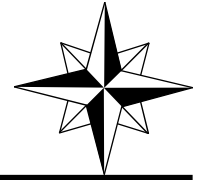


Honors Program Newsletter

Illinois State University



HONORS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

FALL 2005

Viva Variety—And Beyond

Last night (November 6) I joined a packed crowd of nearly 140 or so to watch the annual Honors program talent show, newly christened this year as Viva Variety. There were over a dozen truly fine acts, from classical guitar to stand-up comedy. Everyone had a great time, and Clare Durepos, Kate Markowski, and Melissa Smith especially merit thanks for their planning and dedication.

The evening metaphorically represented what I've come to appreciate most about the honors program. Yes, I enjoy seeing individual students achieve excellence in their major studies, doing research, completing service, earning well-deserved recognition. But I also enjoy those times when students venture beyond their academic burrows and share their experiences with others. Just as juggling, singing, and playing the marimba each require talent, albeit of different kinds, so do accounting, nursing, or French. As I've mentioned before in this column, I admire the ways that honors students genuinely seem to respect others' different academic talents.

But let me press the analogy further. What brought everyone together in the BBC Activity Room wasn't a graduation requirement or a line on a resume. It was entertainment and a chance to socialize. Life means more than having a career, and while I surely don't trivialize college as preparation for work, there are other experiences to be had here, including stretching ourselves for those precious parts of living beyond the office or clinic or classroom or lab.

Those social and vocational realms complexly intertwine, with success in one feeding back to success in the other. My own life is richer for time spent with attorneys and school teachers, musicians and social workers, carpenters and store managers: people I meet at concerts and plays, at school functions, in political causes. I think my professional life—my teaching and research—is richer, too.

I too frequently hear students refer to some imagined "real life" after college. I'll grant that many students won't really have to rely on their own resources until after graduation, though even in these terms, college is pretty real for all sorts of students paying their own way, some with kids and families of their own. My challenge is to insist that, in fact, college is as real as we make it, and certainly as real as any other mode of being. We can choose to live narrowly and sheltered on campus as well as beyond it. Or we can take chances, extend ourselves, perform on the myriad metaphorical stages of campus life, join others in the audience, make our lives bigger than they might be otherwise, in however small a step. Viva Variety!

Doug Hesse
Director



We've Got Spirit, How 'Bout You?

The Honors Program is proud of the success of its students during Homecoming week. The Honors Student Organization won second place in the annual Homecoming Spirit Competition. As part of the week-long event, HSO won first place in the window decorating contest for their window at Everywear in downtown Normal.



Senior Honors students Scott Ammann and Derek Meiss were on the Homecoming court and senior Bill Gugerty was named Homecoming King. Read more about Derek on page 6.



Derek Meiss



Scott Ammann



Bill Gugerty

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Honors Students Present Research at National Conference



Becky and Christie at 630 feet.

Members of the Honors staff recently attended the annual conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council in St. Louis. Two students and a faculty member had the opportunity to attend and present at the conference. Music majors Courtney Custis and Roy Magnuson, both Bone Scholars, presented research with Dr. Tim Fred-

strom from the School of Music.

Courtney Custis is a senior music education major who will be graduating in December. In January, Courtney will be teaching music at Washington Elementary in Washington, IL. During the spring semester and over the summer, Courtney completed an honors thesis in music with Dr. Tim Fredstrom. Their research focused on the experience of students with in-course honors projects, focusing on music students and the discrepancy between the intended outcome of in-course honors projects and students' actual experiences.

A theory emerged from their interviews with students that in-course honors experiences are meaningful when engaged students and engaged faculty members partner to complete a compelling project. From this theory, Courtney and Dr. Fredstrom developed a process and suggestions for

creating meaningful in-course honors experiences for both students and faculty. Dr. Fredstrom also presented this research in a poster session at the Society for Music Teacher Education national symposium.

Roy Magnuson is a senior music composition major who will also be graduating in December. Roy and Dr. Fredstrom presented during one of the conference's poster sessions. Their work "From Concept to Concert: A Study of the Artistic Collaboration of a Student Composer, Faculty Conductor, and Collegiate Choir," discussed the process of Roy's composition, *Smoke*, and its premiere performance by the University Choir.

