Dear Honors Students, Alumni, Faculty and Friends,

Welcome to our fourth year of publication of our Honors Program newsletter, The Sage Page. I’m particularly delighted to highlight the article below, which describes our growth in the Honors Program. The students and I couldn’t be more thrilled to welcome the Honors Program class of 2016! In this edition you will also find articles by our students showing they have been busy presenting research and completing service learning projects such as Trivia Nights to raise funds for the Winthrop School in Nicaragua and participation in Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society. One student ventured away from campus and has written an article on her experiences in Spain. The students have not only been engaged academically, but you can see from their photos they like to have fun, too.

From the Honors Program Director

Honors Program Grows at Record Rate

David Thackham

Months after graduating the largest class in recent memory, the Winthrop University Honors Program is continuing to grow in numbers. Eighty freshmen of the incoming class of 2016 have been accepted into the Honors Program, an estimated seven percent of the entire freshman class. “We’re definitely growing as a program and I think it’s all in positive ways,” said Miri Smith, vice president of WUHA!, the student organization of the Honors Program, in an interview with Winthrop’s campus newspaper, The Johnsonian.

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Honors Program Grows at Record Rate

Kathy Lyon, Ph.D.
Honors Program Director

an. “I think we’ve been particularly enthusiastic and successful in recruiting a large class this year.” Along with the increase of the freshman class comes the need for more experienced members to mentor the new entrants. WUHA! has a “Bigs” and “Littles” mentoring program to help new members adjust to the program as well as honors classes. Upperclassman members can become “Bigs” and are matched up with the younger students based on their major or similar interests. “I’m hoping that this year’s group is motivated

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Honors cont. from p. 1

and really wants to be a part of the ‘Bigs’ and ‘Littles’ mentoring program,” said new WUHA! president Amber Schilling.

Students who participate in the Honors Program are privileged to have small class sizes in a variety of honors courses, honors floors in residence halls, the possibility of independent study with a professor of choice and access to the new Honors Center. Many students believe the acquisition of priority registration in the fall of 2010 has brought the bumper crop to Winthrop. Honors Program students can register first, along with athletes, for their next semester’s schedule. “Receiving priority registration is clearly one of our biggest privileges,” said Allison Howard last spring. “The Honors Program has come a long way in such a short time. I couldn’t be prouder to have participated in it.”

Freshmen have to make at least a 1200 on the SAT or 27 on the ACT, and have at least a 3.5 GPA to apply to the program. Students who did not apply for the program as an incoming freshman still have the opportunity to join after they have obtained a Winthrop GPA of at least 3.30.

Fall Service Learning

Griffin Glaze

During the spring semester, WUHA! hosted two Trivia Nights to raise funds for the Winthrop School in Rocha, Nicaragua and for Winthrop University Relay for Life. WUHA! also had a Relay for Life team during the spring semester. We camped out on the campus green with other student organizations to raise money for the American Cancer Society. One person from our team was always walking around the track during the night to honor those who have suffered from cancer. WUHA!’s spring service projects promoted meaningful community connections that will be sustained during the 2012-2013 academic year.

- Destinee Johnson

Why I Teach Honors....

“I teach honors because honors students send me e-mails about grammar. This sounds odd, I know. I’m not an English professor. I am not even one of those people who gets all bent out of shape when someone uses the wrong “too” in Facebook posts. Why, then, do I get excited about grammar e-mails?

This particular e-mail was an explanation from a student about why he used an unconventional construction in his final paper. His explanation was concise yet thorough. To be honest, I wouldn’t have cared about the usage to begin with, but the e-mail demonstrated the writing skill, attention to detail, and conscientiousness I’ve found in almost every honors student I’ve encountered.

Those traits make honors students good students, to be sure, but they are not the reason I teach honors. The reason I teach honors is found in the e-mail’s rationale. Apparently, the student was prompted to send the e-mail to me after a debate with another student -- a debate about comic books and grammar. This is why I teach honors. What we discuss in the classroom doesn’t stay in the classroom. The conversation continues beyond the 75 minutes we spend together each week, wrapping back around to return to class again. This e-mail was evidence that these students were talking about this assignment, about the material in a substantive way, beyond the simple confines of grades and lectures. Honors students are curious. They are interested in ideas. They care about moving beyond the simple and given. They send me e-mails about grammar. And that’s why I love teaching them.”

