From the Honors Program Director

Dear Honors Students, Alumni, Faculty and Friends,

Welcome to our third year of publication of our Honors Program newsletter, The Sage Page. I'm particularly delighted to highlight the article below, which describes our wonderful new Honors Center. The students and I couldn’t be more thrilled. Additionally, I am pleased to feature the article on our new 3 credit hour HONR courses, which will become a standard offering for our Honors Program. In this edition you will also find articles by our students showing they have been busy presenting research and completing service learning projects like our community garden and Relay for Life. Two students ventured away from campus and have written articles on their experiences in Italy, which are quite interesting. The students have not only been engaged academically, but you can see from their photos they like to have fun, too. Thanks to all who contributed to this edition, and I want to encourage all alumni to keep us updated on your interests and careers by completing the form on the back page or contacting us directly by e-mail at the address located there. Enjoy!

Kathy Lyon, Ph.D.
Honors Program Director

New Honors Center

Meagan Hogarth

Beginning fall of 2011, the Winthrop University Honors Program and Winthrop University Honors Association were given access to our brand new Honors Center. Our first event was our Welcome Back Dessert Party, which was attended by our new freshmen and our welcoming upperclassmen. Our Honors Center will be used to host events such as this as well as study nights, WUHA! officers and student meetings, Honors Committee meetings, t-shirt decorating parties, and various other activities for Honors Program students.

The Honors Center features a seminar room, a lounge, a study area with tables and chairs, the Honors Program Director’s office, as well as kitchen facilities with vending and caffeine to assist honors students with all of their studying needs. Currently one honors class is being held in the seminar room, and in the spring semester two of the honors symposia will be held there. Located on the first floor of The Courtyard, the Honors Center is central for all honors students, but especially those who take advantage of our floor in the apartment-style housing on campus. The Honors Center will serve as a hub of honors life in years to come, and we could not be more excited to be a part of it.
Community Garden and Relay for Life

This year WUHA! members had the privilege of participating in a community garden project. WUHA! worked with Master Gardeners of York County and Two Men and a Truck to grow organic vegetables. Students planted onions, lettuce, spinach, rosemary, oregano, carrots, broccoli, and Irish potatoes. At the end of the semester, the mature produce was picked and donated to local homeless shelters in need. The vegetables provided a much needed supplement to the daily menu served at local soup kitchens.

-Melody Chapman

The spring semester marks the first shades of summer hope for many students and winding down of the academic year. Seniors are ever closer to graduation, while the middle of the semester denotes the start of an ongoing effort to raise awareness for cancer research. Relay for Life is a nationwide event sponsored by the American Cancer Society to raise awareness and support for cancer research. In spite of countless papers, homework assignments, and projects, 400+ students showed up to the event on April 8-9 on the Dinks lawn, including the Honors Program students. Our student organization, WUHA!, was able to raise $1,360.93 this year for cancer research. Much of that was raised through programs such as the annual WUHA! Trivia Night and on-site food sales, as well as generous donations from friends and family. Honors students and the campus as a whole rose to the occasion to help shatter the stigma of cancer and positively impact many lives. Collectively, Winthrop raised over $24,000.

-Jamaal Cox

Southern Regional Honors Council Conference

Meagan Hogarth

The 39th annual Southern Regional Honors Council Conference was held in Little Rock, Ark. from March 31 to April 2, 2011. Twenty Winthrop honors students presented research, some in conjunction with their honors thesis class. Seniors who presented included: Carly Moss, Amy Schober, Sybil Senn, Katie Jorsch, Carol Perkins, Amy Rivers, Amanda McLeod, Betsy Jenkins, Corinne Owens and Sara Merlie. Juniors who presented were Melody Chapman, Steven Howell, Meagan Hogarth, Elise Comber, Jamaal Cox, Allison Howard, Cayla Eagon, Rachel McCoy, and Hien Dang, along with sophomore Miri Smith. This year the conference’s theme was: “Bridging Scholarship and Citizenship: Making Honors Count.” Events at the conference included a social, a guest speaker who discussed the connection between scholarly work and civic engagement, and a visit to the Clinton Presidential Library.

When students weren’t presenting or attending sessions, they were able to explore downtown Little Rock and all it had to offer. Favorite activities included visiting the River Market, using the trams to venture out into the city, as well as viewing the famous Peabody ducks on their daily “parade” to and from the hotel lobby’s fountain. SRHC will be held in Tampa, Fla., in March 2012.