Roy has composed a variety of music for Illinois State music groups, including *In the Twilight of a Sunless World* and *The Glass House Filled With Fog* for the Wind Symphony. Roy is currently working on a new piece, *Of Consequence*, that will be performed in the spring by the University Choir.



Dr. Fredstrom, Courtney, and Roy.



Undergraduate Research Symposium

Friday, April 21, 2006

Registration deadline: March 17

The Symposium is a chance for undergraduate students to present what they have learned through their research, scholarship or creative achievement to a large audience in a professional setting. All students enrolled at the University and engaged in research, scholarship or creative achievement under the direction of a faculty mentor are eligible to register. The Symposium includes poster, multimedia displays, table displays and oral presentation sessions by students from all academic disciplines.

Volunteers are also needed to provide feedback to presenters. Serving as a volunteer can count for an experience for the Sophomore Honors Scholar designation.

<http://www.grad.ilstu.edu/symposium/>



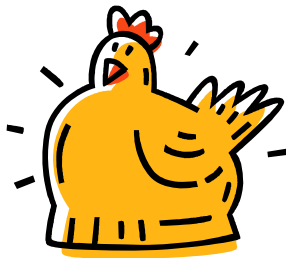
Research Mentorships Summer 2005

By: Amanda Hanson

Over the summer, eight students were awarded Research Mentorships. These mentorships allowed students to complete full-time independent research with ISU faculty members with funding from the Honors Program. Students completed 8-10 weeks of full-time research under the supervision of their mentors. Students will make brief presentations about their work to Honors students this fall and will present their projects at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in the spring of 2006.

Erik Achramowicz

Senior biology major Erik Achramowicz completed his summer research mentorship with Dr. David Rubin. The project, entitled "Sequence analysis and genomic organization of a chicken PTH1R cDNA," sought to compare side-by-side the chicken parathyroid hormone (PTH) type-1 receptor (PTH1R) with the (PTH) type-3 receptor (PTH3R). Since chickens have been shown to have a high bone turnover because of egg laying, they are a valuable model species for the study of bone physiology. As a practical application of the project, this research could provide information for the future treatment and prevention of chronic diseases such as osteoporosis.



When applying for the research mentorship, Achramowicz predicted how this mentorship will benefit him in the future. "This research mentorship will help me achieve my future goal of attending medical school after I graduate from Illinois State University," he wrote. "With the extensive research that this mentorship will allow me to participate in, I will be able to complete my Undergraduate Honors Thesis, enhance my chances of being accepted to medical school, and allow me to enhance my knowledge of the sciences and to have additional hands-on experience in a molecular endocrinology laboratory."

Alejandro Aguado

Alejandro Aguado, a junior mathematics major, worked with Dr. Saad El-Zanati in his full-time research summer mentorship "Graph Factorizations and the Scheduling of Tournaments." The purpose of the project was to give complete solutions to a wide range of math "scheduling type problems." An everyday example of this type of problem would be scheduling the bus lines of a public transportation system of a city in such a way that a line commutes with as many others as possible.

In previous research, Aguado and Dr. El-Zanati had already solved a specific instance of the scheduling problem "The

Social Golfer Problem." However, they wanted to progress further in this area of graph factorization research. Aguado had been working on the project for almost a year, and this summer mentorship was a continuation of that work.

Matthew Husky

Senior history education major Matthew Husky worked under the mentorship of Dr. Alan Lessoff in his project "What Then on Earth was I: Victorian Female Identity and Separate Spheres in The Turn of the Screw." Husky's research delved into the perceptions of women and their place in nineteenth century English society, as portrayed in the Henry James novel *The Turn of the Screw*. The ideology that men and women of the English middle class divided into public and private "separate spheres" was one major focus of the research manuscript. Husky's work was a continuation from his previous independent honors study on this topic in the history department. This research of the historical origins of gender roles in society is significant, because gender equality and feminist topics are still of great interest and importance in today's society.

