



Spring 2016

The Sage Page Spring 2016

Winthrop University Honors Association

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The Sage Page

Spring 2016

From the Honors Program Director

Dear Honors Students, Alumni, Faculty, and Friends,

Welcome to this semester's edition of our Honors Program newsletter. As with previous editions, the students have provided interesting articles on their activities including conference presentations, study abroad, and research. What you will notice different from other editions is that the newsletter editor, Tamsyn Brasier, has organized the

newsletter into different "experiences" such as that of a freshman, senior, transfer, Teaching Fellow, members of Greek life, and Ambassador. Adam Glover has a delightful article on what it is like to teach in the Honors Program. I want to thank all of the students who contributed to this edition, and I want to invite all Honors Program alumni to keep us updated on your activities. You may do so by filling out the information on the

back or contacting me directly! Enjoy!



*Kathy Lyon, Ph.D.
Honors Program Director*

The Honors Program Experience

Tamsyn Brasier

All of us have many questions and concerns about coming to college. Initially, we think the last thing we want to do is

take on an Honors Program. We say, "It's more work, more time, and a whole lot less fun." Nothing could be further from the truth! In this edition of the Sage Page, the Honors Program newsletter, you will meet many different faces from the Honors Program — students and professors. You will get a glimpse into their lives not only as Honors Program students, but as Resident Assistants, Greeks, Ambassadors, Teaching

Fellows, researchers, and a host of other activities and organizations around campus and around the world. You will see inside honors classes and hear about study abroad and research conference opportunities. These are just a few of the opportunities the Winthrop Honors Program provides. It offers so much that the only way to fully see all the benefits is to come see for yourself. I hope you enjoy this glimpse into the Honors Program and Winthrop life.



Honors students hanging out in the Honors Center

The Freshman Experience

Baylee Hughes

I chose Winthrop University because it's a smaller school, and because both of my parents graduated from Winthrop and enjoyed their time here. Luckily for me, I live close enough to Winthrop that I can go home if I need some time away, but it's far enough so that my parents don't visit me every weekend. At first, it was fairly awkward adjusting to living on my own. I had to manage my time with social events, homework, and personal responsibilities like buying groceries. My biggest struggle was having too much to do one week, and not having anything to do the next. If I could give the entering freshmen advice as they adjust to the new environment, I would tell them to manage their time from the beginning. I stressed myself out by doing all my homework near the due date, and my work was not its best. The Honors Program here at Winthrop

helped me make friends who were adjusting just as I was. Going to the same WUHA! events and living around other honors students help me get to know students who I may see in classes. Though I was not able to get a WUHA! Big, I would definitely suggest getting one. My suitemates were able to get Bigs to guide them along their new college experience. Bigs are great mentors who can answer any questions or even be a study partner. If someone were there to remind me that I needed to study, I probably would have had a more successful first semester. I joined Greek life recently, which opened up many doors for me. It's helped me become more involved around campus and has made me many new friends who are willing to make me focus on school when needed. Even though the first semester at Winthrop can be awkward or tough at times, everyone

I've spoken to has learned to love the school. I struggled with time management, and others have different experiences, but now that I'm a first semester sophomore and have been through the adjustment phase, I know that I belong at Winthrop.



Baylee Hughes and her sorority pledge class

The Teaching Fellows Experience

Emily Brazinski

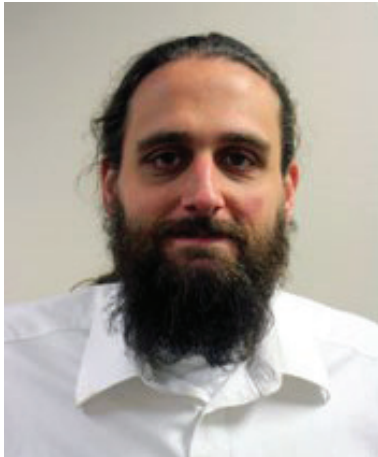
One of my greatest joys since coming to Winthrop has been becoming a part of the many organizations it has to offer. My involvement began before I even came to Orientation with the Teaching Fellows organization. We quickly became a close knit group, and I have created bonds that will last a lifetime. Another organization I am a part of is Winthrop University's Honors Association, or WUHA! Being in WUHA! has allowed me to become a part of a group of elite students who care a great deal about not only their grades but also making a difference in the world. I am honored to be surrounded by such wonderful and passionate people and am looking forward to seeing where the world will take us.



A Teaching Fellows classroom

The Honors Teaching Experience

Adam Glover



Adam Glover, Ph.D.