- Dr. Nakia Pope, assistant dean University College and director of Touchstone Core Program.
Congratulations May 2012 Graduates!

The following students graduated with an Honors Program Degree at the May 2012 commencement. Also listed is their thesis title. (An asterisk indicates that the student graduated with an Honors Program Degree with International Experience.)

Jamie Ashbrook
   The Classification of False Tendons of the Left Ventricle of Domestic Canine (Canis familiaris) Hearts

Stephanie Bartlett
   Blending Scholarship: Signifyin(g) and the Heroic Monomyth within Toni Morrison's Song of Solomon

Ashley Bateman
   Assessing Stress Levels in Eastern Screech Owls (Otus asio) Kept in Various Captive Settings Comparing HPLC and ELISA Protocols to Measure Fecal Corticosterone

Melody Chapman*
   Fallacy in Historiography: Original Influences on the Bill of Rights

Jessica S. Creel*
   Quantitative Determination of Trans Fatty Acids by Gradient Flow Analysis – Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometry (GFA-FTIR)

Zachary A. Curry
   Cloning of Human Sphingosine Kinase 1 for Future Expression Studies

Hien Dang
   Subprime Mortgage and How it Led to the Economic Crisis

Cayla Eagon
   “New Eyes and a New Mind”: Wilkie Collin’s Armadale and Ways of Seeing

Kyrsten Fandrich
   Apologetic Athletes

Brittany Fournet*
   Determining the Least Stressful Environment for the Domestic Cat (Felis silvestris catus) through Analysis of Cortisol Levels in Indoor versus Outdoors Cats

Megan Gainer
   A Narrative In Metal

John R Gamble
   Data Mining and the Loss of Consumer Privacy

Meagan E. Hogarth
   If The Glass Shoe Fits: The Princess Paradox

Matthew Horn
   Molecular evolution of swine, avian, and human H5N1 Influenza A in Southeast Asia

Allison Howard*
   The Effects of Priming on Perceptions of Altruism and Nonprofit Organization

Elise M. Howell
   Relations among compensatory health beliefs, rumination, mindfulness and holiday health behaviors

Rachel McCoy
   Strategies for Improving Language Arts Instruction

Emily Pratt*
   For-Profit Higher Education and Financial Aid: Are Differences by Schools or Students?

Robert James Ralston
   On the Relationship between Poverty and Terror

Allison Wynne Raper,
   Minister of Movies: Goebbels and the Nazi Film Industry, 1933-1945

Daniel L. Selvey
   Gamers’ and Non-Gamers’ Perceptions of Video Game Playing

Nichole Shelly
   Relations Among College Students’ Hooking Up Behavior, Shame, and Guilt

Sydney L. Smith*
   Discounted Rate Adjustments for Proper Valuation in Multinational Corporations with Subsidiaries in Emerging Markets

Holly A. Stuart
   The Impact of a New Outdoor Classroom on Student Appreciation of Nature

Edward Andrew Szeman
   Literature Permutations: Awakening Traditional Literary Forms through Digital Narratives

N. Catherine Zende
   The Ethics of Technical Communication of Medical Products to Consumers
WUHA! A Semester in Pictures
Left, WUHA! members and Bigs amuse themselves before getting to meet their Littles at this fall’s Bigs and Littles Reveal at the Shack. Bottom: Our new WUHA! Officers. Opposite page, from top to bottom, counterclockwise, all WUHA! members pose for the camera at the first event of the semester. Two additional photos of Dr. Lyon and students having fun. Jamaal Cox, former service learning coordinator, fires up the grill at the annual Relay for Life on the campus green. David Thackham and Andrew Niswander ham it up at a recent fall get-together. New WUHA! members sitting in a circle at the Honors Center and two WUHA! students posing as best buds.

