marty Hammonds
MB: E530

Picnic: May 20
Angie Frankenberg
MB: R064
Randy Carlson
MB: O732
Jim Stouffer
MB: U108

Banquet: May 19
Bob Hale
MB: S310

Constitution
Jason Moore
MB: C435

Bake Sale: May
Sonia Gupta
MB: H295

SHA Members of the Month

January
Joe Piamthipmanus

February
Marty Hammonds

March
Christine Sears

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