Husky conducted his research by investigating secondary works of historical analysis, as well as primary works, such as author James' letters and novels. After extensive research, Husky wrote sections of a final manuscript to be completed as a History Honors Thesis. Husky met with Dr. Lessoff to discuss his research findings along the way and for assistance with manuscript revisions and integration.

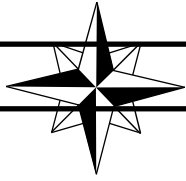
Husky wrote about the benefits of a research mentorship, "This mentorship will be very important for my career goals. In the short term I will obtain certification in secondary education, and in an era that demands highly qualified teachers, I feel I will be an excellent teacher after the experience of completing a major research project in history."

Dr. Lessoff considers the summer research mentorship opportunity particularly beneficial because "very rarely do students have an opportunity to devote such a length of time to one project.

Having the mentorship allows us to plan a full summer of research and to count on making the thesis as thorough as possible, with potential for expansion and revision into articles."



Dr. Lessoff and Matthew Husky



Get Involved and Make a Difference



ISU/IWU Dance Marathon Saturday, December 3, Brown Ballroom, Bone Student Center

The University Program Board is proud to present the ISU/IWU Dance Marathon, a continuous, 12 hour event similar to Dance Marathons held on numerous college campuses across the nation. It blends dancing, music, games, food and a variety of entertainment into one experience where students raise money for the Children's Miracle Network hospital.

Participants will have the opportunity to interact with children who have been treated at CMN hospitals. Registration for the ISU/IWU Dance marathon is due to the University Program Board office (1st floor of the Bone Student Center) by November 9th. For more information visit www.isuiwudancemarathon.com.



Student Volunteer Center Holiday Helper Program

The Holiday Helper Program gives children within the Bloomington-Normal community a memorable holiday season. This holiday program begins with a donation drive, where members of the Illinois State family come together to provide gifts for approximately 150 local youth. Holiday parties are organized to distribute the gifts and to celebrate the spirit of the season with the children. The Student Volunteer Center collaborates with the Boys & Girls Club, Western Avenue Community Center, and Catholic Charities to implement this program.

Volunteers are needed for wrapping presents and for our holiday parties. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Volunteer Center, 438-2151, Student Services Building, Room 387.



Honors Service Learning Colloquium

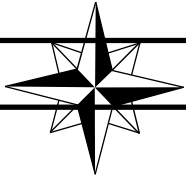
Are you looking for a *unique* course that provides you practical hands-on experience while you make a real difference in the community? If this appeals to you, then you should consider participating in a new and exciting course—Honors Service Learning Colloquium (IDS 202.72). This course will be offered in the fall, spring, and summer, based on availability.

Service learning is community based experience that facilitates a student's personal and professional growth through active involvement with a non-profit agency in the Bloomington-Normal area. What will you gain from this experience?

- **Earn honors credit**
- **Gain experience**
- **Have fun and learn at the same time**
- **Serve your community**
- **Expand and improve business and life skills**

This course was originally limited to students in the Presidential Scholars Program, but the experiences that students have through this course are so wonderful that we want to offer the opportunity to all Honors students. Examples of sites include: Normal Public Library, Humane Society, Habitat for Humanity, Ecology Action Center, Community Cancer Center, Western Avenue Community Center, Challenger Learning Center, and Children's Discovery Museum.

If you are interested in this exciting course for next year, contact the Honors Office, 438-2559, to schedule an appointment with Anita Chiodo, Service Learning Coordinator and instructor of the course.



Think Big: National Scholarship Competitions

By: Becky Mentzer

National Scholarship Competitions

The Honors Program coordinates the campus selection process for national scholarships. There are three national scholarship competitions for which we are currently seeking candidates qualified to apply. These scholarships have a rather lengthy application and because the campus can only nominate four people for each of them, we do have a campus screening process. If you are interested in more information, please contact Becky Mentzer (rementz@ilstu.edu) as soon as possible and before the Thanksgiving break. The scholarships include:

Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship: for sophomores or juniors in math, science and engineering, who plan to pursue doctoral programs and careers primarily in research or engineering. The strongest candidates have research experience and other responsibilities in organizations or activities showing their commitment to their field. In recent years, we have had several Goldwater Scholars, and in the 05-06 competition, we had two current seniors named Goldwater Honorable Mention Scholars, Matthew Narter and Jehu Strange.