Announcing the 2012-2013 WUHA! Officers

President
Amber Schilling

Vice President
Mirielle Smith

Secretary
Ali Jensen

Treasurer
Julia Greiner

Service Learning Coordinator
Destinee Johnson

Service Learning Coordinator
Austin Bischoff

Newsletter Editor
Griffin Glaze

Newsletter Editor
David Thackham
Honorable Mentions

**Mirielle Smith**, senior English major, presented a paper at the 5th annual Conference on Comics and Popular Arts at Dragon*Con. She also spent a month in the United Kingdom recently doing thesis research.

**Colleen Rice**, senior music and political science double major, won the Best Problem Solving for the Case Study competition at the Southern Regional Orientation Workshop in Charlotte.

**Sam Smigel**, senior elementary education major, was the 2012 recipient of the Marsh Writing/Research Scholarship Award from the Kappa Delta Pi Educational Foundation for her honors thesis on cursive handwriting.

**Destinee Johnson**, junior chemistry major, travelled to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology last October to participate in the DOW-MIT ACCESS program, initiated to increase the diversity of qualified Ph.D. applicants.

**James Dean**, freshman chemistry major, received third place in the music composition section of the Archibald Rutledge Scholarship program.

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**Reflections on Spring 2012**

*Mirielle Smith*

Spring is always a big semester for WUHA!, and Spring 2012 was bigger than most. As always, WUHA! participated in Relay for Life. Our big trivia night was themed this year to correspond with the Relay for Life Catch Cancer Purple-Handed theme and was a big success. We also added a service project to our arsenal – the ConnectED with Nicaragua project to benefit the Winthrop School in Rocha, Nicaragua. We held an international trivia night and will be continuing to work with other groups to fund this group.

And, of course, we do more than service. Several honors students presented at the Southern Regional Honors Council Conference in Tampa, Fla., and even more presented at the Winthrop-hosted Big South Undergraduate Research Symposium. Honors students also contributed to conferences in their fields, including economics, psychology, and English. These presentations included thesis research, independent and class-related scholarly research, and creative writing. Our other main focus is social interaction. The new Honors Center provides a great opportunity for honors students to spend time together socially and academically.

This semester, it was it game nights, meetings, study sessions, and more. Of course, some events can’t be held there – our third annual Nerds Ball is a tradition that continues to grow and was held in the Richardson Ballroom this year.

The Spring 2012 semester was big in the way all Spring semesters are: theses were written, honors students planned their next steps and graduated, a new class of honors students was accepted, and WUHA! worked hard to be a fun and positive presence on campus.

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**Student Spotlight: Austin Bischoff**

Above: Austin Bischoff, president of NSCS

A desire to help students “achieve the impossible” is inspiring one WUHA! officer to become a leader on campus in multiple facets – and this is only his sophomore year. Austin Bischoff, psychology major from Hilton Head, S.C., wears many hats on campus, including peer mentor, Model U.N. participant and WUHA! Service learning coordinator. He added one more in September when he was appointed as the founding president of Winthrop’s chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS), a chapter that now boasts 72 active members. NSCS members have the opportunity to qualify for scholarships, internships and much more.

“I really want students to be interested in academics,” he said. “Less than ten percent of the Winthrop student body has a GPA of 3.4 or higher, one of the requirements for invitation to become a member of NSCS, and I want to act as a catalyst for others to achieve things they think are impossible. When they do that they become happier students, I think.”

Bischoff attributes his love for service to students through his involvement in the Honors Program and WUHA!

“What pushed me to be involved with WUHA! was all the other officers,” he said. “When I came to Winthrop, everyone in the organization was friendly. I wanted to be a part of something that excites others to achieve academic excellence, and it is so amazing to be with like-minded people.”
“¡La gente esta muy loco!...” That song pretty much covers my adventures in Sevilla, Spain. I travelled to Spain with the study abroad group Academic Studies Abroad (ASA), lived with a wonderful family right near the center of the city, and went to classes at the Universidad Pablo de Olavide. Most of my adventures were with two of my best friends, Gabrielle and Elisabeth, and I would love so much to go back.