What do you study? I hate the question, and yet I find myself asking it on the first day of class, in casual conversation, when I can't think of anything else to say. Ordinarily, it serves two basic purposes. In one sense, "What do you study?" is a relatively straightforward attempt to categorize the world. Were I to discover, for instance, that you studied English rather than biology, or biology rather than English, I would feel I had a better idea of what sort of person you must be. In another sense, the same query represents a sort of indirect and euphemistic way of posing a rather more crudely utilitarian question: "How do you plan to feed yourself?" I don't suppose there is anything especially problematic about asking the question for just these reasons. We all have strategies for categorizing the world, and "What do you study?" is fairly innocuous as such strategies go. Even so, the question's ordinary connotations risk obscuring

something important.

In *De inventione*, his treatise on rhetoric, Cicero describes "study" as "the soul's assiduous and eager [*assidua et vehemens*] engagement in some particular thing with great desire." The definition is worth lingering over. *Assidua*, like the English "assiduous," means constant in application or effort. To be "assiduous" about something is thus to be consumed by it, to be unable to put it from one's mind. *Vehemens* is more revealing still. It means "vehement," of course, but it also connotes the vigor and ferocity of wild animals. Thus Horace, for example, in his second Epistle, describes one of Lucullus's soldiers as a "vehement wolf." From this angle, one might say that the question "What do you study?" means not "How will you feed yourself?" but rather "What is it that consumes you? What are you prepared to fight for? What sits so close to the center of your identity that to deny it would be to deny yourself?"

Or, to collapse these questions into one, "What is it that you love?" This last paraphrase is my favorite. Nor is it pure fancy. In fact, the 13th-century Catalanian physician and writer Arnau de Vilanova uses precisely the same adjectives (*assidua and vehemens*) to describe "love-passion" (*amor hereos*), a form of desire to which the courtly lover is especially prone. Richard de Bury, an English priest and

contemporary of Arnau, draws the connection with study a bit more tightly when he uses the same expression (*amor hereos*) to denote his passion for books. "The over-mastering love of books," Richard writes, "possessed our mind from boyhood, and to rejoice in their delights has been our only pleasure." This, to be sure, is the language of erotic desire, but not in any crudely sexualized sense. Indeed, the primary frame of reference is probably something like the mystic's passionate quest for union with the divine. If, for Cicero, study is the "assiduous and eager engagement of the soul," for Richard "soul" takes on decisively spiritual overtones.

In my experience, the Honors Program is where the contemporary sense of "study" edges most closely to its ancient and medieval connotations. It is where, in other words, the desire to learn is self-justifying because it implicates who we are at the deepest level, because it makes us, in the most basic sense, human beings. Or, to put it another way, the Honors Program is where one studies not simply to feed one's belly, but also, as one of my students said not two weeks ago, to feed one's soul. And, to paraphrase Richard, teaching within that context has been, though not my only delight, certainly among my greatest.

The Ambassador Experience

Carson Carroll

Coming to Winthrop as a freshman student in the Honors Program I was not quite sure what to expect. Throughout my education, and especially high school, I was in an environment that encouraged good grades in order to help me get into college. It was a “get good grades to get scholarships” kind of attitude, and there was not really a focus on how my high grades would contribute to my influence outside of getting accepted into college. I was nervous that being in the Honors Program at Winthrop would be similar in that all of the focus would be on grades. However I was wrong. Here, not only am I encouraged to get high grades, I have also been exposed to so many more opportunities that I do not think I would have been shown if I was not an Honors Program student.

An opportunity I was encouraged to do through the people I met through this program, was the student ambassador organization. I wanted to show my school spirit and help high school students with their college search, but I was not sure how. I learned about this organization through other ambassadors in the Honors Program, and I decided I wanted to apply. After multiple interviews and a month-long training session, I am now a student ambassador. This was extremely important to me because as a freshman I needed a goal during my first semester to focus on, in order to help my transition into college. I now have the wonderful chance to give possible future students, along with their families, tours of Winthrop’s beautiful campus and give them my perspective of the college

experience. This role on campus is not only a lot of fun, but I have also met so many people through it that have made my freshman year memorable.



The Winthrop Ambassadors, the campus tour guides

The Conference Experience

Jessica Doscher

Honors students are known not only for their high academic achievements, but also for their drive to think, read, and write on a higher level. The desire to share the knowledge they have gained is powerful, and conferences present just the place to do that. As such, every semester, honors students travel across the country to present research they have done and connect with others who share their passion.

The Southern Regional Honors Council conference every spring is one of the most popular places for honors students to present research. For me, it was the first conference I ever attended. We went to Savannah, Georgia, and quite frankly, I was terrified. I was un-

sure of what I was getting myself into and if I even belonged at such an event. However, it turned out to be one of the greatest experiences of my life. I met wonderful people and saw incredible presentations, and I even earned a spot as a student representative at-large. Most of all, I learned that my love of research and of learning flourishes in conference environments like that of SRHC. Learning to communicate ideas and connect with other like-minded individuals is essential to bettering yourself and your collegiate career, and conferences do just that.