Morris K. Udall Scholarship: for juniors who have a strong interest in environmental issues and intend to pursue a career related to the environment. The strongest candidates have already demonstrated this interest through academic study, research, jobs or internships, or volunteer efforts on the campus or in the community. Eighty scholars are chosen from around the country, and in 2005, we had two Udall Scholars, Julia Ferguson and Caroline Wade. As part of the scholarship, Julia and Caroline attended the Udall Scholars Weekend Conference in Tucson, Arizona, in August. They had the opportunity to spend time with other Udall Scholars from across the country to discuss their interest in environmental issues.

Harry S. Truman Scholarship: for juniors who plan to go to graduate or professional school with career aspirations to become a "change agent" in improving the ways government agencies, non-profit organizations, or educational institutions serve the public. Excellent candidates will have experience as a student in leadership, policy formation or change in at least two areas (community, volunteer, government, campus) and have a sufficiently strong academic curriculum and grade point average to get into a first-rate graduate institution. The scholarship will be for graduate school and there is a stipulation to work in public service for 3 of the 7 years following graduation.

The Fulbright Scholarship application period for 2006-2007 grants is now over. Illinois State University submitted four applications from students vying for an opportunity to study, research or teach abroad.

Applications were submitted from honors and non-honors students to Hong Kong for journalism; Japan for linguistics; South Korea for English Teaching Assistantship; and Germany for English Teaching Assistantship.



Senior Lauren Fraser, an honors student with a German Teacher Education major, hopes to extend some previous experiences studying in Germany to a full year teaching and volunteering there.

If you are interested in learning more about the Fulbright Scholarship, which is a post-undergraduate grant, please contact Becky at rementz@ilstu.edu.



Honors Odds and Ends

Honors Student Spotlight: Derek Meiss

By: Mikkie Small

Have you ever wanted to make great pay doing something you love? Derek Meiss, a senior accounting major, had this opportunity this past summer. Derek applied for the KANA internship through the College of Business and was chosen to live outside of San Francisco for the summer and work as an intern at KANA Corporation.

The duration of the internship was nine weeks, but the company asked him to stay an extra week and continue to work. His responsibilities included budgeting, royalty reporting, tax preparation and internal auditing of consultant groups affiliated with the company. When Derek got back from his internship, he presented his experience at the Kemper Foundation Convention.

Derek really enjoyed his internship at KANA because he learned a lot about his future career aspirations, the geographical region he wants to pursue his career in and how a business deals with turmoil throughout all aspects of the company. KANA Corporation was having some structural problems as well as problems with business in general. However, he enjoyed utilizing his skills to help the company and having a front row seat to observe how they handle these kinds of problems. After this experience, he has decided that he wants to pursue a career in public accounting and reside in California.

Derek's advice to everyone pursuing a career is to have passion and pride for your career path and take ownership for every aspect of their life, whether it is job-related or school-related. He had the opportunity to work with people from both ends of the spectrum and he feels that these are great qualities that will enhance anyone's love of their career. When Derek was asked if he would do it over, he said "I knew the company was having some problems, but I would definitely go back."

Honors Staff

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Coordinator of Student Programs

Christie Proctor

Public Service Coordinator

Anita Chiodo

Graduate Assistant

Melissa Smith

Honors Intern

Mikkie Small

Secretaries

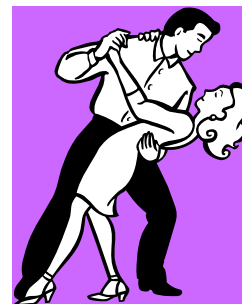
Julie Brooks Diana Woodring

Save the Date

Friday, March 31, 2006

Honors Spring Formal

Miller Park Pavilion



Contact us at Campus Box 6100, Normal, IL 61790-6100

Phone: (309) 438-2559 Fax: (309) 438-8196 www.IllinoisState.edu/honors