

# THE Honor Roll

"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows." Sydney J. Harris

Volume 1, Issue 2

Student Honors Program Newsletter

Mid-term Edition 2008



FROM THE  
DIRECTOR

**Dr. Kim Pereira**  
Director of Honors Program  
Professor of Theatre

Greetings. The halfway point of a semester is always a good time to take stock of how things are going. In the middle of all the busy times (some would say crazy times) a mental and emotional pause never hurts. Are courses and papers and projects on track? Are we making enough time for the fun things we like to do? Are we taking advantage of all the university has to offer?

As I've said to many of you in person, being an Honors student should mean much more than just excelling in your courses; it should mean that you are constantly in pursuit of your best selves. It means exercising not only your intellectual abilities but also the gifts and talents that may have been buried in this mad rush to get a degree. Look around you and embrace all the wonderful opportunities this university has to offer - a fabulous array of speakers who will force you to think differently about your world; artistic events that will fire your imagination; conversations with people unlike you; debates with provocative professors, and books that become companions.

Seek opportunities to volunteer your time - give up a few hours of Facebook each week to engage more fully in the civic life around you. This is where and how you get an education; only then will the "degree" really mean something; only then can you march into the professional world fully prepared and ready to make a substantial contribution.

So - pause for a moment...

Kim Pereira, Ph.D.  
Director of Honors Program  
Professor of Theatre

## DOING THE HONORS PROGRAM

by **Christie Proctor, Assistant Director**

It is never too early to think about what you can do as a student to prepare for your life after Illinois State, whether your goal is a job or perhaps Graduate or Professional School. All of the things you do as a student now, including academic success, involvement and leadership in extra-curricular activities, or working, are helping you develop skills and acquire experiences that will benefit you in your path after graduation.

There are plenty of things students can do to develop a resume full of honors, awards, involvement, and leadership positions. As Honors students, one of the things that will surely be mentioned on your resume is being a member of the Honors Program. This might look good, but what will really make the Honors Program a boost to your resume is not just *being in* the Honors Program, but rather *doing* the Honors Program.

There are a lot of involved students on this campus and many have excellent GPAs. What makes you different from every other student? If the Honors Program is your "big" thing, what can you do as an Honors student to give you the advantage? There are a lot of things that you can do. Consider completing both the general Honors requirements, as well as the additional opportunities that are available. Rather than thinking about what you *have* to do, think about what you *can* do.

Continued on page 5 . . .

## IN THIS ISSUE

Student Spotlight	2
Faculty Feature	3
The S.A.L.T. Shaker	4
Doing the Honors Program cont.	5
Honors Happenings & <b>CONTEST</b>	6



# Student Spotlight

PATRICE BAUMHARDT, 2008 GOLDWATER SCHOLAR

Written by Danika Kmetz, Senior Public Relations major

Getting the most out of a college career is about more than just getting good grades. There are numerous resources around campus available to students such as faculty mentorships, research opportunities, clubs, organizations, scholarships, and much more. But how do you choose which opportunities are best for you? Take a look at some advice from a successful honors student.

Patrice Baumhardt is a senior from Springfield, Illinois and is majoring in Biological Sciences with an interest in Marine Biology. Not only is Patrice a Presidential Scholar, she is also a Bone Scholar and a Goldwater Scholar.

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship Program is a national scholarship offered to sophomore and junior science, math, and engineering majors. Patrice first applied for this opportunity as a sophomore and was named an honorable mention. Although this is a great honor, Patrice pursued the opportunity a second time... and succeeded.

When asked what made her try again, Patrice said it is important to be persistent and never give up. She believed she added more experience and application of her major to her resume throughout her sophomore year that it would be worth it to try again.

Early in her college career, Patrice met Dr. Robert Preston, a Physiology and Biology professor. According to Patrice, there are many benefits to having a mentor. Dr. Preston gave her information on research opportunities, scholarships, wrote her letters of recommendation, and answered any questions she had. Not only did he refer her for both the Bone and Goldwater scholarships, but he also got her involved in an undergraduate summer research program in Maine. Patrice said this experience allowed her to apply what she has learned in courses to a real situation. It also taught her various techniques that will be valuable in the future and helped her realize what she would like to do for a future career.

Along with her research experience and numerous awards, Patrice has been very involved on campus. She participates in Honors activities and programs and is a member of the Chemistry Club, Biology Club, Presidential Scholars Club, and many more. Patrice said she found out about many of these opportunities through Festival ISU, Spring Fest, the Honors Web site, and the Presidential Scholars Colloquium. These activities have helped Patrice create a well-rounded resume. She believes it will make her stand out among the competition when it comes to applying to graduate schools and jobs.

Here are some helpful tips from Patrice . . . stay organized, create a good relationship with faculty members, get involved, meet new people, and make sure you can handle everything on your plate.

"It's a lot of work," said Patrice. "If you can get a job because of this experience, then it's worth it."