Today, I am the student vice president of SRHC and have been to several conferences, all because I found that rare and truly special

niche in the bonds and ideas that conferences create for attendees.



Honors Program students at the 2015 SRHC conference

The Transfer Experience

Eliza Wilcox

I transferred to Winthrop in 2013, after spending my freshman year at Furman University. While Furman had many academic organizations, it did not have an Honors Program. So, when I made the decision to transfer, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the Winthrop Honors Program accepted transfer students. After conferring with my academic advisor and Dr. Kathy Lyon, I submitted my application to the Honors Program in the spring of 2013 and started the subsequent fall.

It's been an amazing experience—I met some of my lifelong friends through the program. As part of our coursework, we must take CRTW as an honors class, and that's how I inadvertently met my roommate and one of my best friends, Victoria

Gray. She was friends with some of my classmates, and after we began hanging out, I felt like even though I was new to Winthrop, I had a group of people who I could depend on and with whom I could grow close.

Even though I don't live on campus anymore, I still consider those first Honors Program friends as some of my closest, and I've lived off campus with Victoria for almost two years. In terms of academics, the Honors Program has led me to some of my most interesting projects and classes. I took Dr. Adam Glover's magical realism seminar last spring, and right now, I'm taking a seminar on Robert Penn Warren's novel, *All the King's Men*, co-taught by Dr. Gloria Jones and Dr. Earl Wilcox, who's actually my

grandfather. Also this semester, I've been working on a collection of flash fiction as part of an honors contract project for Dr. Dustin Hoffman's fiction class. I love the freedom and challenges that have been a part of all of my honors classes, whether they were honors designated or honors contract courses.

All in all, the Honors Program has been one of the best decisions I made besides the decision to transfer to Winthrop in the first place, and I would recommend it to any transfer student who's looking for a challenge and a community.

The Study Abroad Experience

Connor Renfro

I wasn't planning to study abroad until the opportunity literally fell into my lap. The Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) was opening its first Open Campus program in Berlin, Germany, and was offering \$6,000 to students who would participate in the inaugural semester.

My school was a renovated lamp factory in the heart of Krueberg, Berlin's most international neighborhood. Everything I thought I knew about Germany, the United States, and the world was challenged. I came back after 18

weeks as a conscientious citizen of the world.

The most important thing I learned was that the German national identity is in crisis. After the stain of Nazism and the Allied occupation that gave rise to the FRG (West) and GDR (East), many German citizens are desperate to reclaim their identity. What is German?

There are many who still cling to their Western and Eastern ties rather than to the unified state. The large Turkish population brings about its own complications as mosques and döner kebab replace churches and bratwurst on the streets.

Defining a national identity can also be problematic when nationalism can still be equated to fascism.

If you have the opportunity to study abroad, I highly recommend it. The things you learn from travel and from experiencing new cultures can supplement and, in some cases, exceed what you learn in the classroom. Thanks to my travels, I am more confident in my abilities and more aware of the consequences of my actions. Study abroad to expand your horizons and become a better person.

The Senior Experience

Sara Tennant

I am so grateful to have been a member of the Honors Program during my time at Winthrop University. I am especially happy with my honors experience because of the relationships I have formed.

Due to the smaller class sizes for honors courses, I have gotten to know my classmates better than in many of my other classes. I still remember who was in my “Comics, Popular Art and Aesthetics” class from my very first semester, even if I haven’t seen them in awhile. I have taken several classes with the same people and have become good friends with them as a result.

I have formed other awesome friendships with honors students because of honors housing. I met my first roommate by being randomly paired with her in honors housing freshman year, and we’re still living together seven semesters later. When I was an RA for the honors floor of Courtyard, I got to

witness honors students living and learning together outside the classroom as well as in it. Now that I’m in one of my final honors classes, the thesis symposium, I get to see many of my old floor-mates from freshman year in Wofford, and it’s crazy to see how much we’ve grown as people and as students.

If I’m going to write about impactful honors relationships, of course I can’t leave Dr. Lyon out. Dr. Lyon, our Honors Program director, has been so supportive during my college career. I am a psychology major, and she is a psychology professor, so she has been my teacher for my entry-level psychology class as well as my senior seminar. She has also been my academic advisor, so she has been a source for lots of advice and encouragement over the years. Her kindness, generosity, and calm demeanor (an especially valuable trait when I am freaking out over thesis deadlines) have made such a difference in my life as

a student.

