

Fall 2007

Dear Honors Graduate:

It's already been a year since I took over as Honors Director and I must say how pleased and privileged I feel to be part of such a prestigious program.

I have spent the last year connecting with the Illinois State University community. Deans, Chairs, and Faculty have been very accommodating to us in terms of teaching special courses as well as mentoring student research and special projects and we're grateful for the generosity with which we are welcomed.

You are part of our Honors family as well and we would like to deepen our relationship with you. Homecoming is an obvious occasion when we can do this. I hope you can find some time to come back and visit the campus on this, the sesquicentennial year of Illinois State University's existence. Longevity coupled with excellence is a matter of great pride and we'd love to share the occasion with you.

We are very proud of your performance when you were here and even more proud of your successes after you graduated. Please continue to let us know what you're doing.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as are able join us for Homecoming. Even if you can't come to campus this year, we'd love to hear from you. We have an Alumni section on our web site where you can read about your friends and colleagues. When you RSVP to the Homecoming Open House you can provide us with some biographic information that we can post on our Alumni page: <http://www.honors.ilstu.edu/alumni>. It's important for current students to see where the Honors path may lead.

There are other ways you can help us make the program more beneficial to current and future students. Please take some time to read about the alumni who spoke on our panel in February and let us know if you'd be interested in sharing your experiences with current students. We'd like to keep you as involved with us as you would like. We consider you our best resources and with your help the Honors Program will continue to flourish.

I look forward to hearing from you and would love to meet you in person. So come back to Normal, participate in the many activities and events planned by the university, and drop in at the Honors Program Homecoming Open House on October 13th at 9 am. The Honors Program office is a great place to view the parade and we will have refreshments to help your Homecoming start off right.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Pereira', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Kim Pereira, PhD
Director, Honors Program
Professor of Theatre

Spread the Red: 150 Years of Spirit

Homecoming 2007, October 8-14



Illinois State University Honors Program Alumni Newsletter Fall 2007

You're Invited to the Honors Program Homecoming 2007 Open House

Another year has passed and we invite you to join us for our annual Homecoming Open House on Saturday, October 13. Help the Honors Program celebrate "150 Years of Spirit" by enjoying refreshments and the Homecoming Parade from the office. Stop by at 9 am and be ready for the parade at 9:30.

Please bring your family and friends. In order to help us plan, please RSVP by October 5, using the form on our website:

<http://www.honors.ilstu.edu/alumni/>

If you would prefer to call to let us know you'll be attending, we'd be happy to hear from you: (309) 438-2559.

Check out some of the other activities Alumni Relations has planned:
<http://www.alumni.ilstu.edu/homecoming/>



Recent Alumni Share Their Experiences After Honors

Kelly Bailey, '07, recently wrote to us after finishing her second week at Valparaiso University School of Law. She is already learning how different law school is from her undergraduate days. She writes, "Not a day goes by that I don't have tons of reading and case briefing to do. It helps that I find the material very interesting and I enjoy the in-depth class discussions."



Kelly participated in a two-week Academic Success Program prior to the start of her first semester, which was designed to give students a jump start on what law school would be like. Two different professors gave advice and assignments to do each night to be discussed in class the next day. Kelly said, "It was a really good way to ease us into the law school experience."

People have told Kelly that law school should be treated as a job and she is beginning to see what they mean. As much work as it is, though, she still has time for fun. Her advice to those considering law school is to get a head start by taking the LSAT early, applying to schools early to avoid the waiting list, looking for internships in the legal field, and reading books about law school for advice on how to survive.

Kelly was an Economics major at Illinois State University and was involved in the Honors Program as an Ambassador and a member of the planning committee for the first Book Bag to Briefcase Alumni Career Panel in 2006.

Kurt Weisenburger, '06, is in his first year as a Social Studies teacher at Barrington High School in Barrington, IL, where he teaches Global Studies to freshmen and United States History to juniors. This fall he is also the drumline instructor for the Marching Band and the Boys Junior Varsity Cross Country coach. While Kurt states it is extremely challenging to be a first year teacher writing lesson plans, grading papers, and coaching, he absolutely loves it!



