The Sage Page

Recent Developments in the Honors Program

- The future of the Honors Program
- WUHA!’s involvement in Relay for Life
- Updates from current students and alumni
- Why Professor Cassandra Bell teaches honors
- Fall 2010 Plans
- WUHA! Election results

From the Honors Program Director

Dear Honors Students, Alumni, Faculty and Friends,

Welcome to the second year of publication of our Honors Program newsletter, The Sage Page. As with previous editions, the students have provided you with interesting articles on their activities for the semester including looking into the future of the Honors Program, study abroad activities, service learning opportunities and presentations to the Southern Regional Honors Council Conference. I am particularly proud of their accomplishments in service to others as note takers for students with disabilities and their dedication during the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life.

As always, I want to thank each student who contributed to this edition, particularly Rachel Heidenberg, WUHA! President, and Allison Howard, the newsletter editor. I want to also thank honors alumni for keeping us updated on your interests and careers and to please contact us about any updates you may have. We look forward to hearing from you.

Enjoy!

Kathy Lyon, Honors Program Director

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Honors in the Future Katherine Parrott

If Winthrop University were given unlimited funds, how could the Honors Program be improved? This question, while unrealistic when considering South Carolina’s current budgetary crisis, was nevertheless presented to the president of Winthrop University, Anthony DiGiorgio. His response? “It’s nice to dream.”

However, that did not stop DiGiorgio from dreaming up an Honors Program wish list. He said, “I would love to provide support for at least one international experience for all honors students, scholarship support to attract and retain more honors students, opportunities to attend events—lectures, performances, exhibits, etc.—across the region, support for travel to regional and national meetings, support for faculty who supervise honors theses, and the list goes on.”

Even though the most recent version of South Carolina’s budget calls for a 21 percent decrease in state money for four-year colleges next year, the Honors Program has found a new hope in the newest building on campus: the Anthony J. and Gale N. DiGiorgio Campus Center.

The new student center, which opens its doors to the public next year, will give WUHA! the space to increase its presence on campus, offer substantial support for the Honors Program students, and provide a locale for activities and events.

Permanent honors student space on campus? Check.

After one long awaited dream has been fulfilled, it only seems a matter of time—and money—until other points on the Honors wish list can become reality.
While it is fairly typical of honors kids to pull all-nighters to finish papers and study for exams, they pulled a different kind of all-nighter on April 16, 2010. WUHA! came together as a team to walk in Winthrop’s Relay for Life. From 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., Winthrop students camped out at the Irwin Belk Track. We walked all night to raise money for Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society. Over the course of the entire spring semester, WUHA! obtained sponsors and held fundraisers to raise money for the cause. One fundraiser included our annual Trivia Night, at which students and professors gathered for a battle of random knowledge over baked goods and mock-tails. Raising $152, the evening was a success, contributing to our overall total of $1166. The WUHA! teammates were motivated to work hard by their personal connections with friends and family who have been impacted by cancer. Through Relay for Life, WUHA! joined the American Cancer society in fighting back, raising awareness and rallying to find a cure.

WUHA! would also like to thank the following businesses for donating prizes for Trivia Night: ARAMARK (Dining Services), the Bookrack, The Bookworm, Burk’s BBQ, Groucho’s, Jersey Mikes, Michael’s Rock Hill Grille, PW’s Ice Cream, Striker’s Bowling Alley, the Varsity Restaurant and Woody’s Music.

Above: Trivia Night’s winning team, The Big Yellow Spaceships. Team members include: Leland Graham, Brandon Driggers, Heather South and Ben Buchanan.

“Why I Chose Honors...”

“I went into honors for the harder work experience. I wanted to be challenged every day, and I wanted to learn more than just the typical expected book work. So far, in my honors classes, I have done just that. I have been able to learn far more than what the book teaches you. I have gotten to know a lot of students who are just like me, juggling schoolwork, friends, sports, and family. I have been able to get to know Dr. Lyon very well, and she has been very willing to always help me with anything I need. She was the first professor I met on campus, and I don’t know what I would have done without her help. I have loved the Honors Program, from the perks of being able to register early, to the smaller classes, to getting to have that upperclassman buddy who helps you through your first year. All my hard work has been worth it.” - Samantha Smigel, Class of 2013

“What Honors Has Done For Me...”

