Dear Honors Students, Alumni, Faculty and Friends,

Welcome to our fifth year of publication of our Honors Program newsletter, The Sage Page. I’m particularly delighted to highlight the information above the newsletter title about our status as an award-winning newsletter. This year, The Sage Page tied for first place in the National Collegiate Honors Council’s annual newsletter contest for the student-produced print category. This commitment to excellence the students have shown over the years in composing and editing the newsletter makes me very proud. Congratulations, students!

You will find in this newsletter some of the activities in which the students have been involved, such as presenting research at the Southern Regional Honors Council conference, their service learning opportunities, and their mentoring program, Bigs and Littles. One of the highlights of this semester was our hosting Winthrop’s president, Jayne Marie Comstock, at our Welcome Back “Ts & Crum-pets” event. Thanks to all who contributed to this edition, particularly Rachel Burns, our newsletter editor. Enjoy!

Kathy Lyon, Ph.D.
Honors Program Director

Welcome Class of 2017!

Julia Greiner

With summer in the rear-view mirror, another school year emerges as students pull up with loaded vehicles. The members of the Honors Program student organization, WUHA!, joined forces to help ease the pain of the inevitable freshman move-in. Honors students were spread across campus at locations that included Wofford, Richardson, Margaret Nance and The Courtyard. With more freshmen in Courtyard’s Honors housing, the move seemed less daunting as most students are located on the same level, the fourth floor. As new honors students arrived, WUHA! helped unload boxes, furniture, electronics and clothes, while directing students to the location of his or her new home. Students had a great time meeting new students and each person’s family; it was a wonderful way to become more acquainted with fellow classmates. Carrying a box is one thing, but establishing new friendships was a simple joy that came with carrying that box. Although, in the end some tears were shed as parents left, students were left in the comfort of fellow Honors students, and were invited to an annual pizza party for some more fun and friendship. Welcome Class of 2017!

Current Honors Program student Tamsyn Brasier volunteers for freshman move-in day.
WUHA! Service Learning Opportunities

Christine Davenport and Emily Rounds

WUHA! focuses on more than just academics, it also strives to improve the community. Service learning projects are a way for students to branch out from the books and work toward improving Rock Hill. Students are required to participate in one service project in order to graduate with an Honors Program Degree, and we endeavor to make these projects worthwhile. We have planned some exciting service learning opportunities for the semester.

The first event WUHA! completed was Rolling in Rock Hill. Several students came out to enrich the community by painting the homes of those less fortunate. By participating in this program, we were able to enhance our community’s appearance. Students always enjoy this experience because they get to devote time to their community and also learn basic techniques on homecare. WUHA! also plans on improving the community through our work with the annual canned food drive at Earthfare. Students’ efforts will offer monetary and nonperishable food items to the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen. Hopefully, this will not only help those in need, but also give our members a sense of accomplishment. Along with these events, we hope to add more opportunities for students to get involved with the community. Be sure to participate in these great causes!

Prof. Evelyne Weeks

I teach because I love to learn. I teach Honors students with the expectation that they love to learn as well. Most of the time, I am rewarded with an actively engaged, thoughtful, and sincere group of learners. I teach an Honors Critical Reading, Thinking and Writing class each semester. The combination of my favorite subject and the small class size is wonderful. This is a course about process, about understanding how we arrive at our opinions, about confronting preconceived notions.

Honors students can show great growth as they ask questions of each other, in the ways they push each other during discussion, and in the ways they challenge each other with assignments. Honors students are intellectually curious, and I use that curiosity as a tool in the classroom. I have taught an Honors course each semester for at least twenty years now, and many of my students still keep in touch with me. I have attended weddings, celebrated the births of children, and cheered them on through graduate studies and career changes. The Honors Program at Winthrop is truly a community, and it has been a privilege to have had a small part in it over all these years.

Professor Evelyne Weeks
Congratulations May 2013 Graduates!

The following students graduated with an Honors Program Degree at the May 2013 commencement. Also listed is their thesis title. (An asterisk indicates that the student graduated with an Honors Program Degree with International Experience.)

Judson Abraham
Political Science

Shelby Borders
English Education
Foucauldian Panopticism: The Gaze in Selected 19th Century Literature

Chelsea Brennan
Chemistry
Preparation of carbolines via cyclization of 3-(2-aminoaryl)pyridinium moieties

Dane Flinchum
Biology
Antimicrobial Properties of Bushy Bluestem Grass (Andropogon glomeratus) on Selected Bacteria Strains

Griffin Glaze*
Graphic Design
Hard-pressed Candy

Mary Elizabeth Glenn
Economics and Psychology
The Non-Traditional Student and Definitions of “Merit” and “Risk”

Anna Lee Johnson
Economics
Academic Redshirting: Does Graduating High School Early or Late Have Important Future Impacts on Income and College Degrees?