Kurt says, "Interacting and motivating the kids is the best part of my job." His advice for future teachers (especially in their first year) is: "Take it one day at a time. Remember-- you're only a first year teacher once! That's what I'm trying to live by right now with the work load how it is."

Kurt was very active in the Honors Program all four years he attended Illinois State University, including serving in HSO as President and Secretary, and holding the student leadership position of Honors Peer Mentor for two years. Kurt was also a member of the Big Red Marching Machine all four years.

kweisenburger@cusd220.org
Social Studies
Barrington High School

Book Bag to Briefcase: Honors Alumni Panel 2007

In February 2007, the Honors Program welcomed seven alumni back to campus to share their experience and career advice with current Honors students. Many thanks to the alumni who were so giving of their time:



Courtney Custis '05

B.M.E. with Choral/General/Vocal concentration
Bone Scholar, Certificate in University Honors

Denise Michelle Fries '88, MS '05

B.S.Ed. in Early Childhood Education with a Spanish minor, Masters in Curriculum & Instruction

Departmental Honors, University Honors, Outstanding Department Graduate

Stacy Kelley, '03

B.S. in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology, Chemistry, and Economics (Pre-Med Concentration) ACS Jr.

Freshman Honors Scholar, Dean's List, Departmental Honors in Economics

Jenny (Foster) Klouse '98

B.S. in Sociology with minors in English and Women's Studies

Joe McDonald '94

B.A. in Mathematics
Bone Scholar, Red Tassel/Mortar Board, HSO & PS Club President

Lance E. Rogers '91

B.S. in Applied Computer Science and French
Bone Scholar, Presidential Scholar, University Honors, Outstanding



Kathleen Yong '06

B.S.N. – Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Summa Cum Laude, University Honors, Departmental Honors, Presidential Scholar



Honors Students Serve

From Fall 2006 through Summer 2007, Honors students completed 5606 hours of service at a variety of sites in the Illinois State and Bloomington/Normal communities, including: Western Avenue Community Center, Humane Society, Heritage Manor, University High School, and Central Illinois Organizing Project.

This service was completed by students in the Presidential Scholars and Honors Service Learning Colloquia, the Presidential Scholars Freshman Colloquium, and the Presidential Scholars Themed Colloquium on Poverty.

The Honors Program continues to encourage students to share their talents and serve others.

Honors Invests in SALT

Some alumni may remember the Honors Assistants, who helped develop a sense of community in Honors House, and Honors Ambassadors, who helped promote the Honors Program to prospective students. This year we have taken the best of both positions to develop a new volunteer leadership opportunity for Honors students, the Student Assistants Leadership Team (SALT).

The purpose of SALT is to give current Honors Students the opportunity to develop leadership skills while promoting the Honors Program and building a sense of community among Honors students through creating and implementing innovative programs, as well as preserving Honors Program traditions.

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Honors Program Staff

Dr. Kim Pereira, Director
Sara Schickel, Associate Director
Becky Mentzer, Assistant Director
Christie Proctor, Coordinator of Student Programs
Anita Chiodo, Service Learning Coordinator
Lacey Bordewick, Graduate Assistant
Stephanie Dagen, Graduate Assistant
Julie Brooks, Administrative Secretary
Diana Woodring, Receptionist

Please RSVP to our Homecoming Open House
by Friday, October 5

<http://www.honors.ilstu.edu/alumni/>

Join us on Saturday, October 13 at 9 am

Parade starts at 9:30 am

Football vs. Indiana State at 1:30 pm

Go Redbirds!!!!

Honors Alumni Updates: <http://www.honors.ilstu.edu/alumni/>

We are always happy to hear from our alumni and enjoy sharing with current students the variety of paths available for Honors graduates of Illinois State University.

When you RSVP to the Homecoming Open House, you can update us on what you're doing and offer advice for current Honors Students. We feature this information on our web site, but will not share contact information without your permission.

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