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Honorable Mentions 3
A publication of the University Honors Program
Wright State University

We welcome contributions from our alumni/ae and friends, but reserve the right to edit contributions for space and style purposes. Material should be sent to Mary Kenton, University Honors Program, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435

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Spring Winners: Joe Ratermann, Linda Ayres, Gwendolyn Kestrel (not pictured, Kurt Herminghausen)

Scholarship News

Congratulations to Kurt Herminghausen, Joe Ratermann, Gwendolyn Kestrel, and Linda Ayres who won $500 Honors Scholarships for Spring Quarter. Thanks to selection committee members Ann Wendt (chair), Beth Gillen, Ira Fritz, and Patty Wojahn.

Research Fund grants went to Nancy Baker, Daniel Cooper, Mary Mescher, Elizabeth Pierson, Marcy Pooler, and Marty Hammonds.

Senior English major LeShawn Jackson has been selected for an Ohio Board of Regents Scholarship for graduate study in Ohio. The Regents Scholarship is valued at $3,500 per year and covers two years of graduate or professional study. Anne Strothman was named an alternate in the same competition.

Larry Leach, who transferred to WSU from Sinclair this fall, has been selected for a prestigious Truman Scholarship. Truman Scholarships are awarded to students who intend to pursue careers in public service. The Truman Scholarship Program was established by Act of Congress as a memorial to the late President Harry Truman. Larry Leach is an International Studies major at Wright State. He is in the process of establishing an alumni chapter of the community college honorary society, Phi Theta Kappa, at Wright State. Larry will either enter law school or a graduate program in public administration after graduation from Wright State.

Chimaera Redux

Several years ago, the Honors literary magazine quietly ceased publication. Now the students, under the leadership of Thurston Sherman, want to resurrect it as a magazine of the literary and visual fine arts. Chimaera, as the organizing committee envisions it, would accept submissions from all Wright State students and alumni. They are soliciting contributions for the first issue in the following areas: poetry, short stories, scripts, essays, songs, and art. If you are interested in submitting work, contact Gwendolyn Kestrel at 223-3473 or Allyn box B741. New members are also needed to fill several vacant staff positions.

If you are interested in assisting in the publication of Chimaera, please attend the new members' meeting May 10 at 3:00 pm in the Honors Office.
A Classroom for the Future?

This past term I participated, with about 30 other faculty members, in a three-day workshop on "The Classroom of the Future." It was a stimulating experience extending over a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. I figured I might not be there much Saturday and Sunday, since I do have a life outside the university. But I found I couldn't stay away. The new technology was seductive, the ability to create powerful learning aids was compelling, the challenge to do something worthwhile with the new technology brought me back—even kept me late on Saturday. I had forgotten how addictive learning can be, when you are doing the learning and not just being taught.

Put simply, the new technology allows one to create, control, and deliver multimedia presentations with ease and flexibility. The mechanism for delivering these presentations is still cumbersome—several hundred pounds of equipment has to be carted to the classroom and set up. But this will change. We are already envisioning some classrooms that will be permanently set up for multimedia—primarily large lecture halls. This is appropriate, since one great value of this system is assistance in lecturing. But that is not the only value.

The Classroom of the Future surely has to be more than just a more efficient way to deliver lectures. I, of course, think that the model of future education is the Honors class, which—at its best—is collegial, open, democratic, and self-directing. One of the great values of the computer is the decentralization of power. The personal computer empowers each of us with access to, and manipulation of, information far beyond the reach of the best scholars just 20 years ago. I would like to see a true Classroom for the Future, incorporating the best computer and multimedia equipment available. I am not yet sure how to design it or just what ought to be in it, but I know what I want it to do: empower students to become active members of a learning community.