Above: Seniors Betsy Jenkins and Amanda McLeod present their honors theses at SRHC.
**Why I Teach Honors....**

“In my time at Winthrop I have taught honors students in several ways – honors sections of regular courses, honors contracts with students in regular sections, a one-hour honors symposium, supervision of an honors thesis, and finally this semester a three-hour honors course on the Apocryphal Gospels. (See page 6 for a student perspective on this course.)

I teach honors courses because I relish the opportunity to challenge students to strive for a level of excellence that goes above and beyond normal expectations.

Honors students catch on quickly; they are not afraid of work; they are intellectually inquisitive – even outside of their major field. I also like to push them not to rest on their laurels or take their “honors” status for granted. Even more than just the chance for me to challenge them, however, I enjoy that they constantly challenge me to dig deeper for greater excellence.

I enjoy being associated with people who refuse to settle for just ‘good enough.’ Honors students are those people, and that is why I so enjoy teaching them.”

- Dr. Peter Judge, associate professor and department chair of philosophy and religious studies, and interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
Above Left: Melody Chapman proudly displays her handiwork at the Valentine's Day Party.

Left: Teams of students compete to answer the questions at Trivia Night.

Above Right: Allison Howard, being a nerd at Nerds Ball.

Right: Elise Comber presents her research project at SRHC.

Above: Jamaal Cox and Steven Howell in their nerdiest attire at Nerds Ball.

WUHA! A Semester in Pictures
tables in a plot at the local Community Garden in Rock Hill, not only forming a stronger connection to the surrounding community but also in donating to local soup kitchens.

Service continued as WUHA! hosted a Trivia night to raise money for Relay For Life in which students and faculty gathered together to answer questions about everything from Chaucer to Charlie Sheen. A group of WUHA! students formed a team to walk all night at Winthrop’s Relay For Life.

The honors kids celebrated the end of a successful semester with a “Nerds Ball,” complete with a costume contest to find the “nerdiest” nerd and the annual “Overachiever Awards.”

Announcing the 2011-2012 WUHA! Officers

President: Meagan Hogarth
Vice President: Melody Chapman
Secretary: Allison Howard
Treasurer: Amber Schilling
Service Learning Coordinator: Jamaal Cox
Service Learning Coordinator: Destinee Johnson
The Sage Page Editors: Mirielle Smith, Samantha Baker, and Griffin Glaze

Reflection on Spring 2011

WUHA! had another busy semester after the snowy weather subsided.

Bigs and Littles gathered at The Shack to celebrate Valentine’s Day with handmade card creations and a delicious dessert potluck.

The new service project this semester proved a tremendous success. Students grew a multitude of vegetables in a plot at the local Community Garden in Rock Hill, not only forming a stronger connection to the surrounding community but also in donating to local soup kitchens.

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Elise Comber

Fall 2011 Plans

* WUHA! Spirit Days on the first Monday of every month
* Study Nights Monday-Thursday, 7:30-11 p.m. (necessary caffeine provided)
* Fall Fest
* Annual Pizza Party
* Annual Dessert Party
* Bigs/Littles social events
Three Credit-Hour HONR Courses

The Gospel of Thomas. The Gospel of Judas. The Protoevangelism of James. These may sound familiar, but they aren’t books you’ll find in an orthodox Christian Bible. In the HONR232X course, students explored early literature on Jesus that, for various reasons, were not in the Christian canon. Dr. Judge taught the course in a seminar fashion; with our desks in a circle, we discussed the philosophical, theological, and literary merits of each text openly. I thoroughly enjoyed having this course with my fellow honor students; we were each able to draw from our life experiences and pool our talents to create a sustained atmosphere of deep intellectual and philosophical conversation. The Winthrop University Honors Program offers courses that are challenging and tailored for students who have a passion to learn.

- Steven Howell

Dr. Ritzer’s Psychology of War was one of the most interesting classes I have taken. The psychological effects of trauma and stress on soldiers in training and in combat, both immediately after and in the years following their experiences was a primary focus. Additionally, topics such as media, social, and public perceptions of war seemed particularly relevant to recent events. The course left me with a greater knowledge of how humans deal with stress, as well as how war and violence can impact families, groups, and individuals.

- Debbie Szeman

Amish Culture Symposium

Who are the Amish? I had heard various pop culture references but had little actual knowledge about their ways of life. Through this Amish Culture symposium, I learned that the Amish have withstood many struggles in Europe and the United States to persevere and continue their beliefs. They are a collectivistic people who commit themselves fully to their community and God. I was able to meet Amish individuals in North Carolina and gained a sense of their loving and nurturing characteristics first hand through this course. Their lifestyle makes one question what modern conveniences give us but also takes away.