“The Honors Program really enriched my experience at Winthrop by giving me the opportunity to delve deeper in my general education classes and complete research related to my field. Without the assistance of the Honors Program, I would never have been able to build such a fantastic undergraduate portfolio -- nor fully experience everything that Winthrop has to offer!“ - Kristyn Edwards, May 2010 Graduate

“What makes honors at Winthrop such a rich experience is how students in the program are given a more challenging learning environment without being isolated from students who are not involved with honors as they are at larger institutions. I am grateful for these rigorous academic hurdles and the subsequent achievements they provide, but also accomplishing it all in a broad social demographic where the honors student is a facet of diversity, and not an outcast.” - Dylan Phillips, May 2010 Graduate
Congratulations May 2010 Graduates!

The following students graduated with an Honors Program Degree at the May 2010 commencement. Also listed are areas of study and thesis title.

Aileen Alon*
Art History
Marriage Jewelry and Female Identity in Hindu Indian and Italian Renaissance Cultures

Sarah Burnette*
Early Childhood Education
Understanding the Influence of Educational Experiences on Future Life

Tim Carpenter
Business Administration: Corporate Finance and Personal Financial Planning
The Effectiveness of Golden Handcuffs

Kristyn Edwards*
Integrated Marketing Communication and Spanish
Effects of Acculturation on Hispanic Media Preference for Receiving Supermarket Promotions

Leanna Greenwood*
Sociology and Political Science
Thou Shall Not Kill: Vegetarianism in the Christian Faith

Kathryn Gregory*
Sociology: Criminology
A Closer Look at the Factors that Affect Misdemeanor Offenders

Hannah Grove*
Art History
The Influence of the Patronage of Cosimo de’ Medici on Fifteenth Century Florentine Art

Rachel Heidenberg
Political Science
Roe v. Wade and Abortion in Today’s Society: An Exploration of Precedent, Current Laws, and Interpretation

Jeremy Klutch
Political Science
Effects of Ballot Initiatives on State Policy

Laura Nelson
Business Administration: Corporate Finance and Economics
The Federal Reserve: Solution for Economic Crises?

Katherine Parrott*
English
Hamlet’s Ophelia: The Changing Perceptions of Female Suicide, Death, and Madness in the Elizabethan and Victorian Period

Dylan Phillips
English
Gathering Wood: A Collection of Original Poetry

Amanda Tootill*
Psychology
The Evolution of Happiness

Aimée West*
Psychology
Students’ Reactions to Professors’ Facebook Use Depend on Profile Information

Lilah Campbell Westmoreland
Psychology
Compensatory Health Beliefs Predict Maladaptive Coping, Impulsivity, and Erroneous Health Perceptions

*Honors Program Degree with International Experience

The Sage Page would also like to recognize Lilah Campbell Westmoreland, recipient of the Tillman Award. The Tillman Award is the highest academic award Winthrop University presents to a student. It is awarded to the student with the highest grade point average in the graduating class. The award was established in October 1940 by the Tillman Memorial Commission, in honor of Benjamin Ryan Tillman, governor of South Carolina.

Why I Teach Honors...

One of my most rewarding teaching experiences at Winthrop University is teaching the BIOL 150H and 151H sequence. Since these are courses for non-biology majors, non-honors biology 150 and 151 courses are mostly devoted to covering the basic introductory material. Being able to ask these Honors students to examine additional case studies and research issues in depth related to the subject matter allows me to share with them the exciting aspects of the discipline that are so appealing to me. This also allows me to learn with and from them! Most importantly, since this group is relatively small in size, I enjoy getting to know them well and learning about their fascinating accomplishments and goals for the future. They also bring unique abilities and characteristics to the courses.