I don't know if the university will build us such a classroom, but I intend to ask. And I would welcome suggestions and advice from anyone with ideas on how it ought to be done—students, faculty, staff, or graduates. Learning can be addictive and I want to make sure that Honors students are hooked.

dlb

Large Delegation to Mid East Honors Association Conference in Toledo

Wright State had one of the largest delegations (20) at the annual MEHA Conference. The only rivals were Eastern Michigan and Highland Park Community College. In all, more than 300 Honors types gathered from April 5 through 7 to consider the conference theme, Global Awareness. The weekend was not, however, all speakers and workshops. The Wright State clan came within a hair of electing a Student Vice President of the organization, and David Barr was easily elected Faculty Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee. Becky Nienaber won the most talented award again, and our quiz bowl team took second place, even though they had hardly beaten the team declared the winner. The pool was a popular spot for various ball games. The parking lot was the scene for frisbee and netless volleyball. In the evenings, we watched exorcisms, sent out for pizza, told ghost stories, took walks, went dancing. A few people slept a few hours, but nobody slept much. Such a good time was had that Heidi Riffle said we should do this every quarter. The next MEHA conference, however, is not scheduled until the spring of 92. We will meet again in Toledo at the Hilton on the theme of Social Awareness.

Annual SHA Picnic

The students have challenged the faculty to a softball rematch. They are still smarting from last year's defeat. In the event that they fail to redeem their honor in softball, they also demand a volleyball match. This competitiveness all takes place on Sunday, May 19, probably at John Bryan State Park in Yellow Springs. Food, of course, goes along with the games. Look for typical picnic fare. We'll try to get Wendy McDaniel to make some of her lethally good pecan chocolate pies. Maybe they can console the losers. Look for more details in your mail in early May. Faculty team sign-up sheets are available now. If you can pitch, hit, field, serve, or spike, we need you!
SHA News
by Joe Plamhipmanus

I want to thank the members who helped out with our most successful fundraiser, the SHA Tuition Raffle. It was made possible by the SHA officers, members, and our most generous sponsor, the Wright-Patt Credit Union. The raffle turned out to be the most successful project ever. We sold more than 3500 tickets. On March 3, Paul Moses, anchorperson for WHIO Channel 7, picked the grand prize winner, Tracy Spencer.

Spring Quarter, SHA will celebrate by providing members with the following events:

May Daze—Friday, May 3
SHA fun booth will be open
Come join us for the fun

Honors Banquet—Friday, May 17 at the Holiday Inn
I-675
Only $5.00 for SHA members
Social get-together for students and faculty
Honors Teacher of the Year will be announced
Mini talent show after dinner
Mark your calendar

SHA Student/Faculty Picnic—Sunday, May 19, John Bryan State Park
Annual softball and volleyball challenge
Non-competitive hiking
Free food

OOZE Ball team being formed
Mud volleyball at its finest at WSU

Plans are also underway to establish a scholarship fund for SHA members. An SHA committee will work with the Honors Committee to establish qualifications and a selection process.

The final item of business in spring quarter is to elect officers for the 1991-92 school year. The Election Committee will be soliciting nominations for:

President
Vice-President
(also serves on Honors Committee)
Treasurer
Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Historian
ICC Representative
Honors Committee Representatives (three)

Get involved with the largest and best student organization on campus. Volunteer for the Election Committee or run for office. More information is available from the Honors Office.

Wright Wit

This is the closest we could come to a joke for the quarter. It is included, at least in part, to stir people to start thinking now about a real joke for the fall Honorable Mentions. This submission comes from Thomas Strous, who is not currently an Honors student, but he could be one, regardless of how this effort at humor is perceived. Okay, here goes.

A group of dyslexics got together to form a political action committee. Embossed on their stationery and printed on their business cards was their proudly proclaimed motto: Dyslexics Untie

Grants Awarded

We were totally delighted, if just a little surprised, to learn that both of our grant proposals to the University Foundation were funded. The Honors Progr...a received $5,000 to support Service First and $2,500 to help start a learning community this fall. These funds will enable these two programs to function at a much higher level than would otherwise have been possible. Thanks.

Alpha Lambda Delta News

First year students were invited to join ALD after winter grades were in. So far about 80 of those who earned at least a 3.5 have joined the only honorary society that recognizes the accomplishments of freshmen. On April 9 chapter members sponsored an all you can eat breakfast for a buck in the Honors Office. Faculty advisor James Hughes turned out some terrific scrambled eggs and sausage, and many brought wonderful home-baked and store-bought goodies.