Patrice Baumhardt, Goldwater Scholar

# Faculty Feature

DR. ROBERT PRESTON

Written by Danika Kmetz, Senior Public Relations major

As Patrice said in the previous article, there are many benefits to having a faculty colleague or mentor. They give students advice, compose letters of recommendation, and inform them about various opportunities. It was quite evident that Dr. Robert Preston does just that when I first met him. As we sat down for our interview, he even informed me of an upcoming scholarship!

Dr. Preston has been a Biology and Physiology professor at ISU for 30 years and Patrice's mentor during her time here. Dr. Preston has developed close relationships with many Honors students. He said that students who stand out among others and develop relationships with faculty may have an advantage when it comes time to apply for graduate school.

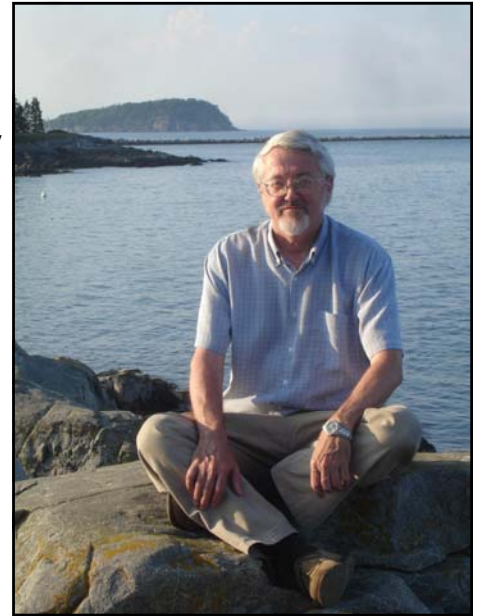
Dr. Preston believes that students can make themselves stand out to faculty by expressing an interest in their field. They can do this by approaching a professor after a class and *politely* discussing their interests and academic credentials with that professor. If possible, students should have a resume handy to show professors. It is even okay to do so in a lecture course. He also said that it does not hurt to mention that you are an Honors student!

According to Dr. Preston, there are many benefits to having a mentor. When it comes to research, many professors have grants that can fund student help, or students can receive academic credit for their research. Furthermore, students can get a professional perspective from a practicing academic or researcher. Professors can recommend certain courses and a plan of action for gaining experience in a student's field of interest. Dr. Preston also shared that many professors are aware of opportunities such as scholarships, research programs, and honor societies that they can recommend to students. When it comes time for recommendations, a faculty mentor can provide a very strong reference.

Research and extracurricular involvement is more valuable to a student than being able to take tests and do assignments well. He believes that these activities can give students a different, more hands-on experience. For example, a research mentorship can provide students with the opportunity to have their work featured in a national publication. Additionally, Dr. Preston likes to see students take courses and interests outside of their field because it shows they are well-rounded. Mentors can encourage students to take courses outside of their comfort zone and point out areas that could be surprisingly interesting to them.

Dr. Preston said that students can seek out opportunities by contacting the Honors Program, their faculty mentors, and their department. These opportunities can give students a real taste of their academic discipline.

"There are a lot of opportunities," Dr. Preston said. "You may not *know* they are there, but you need to *realize* they are there. Seek them out yourself."



Dr. Robert Preston, Professor



# S.A.L.T. Shaker

On October 6, 2008, SALT hosted Honors Program Presents: Presidential Perspectives. Students and faculty gathered to discuss the upcoming elections and why the focus on these elections seems to be so great. Dr. Stephen Hunt, Associate Professor in the School of Communication, Dr. Lane Crothers, Professor of Politics and Government, and Dr. Dawn Beichner, Professor of Criminal Justice Sciences shared their opinions on the matter and worked to help students understand the power they possess as first-time voters.



Dr. Stephen Hunt, Dr. Lane Crothers, and Dr. Dawn Beichner, participants in Honors Program Presents

“By not registering, not educating yourself, and not voting, you’re missing out on a chance for change,” shared Dr. Hunt. The faculty members challenged students to think beyond the Presidential elections. Local elections have the potential for students to create the greatest amount of change because if Illinois State students voted, they would hold a great deal of power within the Bloomington-Normal community. Beyond affecting change though, simply voting would send a strong message to our elected leaders. As shared by Dr. Crothers, approximately 45% of the Federal budget is geared towards people over the age of 65. However, there are more people between the ages of 18 and 30 than there are in the senior population. Why does the government dedicate so much funding to them then? Simple... they show up to the polls.

If students truly want to see change occur and provide elected leaders the chance to create new possibilities for our future, they need to exercise their right and vote on November 4, 2008. Simply showing up will send a strong message to the government and more attention will be given to the needs of younger generations.

As Dr. Beichner shared, “Everyone must cherish the moment. Take a look at the issues and think about how it is going to change your life.”

SALT and the Honors Program would like to thank our faculty members and the students who supported the program. Keep a watch for future programs! Coming in the spring . . . Honors Program Presents: Sports Culture!

A recording of this program is available at [http://www2.cob.ilstu.edu/psjuvin/Presidential Perspectives.mp3](http://www2.cob.ilstu.edu/psjuvin/Presidential%20Perspectives.mp3)



The Honors Office is located on the corner of Fell Street and North Street, directly across from the Watterson Dining Complex.