Katharine E. Lindberg*
Psychology
Relation Between Childhood Parentification and Adult Patterns of Co-Dependency

Caitlin Manning
Biology
In situ hybridization of heart-specific mRNA in juvenile Ciona intestinalis

Ashley Moore
English Education
“The Glorious Lady of My Mind: Beatrice as Muse and Savior in Dante’s Divine Comedy and Lemony Snicket’s A Series of Unfortunate Events”

Matthew Neal
Math
An Artificial Neural Network Modeling the Humor Response

Joshua Owens
Biology
The Population Genetics of the Greenfin Shiner (Cyprinella chloristia)

Colleen Rice
Political Science and Music
Bringing Sexy Back: The Politics of Rape Culture and Its Effects on Collegiate Women

Samantha Smigel
Elementary Education
Cutting Cursive: Is Handwriting Still Important to Today’s Preservice Teacher?

Mirielle Smith*
English
Du Lieber: A Screenplay of Crime, Sex, Lies, and Mother Goose Rhymes

Travis Whisenant*
Political Science
The Constitutionality and Economic Impact of Sunday Laws in South Carolina

Samuel Whitley
Digital Information Design
Solving Implementation Concerns of Serious Gaming through an Integrated Web Platform

Several of the Honors Program graduates at commencement. From left: Matthew Neal, Katharine Lindberg, Josh Owens, Honors Director Kathy Lyon, Judson Abraham, Mirielle Smith, Colleen Rice, Anna Johnson, and Griffin Glaze
WUHA! Bigs and Littles Reveal
Left, WUHA! members and Bigs amuse themselves before getting to meet their Littles at this fall’s Bigs and Littles Reveal in the Courtyard Honors Center. Littles had to go through a series of challenges before finding a picture that provided a clue about how their Big had decorated their bags. Once the Littles “unmasked” their Bigs, they ate, talked and bonded for the rest of the evening.

Honors Students Present at SRHC

Ashley Moore

Last semester, I had the privilege of presenting my honors thesis work at the Southern Regional Honors Council Conference in Louisville, Ky., along with some of my fellow nerds. Even though I had attended a couple of conferences already, SRHC was definitely a unique experience. Presenting my work to fellow Honors students was amazing, and everyone was so interested in what I had to say! My presentation, titled “‘The Glorious Lady of My Mind’: Beatrice as Muse and Savior in Dante’s Divine Comedy and Lemony Snicket’s A Series of Unfortunate Events,” was the first conference presentation that made me nervous about what people would think about my work; after all, it wasn’t exactly as “traditional” as some of the other literature-based presentations.

I shared a timeslot with Nicole Drown from Winthrop and Kimberly Kidd from Kentucky State, and our session had much higher attendance than I expected for an 8:30 a.m. session! Everyone who attended was excited about my work. I had a great time discussing my scholarship with people who wanted to know more, and people also brought me some great ideas as well.

Beyond presenting my work, the conference was filled with all kinds of new experiences. I had the opportunity to explore Louisville with my fellow Winthrop Honors Program members, and I got to know people better while getting to know a new city at the same time. University of Louisville, who hosted the conference, did a spectacular job of organizing events and meals for us as well. All of their students were extremely kind, and everyone I came in contact with was so accommodating and eager to help.

Overall, I had an amazing time at the SRHC conference, and I encourage everyone to attend if you can. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.
Senior Perspectives
“What will you miss most about the Honors Program?”

“I will definitely miss the instant companionship of being an Honors student among other Honors students. For the majority of my time at Winthrop, I hovered on the sidelines of the action and didn’t actively participate in Honors events ... but the second I did, I was immediately accepted and embraced. I found some fantastic friends and met some amazing people. I will miss the mini-community that the WUHA officers and all of the Honors students have created.”

-Ashley Moore

“Even though I’m sure I’m going to miss something about the Honors Program, I’m trying not to think about it like that. Instead, I’m trying to think of all the things the Honors Program has taught me that will help me as I move on to grad school: a deeper level of analysis, critical writing abilities, and a confidence in academic discussion that I have gained from taking Honors classes. I’ll certainly miss the friends I’ve made and the support of Dr. Lyon, but I know that graduation won’t be goodbye, and I’m already looking forward to when I’ll be able to walk across campus as an alumnus. (I will, however, miss all the free candy. Will there be free candy in grad school?)”

-Alex Muller

Through the Eyes of a Freshman

Katie Smith

When people discover that I am in the Honors Program, they usually give me a look that says, “Are you insane? Why would you do that to yourself?” To be honest, I had the same wary opinion of Honors before I looked at it more closely. I assumed that “Honors Program” translated into “mountains of work and no social life,” but I have discovered that it is quite the opposite. On the first day, when we got to move in early and avoid the craziness of regular move-in day, I felt that I had made the right decision when I joined Honors.