All who came went away stuffed and happy. After the expenses were calculated, Treasurer Teresa Bornhorst reported that the event may have lost no more than $1.00. The annual spring reception is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8 at Rockafeld House. All new, old, and honorary members are encouraged to attend. A book will be presented to the graduating senior with the highest GPA, and all graduating seniors who have maintained the ALD minimum GPA will receive a certificate.
Food For Thought

"Belgium's King Albert made history in 1914 by his refusal of the German kaiser's request for free passage for his armies in their attack on France. "Belgium is a country," the king declared, "not a road." Today it is more a shopping center than either. Belgium earnestly hopes that causes, good and bad, are a thing of the past. Brussels is full of tourists and shoppers; the old historic buildings of the central square have, by and large, been converted to restaurants and upscale boutiques. The House of the Swan, for example, is an expensive restaurant that was once a cheap tavern. It was in that cheap tavern that the young Marx and Engels used to repair of an evening, clutching the manuscript sheets of The Communist Manifesto, which they would read to their friends. Across the way from the Swan is a storefront that during the German occupation of Brussels in the Second World War served as the recruiting center for the SS. Now it is a Godiva outlet; people buy chocolate truffles where Belgian fascists once signed up for the Russian front.

This is the New Europe, then: communism and fascism over, no monuments to mark where they stood. Shopping, eating, catering to the self—a consumer utopia keeping at bay more cataclysmic ideologies. It's a yuppie version of the old Wobbly dream: One Big Mall.”

from "Dark Continent: A grand, grim tour of the New Europe" by Walter Russell Mead in the April 1991 issue of Harper's.

The annual Valentine's Day party was an unqualified success. Heidi Riffe led a decorating committee that transformed the Honors Office into a veritable balloon and crepe paper garden. Any number of people brought delectable goodies. Of special note were Cheryl Schultz's pink and white iced heart-shaped cookies, which were as delicious as they were beautiful. Also lovely to look at but even better to eat were Michelle Dayton's chocolate and whipped cream confection and David Barr's quick-to-disappear chocolate peanut butter cheese cake. Guests included everyone from President Mulhollan and Vice Presidents Hathaway and Howard to Judi Roller's Irish wolfhound, Galadriel, and Jim Rose's totally delightful puppet, Pepito. Honors students brought husbands (for kissing purposes), fiancées and friends. In the song competition, Becky Nienaber took the prize and brought tears to many an eye with a song about friendship. Thurston Sherman won a box of Esther Price candy for serious love poetry and Ericka Hines selected a pair of men's boxers (with hearts, of course) for her win in the more whimsical variety. Katie Dvorak had far and away the best overall score on the love trivia quiz and won a cup for the faculty; Beth Pierson and friend Kelly had the best student scores. The kissing contest featured a variety of styles, and the judge selected the courtly kiss performed by Rob Johnson and Amy Rowe. The crowd demanded a prize also for the marital bliss kiss performed by Betsy Eril O'Ryan and Earl O'Ryan, which featured Betsy using the unabridged dictionary as a platform. After a rousing round of hokey pokey and clean-up, a few hardy souls braved inclement weather to continue the fun at Spaghetti Warehouse.
Annual Spring Dinner

The fourth annual Honors Banquet (as the students insist on calling it) is scheduled for Friday, May 17 at the Holiday Inn I-675. All Honors folk are encouraged to attend. We decided to keep the cost a modest $12.50 per person. The Student Honors Association will subsidize any member who attends so that the total cost of dinner for SHA members is $5.00. This event recognizes graduating seniors as well as outstanding contributions to the Honors Program through teaching and service. But mostly it is a chance for some end-of-the-academic-year fun. Instead of hiring musical talent, this year we plan to take advantage of the wealth of talent reposing in our students. They have promised singing, piano playing, guitar playing, and skits. This year we hope to see a larger alumni contingent and a few more faculty. The undergraduates are doing their part—what about the rest of you?

Not Food For Thought

This recipe comes from Professor of Geology Paul Pushkar, a veteran field trip leader. This summer he will offer for Honors credit the entire general education sequence in Geology. The third "quarter" will be a three week field trip to the Rocky Mountains. No doubt all participants will have a chance to sample this recipe.