Although most will never have a career in the biological sciences, due to their majors and other areas of interest, I feel confident they appreciate what they have learned in the courses and see it as a significant contribution to their becoming scientifically literate citizens. Teaching Winthrop’s Honors students is extremely gratifying, and I appreciate the opportunity to do so!

- Professor Cassandra Bell, Instructor of Biology
Above: Nicholas Scarborough advertises WUHA!’s hotdog sales during Relay for Life on April 16-17, 2010 while Elise Comber and Meagan Hogarth walk around the track.

Above: Tim Carpenter and Kevin Ryan explore Greenville and pose with its statues during the Southern Regional Honors Council Conference on March 26, 2010.

Above Left: Griffin Glaze braves the zip line on the high ropes course on February 27, 2010.

Above Right: Kevin Ryan, Daniel Selvey, Nicholas Scarborough, Griffin Glaze, Meagan Hogarth, Rachel Heidenberg, Aileen Alon, Katharine Lindberg, and Paige Lux at the high ropes course.

Below Left: Dr. Lyon and Tim Carpenter at the Nerds Ball on April 26, 2010.

Below Right: Emily Pratt, Amy Rivers, Aileen Alon, Katie Parrott, Caitlin Manning, and Nicholas Scarborough show off their 80s workout video skills during the Luminara Ceremony at Relay for Life.
Fall 2010 Plans

- Annual Honors Program Pizza Party
- Annual Welcome Week Dessert Party
- Bigs and Littles Reveal (WUHA!’s mentorship program)
- Annual Book Drive
- Honors Program Degree Requirements Meeting
- Honors Program Degree with International Experience (Study Abroad) Meeting
- Clubs and Orgs Fair
- Notetaking Service Project with Services for Students with Disabilities
- Food Drive to benefit the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen

Welcome, Class of 2014!


And a special hello to our transfers: Elizabeth Palmisano, Jennifer Resech, and Kayla Sharper!

Announcing the 2010-2011 WUHA! Officers

President: Meagan Hogarth
Vice President: Elise Comber
Secretary: Emily Pratt
Treasurer: Mireille Smith
Service Learning Coordinator: Melody Chapman
Service Learning Coordinator: Jamaal Cox
The Sage Page Editor: Allison Howard
Webmaster: Brandon Clopton

Above: Jamaal, Allison, Melody, Elise, Emily, Meagan, and Miri at the Nerds Ball.

Reflection of Spring 2010 Events

The spring 2010 semester was a busy one for WUHA! This semester was the first semester that WUHA! instituted Spirit Days on the first Tuesday of every month to encourage members to show their Honors pride by wearing their favorite WUHA! t-shirt. Informational meetings for students, such as the Honors Society Information Meeting, Internship Information Meeting and Honors Thesis Meeting, were held to give students a little more guidance in attaining their Honors degree. Not all meetings were strictly business, as nerds like to have fun too. A board game night, a movie night and an excursion to the Winthrop high ropes course were all chances for students to take a break from their studious lives and have a good time. Our service project for the semester, Relay for Life, was a great success as well. WUHA! raised money for this by hosting a very successful Trivia Night, selling World’s Finest Chocolate, and by providing one of the favorite snacks at the Relay: hot dogs.

To wrap up the semester, WUHA! threw its inaugural Nerds Ball, in conjunction with the Overachiever Awards, Senior Superlatives and Officer Elections, held on the last day of classes. The inspiration for the Nerds Ball was to have a throwback to a high school prom, nerds style. Everyone in attendance was to dress up in their best outfit of their “nerdiest” choosing. Needless to say, glasses, plaid mixed with argyle, suspenders and pocket protectors abounded. The Nerds Ball also featured a dessert potluck, as well as a dance party for the students to cut loose before the rigor of exams began.
Honorable Mentions

Aileen Alon, senior art history major, completed a 165-hour internship as a Registration Intern with the Mint Museum in Charlotte, N.C., during the spring 2010 semester. Aileen will be assisting with the set up of the “Recycled River Re-Creations” exhibition at the Museum of York County: Culture and Heritage Museums in May.