Soon, I was getting to know others in my current Honors level classes: ACAD 101H, HMXP 102H, and PSYC 101H. Honors ACAD is a wonderful chance to bond with other people in the program, as well as learn how to take full advantage of the Winthrop experience. PSYC 101H has allowed me to become better acquainted with the Honors Program Director, Dr. Lyon, who teaches the course. She and the upperclassmen are passionate in their desire to facilitate our success. The ACAD 101H peer mentors take time out of their busy schedules to invite underclassmen to events and are always willing to give advice and motivate when it comes to both classes and non-academics. And let’s not forget the Resident Assistants, whose smiling faces and occasional check-ins show that they truly care about our well-being and progress. I looked forward to Bigs and Littles since hearing about it at orientation. My roommates and I were so excited when it was time to fill out the Littles forms, but being the impatient person that I am, it was agonizing to have to wait so long for Bigs and Littles to be revealed on September 25. All of us Littles wondered who might be our Big, guessing from the myriad of upperclassmen we had gotten to know by that time.

Now that I’ve become better acquainted with WUHA!, its officers and other students, I just smile when people give me a look of disbelief for being in the Honors Program, because they don’t realize how much they are missing.

Student Review: LGBT Studies Symposium

Connor Renfroe

In the spring of 2013, Professor Kelly “KJ” James opened up the eyes of her class to the perspective of alternate sexualities. Every Thursday evening, LGBT Studies would meet in the Honors Center seminar room and discuss a new topic. Such topics included: queer representation in the media, bisexuality and its stigmas, and the asexuality spectrum. Throughout the term, students were made aware that sexual preference reaches beyond identity and is central to a person’s concept of self.

Imagine growing up with a marginalized identity with no role models or anyone with whom you could relate. This is the life of many gay and transgendered students who feel alone and isolated on account of the limited, and often negative, representation their culture receives in books and television. Negative stereotypes are formed around LGBT individuals by the heteronormative media, especially concerning the negative view of bisexual people. Such assertions as, “They can’t make up their minds,” and, “They just don’t want to come out,” come from both straight and gay people.

Did some of these terms confuse you? Perhaps you need to take LGBT Studies, or at least another Sociology course that widens your view of the world. KJ’s seminar was important for sharing these problems with students, many of whom could relate but never understood why. Hopefully, Winthrop University, and its Honors Program in particular, will continue to offer courses that elucidate the problems our society creates for LGBT persons, and any culture that is marginalized.
Amber Schilling

When I moved in on Honors move-in day fall 2010, the entering class of honors students barely filled the Wofford classroom for the pizza party. Now, three years later, the Honors Center can barely hold all of the new and returning students celebrating the start of a new year! As the Honors Program continues to grow, the Winthrop University Honors Association, WUHA!, grows with it.

This year at the annual dessert party, we had the great pleasure of hosting Winthrop’s new president, Jayne Marie Comstock. It was a great pleasure to meet President Comstock, and we’re all very excited to see how her relationship with the Honors Program develops. We also distributed this year’s shirt, lovingly designed over the summer by yours truly! I love seeing all the WUHA! shirts around campus from 2010’s “Go Geek!” to this year’s “Keep Calm and Nerd On.”

In the beginning of September, WUHA! arranged for a stress-relieving yoga night with Brooke Stanley of the Department of Finance. Dr. Stanley has taught a yoga class in the West Center and led WUHA! members through a one hour yoga session. All in attendance agreed that the evening was quite a workout, and several members requested another yoga night in the future!

On September 25, we hosted our Bigs and Littles Reveal, pairing new students with Honors upperclassmen. Despite being crammed into the Honors Center, a wonderful time was had by all as the Littles searched for their paper bag-wearing Bigs. In typical Honors fashion, themes for bags ranged from ninja to Harry Potter to cats in tiaras and sombreros. The Bigs and Littles program continues to be a success in creating lasting friendships.

Later this semester, we held our Annual T-shirt Decorating Party in the Honors Center, which was well-attended by upperclassmen and freshmen. Everyone had fun decorating a t-shirt with paints and WUHA! letters cut out of fabric. We’re looking forward to hosting our Fall Fest at The Shack in late October and a canned food drive outside of EarthFare in November. Our last event this semester will be a Holiday Drop-in in the Honors Center where everyone will have a chance to relax before final exams.

The WUHA! officers look forward to the continued participation from both upperclassmen and this year’s freshmen. Reflecting back on how WUHA! has grown over the past three years, I’m very excited to see what else is in store for this amazing organization in the future!
Welcome, Class of 2017!


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Welcome, Honors Transfers!

Lauren Caponigro, Leigh Fransen, Victor Hugh Frisbee, Lauren Lay, Eva McCarthy, Gabrielle McDowell, Crystal Ojo, Kasey Parris, Cathyleen Rice, Carly Pearl Snader, Sara Elizabeth Parnell Wilcox

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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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