Quesadillas

These are very big for breakfasts on our field trips. They're very good, filling, easy to make, and quite versatile. They're also very good cold. You can put almost anything inside them—eggs, ham, any kind of cheese—but the overall favorite is as follows:

- bacon
- margarine
- flour tortillas
- velveeta cheese—melts better than any other cheese and tastes fine
- salsa—Victoria brand, hot or mild according to taste.

1. Cut some bacon strips into small pieces and fry till crisp. Drain.
2. Drain the bacon fat from the skillet and scrape the bottom of the pan to remove any crusted-on coatings, or the quesadillas will stick.
3. Add some margarine to the skillet and heat till foaming. Swirl the skillet to spread it over the bottom.
4. Place a flour tortilla, the bigger the better but small enough to fit the skillet, in the margarine. Place some of the drained crisp bacon on the center of the tortilla and surround it with thin pieces or slices of velveeta. Add a spoonful (or more, if you prefer) of salsa to the bacon. Cover with another tortilla.
5. Fry till the bottom of the quesadilla is brown. You can lift up the side to see how it's doing. Press down on top of the quesadilla from time to time so that the two tortillas become glued together as the velveeta melts.
6. Turn the quesadilla over with a spatula and fry till the other side is brown. Transfer to a plate and eat with knife and fork, or fingers. If you have a beard or mustache, watch out for bits of melted cheese.

If three weeks in the Rockies aren't enough of an inducement, surely the promise of this kind of food will fill the class. Bon appétit, caballeros.
Meet Me in Saint Louis for Spring Break
by Jason Crabtree

This year SHA sent eight students to St. Louis for Spring Break. Officers Joe Plamthipmanus and Jason Crabtree travelled along with Jodie Brown, Briana Callahan, Erica Seaman, Wendy McDaniel, Mary Beth Lengefeld, and Sonia Ogletree. We arrived Saturday just in time to catch the tail end of the St. Patrick’s Day parade, but we got to see all of the trash left in its wake. Later that day, we visited the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, but the tours to the top of the arch were sold out for the day.

Both Saturday and Sunday nights, our attempts to go dancing were thwarted by the lack of clubs allowing persons under 21 to enter. Sunday evening, we enjoyed an SHA sponsored dinner at the Spaghetti Factory. Monday we were finally able to go to the top of the arch to get a fabulous view of downtown St. Louis. That afternoon, we took a tour of the southern portion of St. Louis along Gravois Avenue. Tuesday we left the hotel and visited the zoo—one of only three free zoos in the country.

Finally, we started home and were almost taken out by a low flying plane outside of Indianapolis. Though at first we thought the plane to be a UFO, we soon realized that it was landing at Indianapolis International Airport. We arrived home exhausted, but with enough time left to recuperate for spring quarter. For those who wish they had been there, we brought back five rolls of film.

A Home for Honors Students

This fall a new building in the Woods complex, Oak Hall, will serve as a residence for Honors students. A student/faculty committee chaired by Thom Brex has been meeting to discuss what will be the distinguishing features of an Honors living community. Some of the ideas so far: extended quiet hours, limited access, more study space, special programming. We’re looking for a donor to outfit a computer room. If you see yourself in that role, please contact the Honors Office right away.
Spring Challenge

A $10 bookstore gift certificate awaits the first student, staff, graduate, or faculty to identify the following quotation:

"He was a scholar, and a ripe and good one; Exceeding wise, fair-spoken, and persuading; Lofty and sour to them that lov'd him not; But, to those men that sought him, sweet as summer."

Which member of the Wright State faculty does this passage most closely describe? Another $10 gift certificate goes to the professor who receives the most votes over five.

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Book of the Quarter

This quarter's book review was solicited from Iain Miller, an Assistant Professor in Biological Sciences. As usual for Iain, he delivered something more than and different from what was expected. Enjoy.

The Goal: A Process of Ongoing Improvement
by Ellyahu M. Goldratt and Jeff Cox

If someone were to slap a small paperback book into your hot and sweaty little palms and yell in excitement "Here's a book on manufacturing engineering—it's greeaattt! Read it! You'll love it!" you would be excused for wondering which asylum that someone had escaped from. This was exactly how a friend introduced me to Eli Goldratt's book The Goal. On top of this she informed me that once I'd reached page 11 I would be hooked, unable to put the book down. Strangely, she was absolutely right. The Goal is an immensely interesting book in which you can become totally absorbed.