Dylan Phillips, senior English major, and Amy Rivers, junior psychology major, recently announced their engagement.

Geoffroy Bernard, sophomore English literature and language major, presented his paper on James Joyce at the American Conference for Irish Studies held at Winthrop in March.

Kevin Ryan and Sara Merlie, junior biology majors, presented their poster, “Neoblasts in Catenulida” at the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology conference in Boston, Mass. in January 2009.

Aimée West, May 2010 graduate, received the American Legion award given by Student Life to the graduating student who displays exceptional courage, companionship, character, service and scholarship. Aimée will be attending Kent State University to study Child Clinical Psychology.

Rachel Heidenberg, May 2010 graduate, received the Mary Mildred Sullivan award given by Student Life to a graduating female student who has given great service to Winthrop. Rachel will be attending Florida Coastal School of Law in the fall.

Matt Horn, sophomore biology major, organized a service project called Samaritan’s Feet with the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, which was recognized by Student Life for having the best service project.

Sara Merlie, junior biology major, had her poster, Stem Cells in Aeolosoma headleyi (Annelida), accepted by the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Kevin Ryan, junior biology major, had his poster, Water Quality of a Tropical Watershed: Guacimal River, Costa Rica, accepted by the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Southern Regional Honors Council


The theme of this year’s conference was “Enduring... Prevailing: Honors as a Prism of the Human Spirit.” The conference also included a student ice cream social, a guest speaker who discussed his experiences as an anesthesiologist who traveled to Haiti after the earthquake, as well as a silent auction that benefited Haiti.

During the conference, students were able to discuss their research and exchange ideas with fellow honors students and honors faculty both at Winthrop and in the Southern region, while exploring downtown Greenville and listening to the Main Street Jazz and Downtown Alive performances outside of the hotel.

Next year, the conference will be held in Little Rock, Ark. from March 31 to April 2, 2011.

— Kristen Gainey

Honors Symposia

Honors students at Winthrop must take a one credit hour honors symposium. I had already fulfilled my symposium requirement, but I decided to enroll in HONR 204H: Cults and New Religious Movements, out of curiosity. Growing up in the 1990s, I had heard about some religious movements and had my own ideas about cults, so I was interested to learn about them from a more scholarly point of view. Before this class, I thought all cults were dangerous and violent. My mind always came back to the example of Jim Jones and the mass suicide of his followers. I quickly learned in Dr. Porter's class that many cults and new religious movements have no history of violence and often promote peaceful practices like prayer and meditation. In the discussion-oriented class, we talked about what makes a new religious movement a cult, what motivates a person to join a cult, and the impact of cults on society. Because the course was an honors symposium, each student got to teach the class about a particular new religious movement. Also, we got to discuss in depth the interpretations of different scholarly works on cults and new religious movements. The course has definitely changed some of the stereotypes I had about cults. I recommend the class to anyone who wants to better understand religious movements in America.

— Robert Ralston
Study Abroad: Ireland  
Allison Howard

Studying abroad has taught me two essential things: who I am, and who I am not. It has made me come to terms with many aspects of myself that I thought I knew. It has made me realize that I am in a position to make my dreams of traveling across Europe finally come true. It has made me recognize that I cannot be afraid of anything, because fear wastes time that could be spent doing something new. I will never have this chance again, and the only logical conclusion that I can make is that I need to seize everything about it with both hands.

After class, I love going exploring in the Market Arcade for Lolly & Cook’s amazing cupcakes or I will stroll through Temple Bar to examine the vintage clothes at Lucy’s Lounge. On Sundays, the beach town of Howth (a 25 minute train ride from Dublin) hosts a dazzling farmer’s market with everything from homemade hunks of Turkish delight to freshly made raisin scones to funky handmade jewelry. There is never a shortage of things to do, whether in Dublin, in Ireland, or in Europe as a whole.