When I think about my honors experience, I just want to thank all my honors friends and faculty for challenging me to be my best, supporting me through difficult times, and making my time at Winthrop truly amazing. It has been a lot of fun, and I am excited to see where all of us honors seniors will go from here.



Sara Tennant (r) and her roommate over Christmas

The Research Experience

Shiannea Gathers

As long as I can remember, I’ve always been involved in science. From third to eleventh grade, I participated in school science fairs, oftentimes placing in first and second place. Science has always been a part of who I am as a person. I am naturally inquisitive and love exploring how things work around me. Naturally, when I came to Winthrop, I knew I wanted to do research.

The hardest part was finding a lab that piqued my interest and challenged me as a biology student. All of that changed spring of my junior year. Two of my fa-

vorite professors, and my now research mentors, asked me to join their lab and the rest is history. The focus of my research is to determine the effects salinity and temperature have on environmental isolates of *Escherichia coli* collected from sand on the beach. So far, turning my research into my honors thesis has been really interesting and quite challenging.

Thankfully, I have my research mentors to support and help me every step of the way. Overall, getting involved with research at Winthrop has been an amaz-

ing experience. Because of this experience, I have two professors with whom I have built long-lasting relationships, research experience that will make me competitive for medical school, and the opportunity to contribute novel research to the science community as a whole. To any student on the fence about doing research in college, my advice to you is just do it. You won’t regret it and will be a better student because of it. My only regret is that I didn’t start sooner.

The Greek Experience

Alex Corder

People commonly consider going Greek as a huge time commitment, one which towers over many other opportunities in college. For some, they look at joining an Honors Program the same way. My experience at Winthrop has shown me that this could not be further from the truth. Both of these



Alex Corder (r) and a Pi Kappa Phi brother

Christy Knight

I was an honors student before I decided to go Greek. I came into college for the sole purpose of academics, and being an honors student pushed me to be the best academically that I could be. I knew that being in the Honors Program was a large time commitment, and it required me to not only get good grades but also challenge myself by taking honors level classes. So, for my first year at Winthrop, I took my honors classes and kept a great GPA with the help and support of all of my honors friends who were going through the same thing I was. We've become a family during our time here as we take classes together and study together. It's a part of who we are, and I cherish all of the memories I've made with them and look forward to more that we're going to make.

activities have enriched my college experience, so much that I've come to consider both my fellow honors students and my brothers to be my support system whenever the semester gets challenging.

I came into college as an honors student; from the moment I set foot on campus (a day before everybody else), that was part of my identity in college. The friends I have made through WUHA!, both in and outside of my honors courses, are still close to me even as a junior. The memories I have made within honors classes and events with my fellow students still remind us how much we are like family.

I was hesitant when I decided to go Greek, worried that I would not have time to do it all. It was second semester freshman year, half of my courses were honors

This semester, as a sophomore, I decided that I wanted to join Greek life. I worried that it would be too much between honors and Greek commitments. However, as I decided to join Chi Omega Fraternity, I realized that I could have both. My sisters have shown me that they also put their academics above everything just like I do, and some of my sisters are also honors students. I was worried that I wouldn't have time to keep up with my commitments, but since joining, I have actually had a better work ethic and better time management skills. I am striving to be better than I was before in my academics and in other areas of my life.

I am still in the process of joining my organization, but in the past few months since I made my decision to join Greek life, I have been

lifted up more than I ever have been. I have found that being a Greek honors student has pushed me to strive towards higher goals of both academic and personal success that I don't think I would have thought possible beforehand.

courses, and I was committing myself to begin a new member process into Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity. I knew I wanted to go Greek after meeting the guys in our chapter, but I was worried that it wouldn't be possible with my honors commitments. To my surprise, the exact opposite occurred; I found myself supported by Winthrop honors students, both my age and older, to join Greek life. Many other honors freshmen went Greek along with me, some even into my organization. Today, I have the privilege to call some of my fellow honors students my brothers, and the experience was all the better because both organizations have been the reason behind so much of my success at Winthrop University.



Sisters of Chi Omega supporting the Winthrop Eagles and the Make-A-Wish Foundation



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
WINTHROP UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

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Interested in Being a WUHA! Officer?

Are you looking for a great way to get involved in the honors community? WUHA! is looking for officers for the 2016-17 school year! Look for the email about elections at the end of the semester!

Congratulations, December 2015 graduates!

Tori Horn, Psychology, *“Breakup Strategies across Different Types of Relationships”*

Emili Moan, Mathematics, *“Fusion in Card Collecting Games: A Probable Outcome”*

Stay Connected!

Please help us stay in touch with you!

Submit this form online with your news and updates at

www.birdnest.org/wuha/. Please click on “Alumni Information”

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.