The Goal isn't really about manufacturing engineering but rather about progress, about science and about education. What makes it so interesting is the fact that this book is a manufacturing textbook disguised as a novel. It's the story of Alex Rogo and his family, friends, and co-workers. Alex is the manager of a manufacturing plant which is under threat of closure by the parent company. To save the plant and its workers, Alex must increase productivity, boost sales and decrease costs. Enter at this point a Goldratt alter ego in the guise of Jonah, Alex's old science professor. The plot now gets into top gear and the book becomes riveting. Alex discovers ways to improve the plant, largely as a result of Socratic dialogue with Jonah; Alex's workers join in the process of discovery and improvement as a result of Socratic dialogue with Alex and among themselves. As a reader you can get so caught up in this complex weave of Socratic interaction that you will find yourself continually trying to pre-empt the discoveries of Alex and the others. The important knock-on effect of your involvement in Alex's problems is that you will have learned how to look at any organization in a new, more critical and scientific way.

The effect that this book has on every individual who reads it is so remarkable that it has become a best seller in board rooms, in universities, and on the factory floor. Indeed, rumor has it that it is now mandatory reading for employees of IBM. Its effect is intentional; it is the authors' aim to help those involved in manufacturing in the Western World to discover solutions to the problems confronting them as a result of severe competition from Japan and others in the Far East. The effect The Goal has on personnel and its subsequent effect on manufacturing efficiency appears to be working. Louis Rukeyser notes that "An Israeli physicist (Goldratt!) is teaching U.S. companies how to beat the Japanese at that old Yankee specialty, business management" and that Goldratt and his team are "winning hosannas and contracts from a growing number of top American companies." Goldratt is convinced that his system, his way of re-educating management, could revolutionize U.S. manufacturing. Business Week reinforced this claim by announcing that "a small but growing number of managers at some of the world's biggest manufacturers are agreeing with him."

Regardless of whether you are headed for a career in management, science, education or any other field, reading this book will be a memorable and rewarding experience.
News and Gossip

Charles Berry underwent successful angioplasty at the end of winter term. He was back in the classroom and feeling fine at the beginning of spring.

Christine Sears will marry David Vaglia August 3. David majored in computer engineering at Wright State, and the Navy is taking advantage of all that he learned. He is currently stationed in Philadelphia, where Christine will probably take up teaching next fall.

Long-lost alumna Kathleen Mahoney (now Mahoney-Norris) writes from Colorado, where she is in a PhD program in International Studies at the University of Denver. She expects to finish in 1992 with concentrations in Latin America and international organizations. Before she found her way back to her true calling (the professoriate), she was side-tracked for a while in law school and in the Air Force. Then, this dual French/Political Science major worked as a systems engineer for TRW. What people don’t pick up in the military? She still feels good about the quality of education she received at Wright State in general and in the Honors Program in particular. We still feel good about having her as an alum.

Sophomore Richard Blake is a published author. His essay titled “WSU Dining Facilities” was one of the 32 selected nationwide for inclusion in a book of student writing. The piece appears in The Great American Bologna Festival and Other Student Essays which is intended for use with the popular college composition text, The St. Martin’s Guide to Writing. Congratulations, Richard.

Jo Sine and Todd Funderburg ended their lengthy courtship by getting married in Australia on December 9. Jo works for the IRS and Todd is with the Gaspee Corporation.

We hear through a third party that Jim North has sired a son, Matthew.

Sally Struthers recently exhibited in Sinclair’s Blair Hall Lobby in a show entitled Recent Art Faculty Works.

Honors Program Secretary Beverly Rowe continues to travel while others toll. She spent spring break in Myrtle Beach and Charleston while Honors Director David Barr managed everything by himself and Associate Director Mary Kenton shuttled sick parents to and from the hospital.

Kes Tomlin has accepted a job with David Taylor (a large Navy contractor) in Annapolis, Maryland as an electrical engineer. He and wife Lisa Adams Tomlin are expecting a baby in October.

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