- Katharine Lindberg

Student Spotlight: Amy Rivers

Amy Rivers, senior psychology major, embodies the concept of the student who goes above and beyond. She was a Resident Assistant on the Honors floor in Wofford for her sophomore and junior years: “I was a resource, guide, and friend for a total of 100 girls over two years, and I got to know a lot of people,” said Rivers. She was also a Writing Center tutor, a TA in the Human Anatomy lab on campus, and a Winthrop Ambassador. She received the Outstanding Scholar Award and the Outstanding Researcher Award from the Psychology Department. “Honors encouraged me to do more research, particularly with the thesis. I’ve been a part of a total of five major research projects here at Winthrop - three are a direct result of honors,” said Rivers. Rivers is also a member of Psi Chi, Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, Alpha Lambda Delta, Book and Key, and the National Residence Hall Honorary. Rivers graduated on May 7th, 2011, and married her fiancé, Dylan Phillips, a fellow Honors Program graduate, this summer as well.

Rivers began her Master’s in Biology at Winthrop this fall.

Above: Amy, assistant chief student marshal, with President and Mrs. DiGiorgio at the spring 2009 commencement.

Allison Howard

Honor Mention

Steven Howell, junior political science major, and Elise Comber, junior psychology major, have recently announced their engagement. They will be married on December 17, 2011.

Allison Howard, junior psychology major, received the opportunity to intern for Amnesty International Mid-Atlantic Regional Office’s Director in Washington, D.C. during the summer of 2011.

Emily Pratt, junior economics major, interned over the summer as a research assistant at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland in Ohio.

Kevin Ryan, senior biology major, presented his research at a conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in February.

Miri Smith, sophomore English major, had her submissions accepted into the 2010-2011 edition of Winthrop’s literary journal, The Anthology and the SRHC literary journal, The Sanctuary.

Aubrie Salzman, sophomore nutrition major, received the position as editor-in-chief of The Anthology.

Above: Amy, assistant chief student marshal, with President and Mrs. DiGiorgio at the spring 2009 commencement.

Allison Howard

Honorable Mention
With International Experience: Italy

“Studying abroad in Italy has been one of the most fruitful experiences of my life. The decision to study abroad in Florence, thousands of miles away from home in a country where I knew no one and did not speak the language, was one of the scariest decisions I have ever made. As an honors student at Winthrop, I have been continually pushed a bit further past my levels of comfort and ease to a place that is usually more challenging, but it has been through these hard times that I have had the most rewarding experiences. Beyond the classroom, the Honors Program has strengthened my character and given me self-assurance when a whole new culture feels too overwhelming. Living in another country has provided me with the chance to learn so much, not just about Renaissance architecture, the Italian language, and gelato, but also about the world around me as well as myself. It has been an experience that I know will affect my life and outlook for years to come.” - Griffin Glaze

“Honors students seem to always have several traits in common: curiosity, courage, determination and industriousness. These exact qualities have helped me achieve a deeper cultural experience while abroad by giving me the desire to delve into Italian culture. Between having a strong determination to learn the language and attending dinner events with Italian students, I have turned my study abroad experience into a life changing and eye-opening opportunity. While my weekdays consist of schoolwork and exploring the city of Florence, my weekends allow me to experience different parts of Italy as well as other countries. I’ve hiked up the mountains on the island of Capri, visited Pompeii, held up the leaning tower, walked the fashion district of Milan and experienced the uniqueness of Venice. On the weekends spent outside of Italy I have had my breath taken away by the shores of Greece, seen the luxury of the French Riviera and had an emotional experience at Dachau. There was even a long weekend where I visited another continent all together and took part in the cultural beauty that is Morocco. Without the characteristics of an honors student, I may not have had the desire to explore as deeply into every culture, which in the end made my experience all the more valuable.” - Jessica Creel

Above: Jessica in Siena, Italy.

Above: Griffin and her new best friend, the Tower of Pisa.

Below: Jessica under a garden arch in Fiesole, Italy.

Left: Griffin overlooking Fiesole, Italy.
Welcome, Class of 2015!


And a special hello to our transfers: Mary Accomando, Tyler Brooks, Kellyn R. Colclough, Karenmarie M. Collins, Kristin McLaurin, Lydia Martin, Claudia Morante, Shannon Morrow, Candice Rice, and Adam Wolf!

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http://www.birdnest.org/wuha/. Please click on “Alumni Information”

Name: ____________________________
Address: ___________________________
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Degree Year: _________________________
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If WU alum, spouse’s degree info:
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Please share your recent news and accomplishments with us.

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