Dublin itself is a newly developing mecca of politics and culture. Every day on my walk to class I pass Four Courts, Ireland’s main government building. Phoenix Park, approximately 15 minutes away from my apartment, is where President Mary McAleese’s house is situated. Although Ireland has been a member of the European Union since 1973, Ireland is distinctly different from any place I have been in continental Europe. Ireland has a more humble feeling, and her citizens would say they are Irish far sooner than they would say they are European. Dublin lacks the fast pace of New York City, even though it is also a business capital. Once work colleagues leave the office at 5 p.m., most of them go to a pub together before going home.

My classes are simultaneously intellectually stimulating and relaxed. When assignment sheets are handed out, I am still surprised at the lack of detail in the description. What this allows me, however, is pure intellectual freedom. Winthrop’s Honors Program has helped me hone my skills as a critical thinker for the past three semesters, and I am thrown into a situation where I must use them all. Though terrifying and exhausting at times, an international academic experience is absolutely invaluable. I recommend study abroad for all honors students. If given the chance, I would do it again.

Study Abroad: South Africa  
Amy Schober

South Africa is a land of stunning mountain ranges and beaches of beautiful blue water en route to Antarctica. Studying here in Cape Town has been an amazing experience. While I have enjoyed the warm weather and gorgeous landscape I have also been able to reach out to the community that I am trying to be a part of for these five months. I mentor high school girls from townships and tutor at a refugee camp. I am currently receiving training from the South African Human Rights Commission, and in April I will be sent as a monitor to a large camp of Zimbabwean refugees.

South Africa has been very intriguing to me as a political science major. I have been able to experience for the first time in my life what it is like to be a minority. There is no doubt that the legacy of apartheid lingers in many aspects of life, but I have enjoyed seeing great successes in the reconciliation process. Though race relations seem to be improving, the relationship between the government and the people is increasingly shaky. The country is still far from transforming the liberal ideals of its constitution into reality. One of my fellow students here at the University of Cape Town was arrested and imprisoned a few weeks ago for displaying an obscene gesture to the presidential motorcade, illustrating that civil liberties are not yet securely intact.

The University of Cape Town is widely regarded as the best university of the continent and attracts its best minds. My classes are very stimulating, and I have enjoyed forming relationships with students from a wide variety of countries and cultures.

For now, I am planning out my ‘fall’ (the seasons are switched in the Southern Hemisphere) break safari through Swaziland and the famous Kruger National Park. I have loved every moment of studying abroad so far and am looking forward to the adventures that are still awaiting me. I highly recommend Cape Town as a study abroad destination because it offers more than just a vacation. If you truly wish to be mentally stimulated and immersed in a culture radically different from your own, this is the place to be.
When I first arrived at Winthrop, I wasn’t exactly enthusiastic about joining the Honors Program. I had always been an honors student in the past, but hadn’t decided if it was something I wished to continue. Regardless, I decided to give it a shot. I began attending honors meetings, many of which were actually for the Winthrop University Honors Association, the active, community-oriented honors student campus organization. After a few months of attending meetings and taking classes with fellow honors students, I quickly began to realize that I had met some of the best friends and most dedicated and helpful professors someone could ask for. With all the people I’d met and all I had learned through the Honors Program, I felt it was necessary to make sure that incoming students had every opportunity to learn about the Honors Program. With the help of all the members, officers and the Honors Director, Dr. Kathy Lyon, we have been able to significantly improve WUHA! and the Honors Program in member size, campus activity, and civic responsibility over my four-year tenure. Dr. Lyon and the WUHA! officers work hard so we can enjoy fun and exciting activities, private study sessions, small classes, and as many other perks and academic accommodations as possible while we help our campus and community through civic engagement projects. I am confident that the program will continue to grow and improve once I depart. I know I’m not the first, and won’t be to last, to say that these people have changed my life.

“Ex amicitia gaudium; Ex gaudio vita – From friendship, joy; From joy, life.”

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We enjoy hearing from our graduates and friends!

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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WUHA! and the Honors Program

Tim Carpenter