Our hours are Monday through Friday,  
8:00am until 4:30pm.

Our mailing address is  
Campus Box 6100 in Normal, IL 61790-6100.

Call us at 309-438-2559.

E-mail us at [honors@ilstu.edu](mailto:honors@ilstu.edu).

Visit us on the web at [www.honors.ilstu.edu](http://www.honors.ilstu.edu).

## DOING THE HONORS PROGRAM CONTINUED . . .

**Honors sections of courses.** Since these sections are typically smaller, take this opportunity to get to know the instructor. Be an active participant in class, engage in discussion with your classmates and the instructor, consider (gasp!) meeting with the instructor during office hours. These courses are an opportunity to develop closer relationships with other students and faculty members. Make a good name for yourself and you'll develop a network that could come in handy for the future, especially if you need a letter of recommendation.

**In-course Honors projects.** This is another opportunity to develop a relationship with an instructor and to go deeper into course material. When you develop your project, think beyond doing just another 10-15 page paper. Is there something creative or active that you can do? You might develop an opportunity to gain experience in your major that other students don't have, or might not have until graduate school. Having these projects to talk about shows your interest in your field as well as your dedication to go deeper in a subject other than your major.

**Undergraduate Research Participation or Independent Honors Study.** Remember those faculty members you have worked with, or the in-course project that sparked an interest? By doing research or completing an Independent Honors Study, you can work closely with faculty and also develop or create something of your own. Showing the initiative to develop a project or assist a faculty with research will certainly give you something to talk about in an interview.

**Advanced Honors Colloquia.** By completing the Service Learning Colloquium or another of these courses, you are showing the initiative to take courses that interest you, rather than only do what you have to do to graduate. Being able to talk about your service and what you learned will certainly catch the attention of employers or admissions committees; not only are you a great student, but you are willing to share your gifts and talents with others to make a difference in your community. Taking a class on Consumers and Consumption or Philosophical Issues of the Self shows that you aren't afraid to learn about new and different topics.

**Honors Thesis.** Completing an Honors Thesis can be the culmination of your undergraduate career and can bring everything together. This shows that not only are you an Honors student, but you are one of the best. Whether your thesis is research or project based, you are sure to gain further knowledge in your discipline and will have a piece of work to use in the future or to showcase your talents.

**Honors Designations.** By choosing some of the options above, you can earn various Honors Graduation Designations. I encourage you to investigate the requirements, specifically the requirements for Departmental Honors in your major. University Honors Scholar, Departmental Honors Scholar, Certificate in University Honors, and Honors Program Scholar sound pretty impressive, bulk up your resume, and might lead to an interview. When you get to that interview, what will you say? Were you just **in** the Honors Program or did you **do** the Honors Program?

# Honors Students Making the Headlines

**David Prevo**, a senior Actuarial Sciences major, is the winner of the prestigious John Culver Woody Scholarship Award. The award, presented by the Actuarial Foundation, identifies a student as one of the best in the world. Congratulations, David!

**Michelle Carroll**, a senior Interior and Environmental Design major, is a recipient of the 2008 Lincoln Laureate Award from Illinois State University. The award recognizes a senior who excels academically and within their communities in terms of service.

# Honors Happenings



OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
OCTOBER	12	13 <b>Interested in the Goldwater Scholarship? Contact Jennifer Frobish 8-2559</b>	14 4:30pm Summer Research Grant Presentations (COB430)	15 4:30pm Summer Research Grant Presentations (COB430)	16 Last day to drop second-half class with no grade. Full refund.	17 <b>Deadline to indicate intent for Truman Scholarship (see Becky Mentzer)</b>	18 9:00am Honors Open House 9:30am Homecoming Parade
	19	20	21	22 8pm PS Club Meeting	23	24	26
	26	27 8:30pm HSO Meeting	28	29	30	31 Happy Halloween! 	1
NOVEMBER	2 2pm Scholarship Awards Ceremony	3	4  <b>VOTING DAY Exercise your right!</b>	5	6	7 <b>Truman Scholarship Campus Deadline</b>	8
	9	10 3pm Service Learning Fair in the Circus Room of the Bone	11 4pm Fall Research Mentorship Presentations (COB430)	12	13	14 4pm Fall Research Mentorship Presentations (COB430)	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	<p><b>What prestigious scholarship did senior, Biological Sciences major, Patrice Baumhardt, receive this past year? The first person to email the correct response to Jennifer at <a href="mailto:jlfrobi@ilstu.edu">jlfrobi@ilstu.edu</a> will win a prize.</b></p>						
	23	24 	25	26	27	28 	29
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thanksgiving Break</b></p>						
30	1 <b>Completed applications for Goldwater Scholarship due to Honors by 4:30pm</b>	2	3 Finals Edition of <i>The Honor Roll</i> distributed	4	5 Last day of classes	6	
DECEMBER	7 Good luck with final exams!!!	8	9 Visit the Rec and de-stress!	10	11 Hang in there! Almost done!	12	13  Happy Winter Break! See you in January!