While I was abroad, the most striking feature was the amount of freedom I had.

First, there were the simple freedoms of having neither a curfew nor any responsibilities past marginal schoolwork. But I realized quickly that it extends so much beyond that.

On a Thursday in January, I decided I wanted to spend the weekend in Lisbon, Portugal, and the next day I was on a bus there, by myself, with a backpack of stuff and a hostel bed reserved.

Later in the semester, I booked a flight to Barcelona only a week in advance and wandered around that gorgeous city on my own. Americans just don't have the freedom to do that, and it's exhilarating to live that way for four months, with a whole continent at your fingertips.

Granted, traveling alone does have some downsides. I couldn't share the confusing, chaotic glory of La Sagrada Familia cathedral in Barcelona with anybody. I wouldn't go out at night in Lisbon because I didn't feel safe on my own and hadn't met any friends at the hostel. None of my friends saw that Gibraltar monkey suddenly make himself at home on my shoulder. Because of this, the best adventures I had were always with Gabrielle and Liz.

For example, Gabrielle and I spent a glorious weekend in Paris. The stories don't exaggerate; Paris has got to be one of the greatest cities in the world. Any corner you turn, you'll see something architecturally beautiful and awe-inspiring, and the crepes can't possibly be beat, in taste or convenience. There must've been a stand every two or three blocks. And sprinting all the way down Champs-Elysees Avenue to catch the airport bus back home wasn't so bad either, at least in hindsight.

Unfortunately, not everything about study abroad is simple. I think the hardest part was coming back home. I got back to my house, and my bedroom, and nothing had changed. It was as if I'd never left at all, and my entire world was spinning, trying to figure out what in my life was real.

I had been warned about reverse culture shock, but I'd never imagined it would be so sudden and crushing. After a few months, though, I've sorted everything out, and now I can officially, call myself a multicultural woman.
Welcome, Class of 2016!

Sam Alexander, Michaela Bishop, Ellaina Boucino, Tamsen Brasier, Dori Brown, Katlyn Brumley, Lucas Bryant, Rachel Burns, Alexis Cantwell-Badyina, Michael Chen, Amy Ciravolo, Zakiya Clemons, Jordan Crawford, Jo-Marie Crews, Christine Davenport, Karlie Davis, James Dean, Timothy DeVos, Cara DiRisio, Michaela Dunbar, Adrienne Dunleavy, Anna Eckenrode, Christian Eisenstein, Joshua Ferguson, Alexandra Foster, Shianneea Gathers Emily Gugel, Krysten Guyton, Corey Hall, Natalie Hartsfield, Melanie Hicks, Kristin Hinson, Jacqueline Homyk, Lynnique Johnson, Shelby Johnson, Bria Jones, Cody Knight, Brittany Langston, Caroline Lankford, Jessica Logan, Briana Luckey, Lucas Malitz, Olivia Manley, Zachary Masters, Andrew McIver, Lauren Miller, Taylor Molizon, Katelyn Nash, Kaitlyn O’Brien, Steven Patrick, Samantha Patterson, Alexandria Pinto, Emili Price, Cecilia Ralyea, Kristin Ramirez, Connor Renfroe, Katherine Rhoden, Nia Ricks, Kyle Rine, Caroline Roark, Emily Rounds, Abigail Roush, Brandon Seelman, Kathryn Steverson, Leigh Szeman, Skyler Teal, Sara Tennant, Crystal Thomison Brooke Tracy, Robert Vereen, Zoe Vernon, Megan Wallenhorst, Noah Weber, Karey Wengert, Laura Anne Whigham, Ashley Williams, Briana Williams, Brittni Woodland, Tessa Zimmerman, and Jessica Zinna

Welcome transfers: Mahria Barrett, Chloe Beggs and Jonathan Peters

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Name: ___________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

City / State / Zip: _________________________________

Degree Year: _________________________________

Spouse’s Name: _________________________________

If WU alum, spouse’s degree info: ____________________________________________

Home Phone: _________________________________

Employer / Job Title: _________________________________

Please share your recent news and accomplishments with us.

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