



Spring 2011

The Sage Page Spring 2011

Winthrop University Honors Association

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The Sage Page

Spring 2011

Recent Developments in the Honors Program

- Our new WUHA! Office
- Service learning updates
- Updates from current students and alumni
- Why Dr. Stephanie Milling teaches honors
- Spring 2011 Plans
- SRHC Plans

From the Honors Program Director

Welcome to the Spring 2011 edition of The Sage Page. Inside our newsletter you will see that our Honors Program students have been actively involved in their honors courses, honors symposia, research, and social and service activities. I am particularly proud of our honors students' conference presentations. As you can see two of our students, Sara Merlie and Kevin Ryan, presented research at the National Collegiate Honors Council conference last fall,

a first for our Honors Program, and 21 honors students will present papers and posters at the Southern Regional Honors Council conference at the end of March, a first in terms of the number of students presenting. Another first for the program is the addition of three-credit-hour HONR courses to the curriculum which you will read about in our next edition. You will also find inside articles on our honors students' service projects, study abroad and

many interesting photos of their social activities. Thanks to all who contributed to this edition, and I want to remind all of you to please keep in touch with



Kathy Lyon, Ph.D.
Honors Program Director

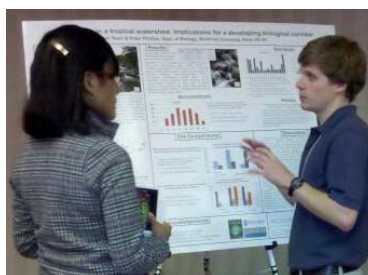
us about your activities so that we may include them in our next edition. Enjoy!

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National Collegiate Honors Council Allison Howard

The National Collegiate Honors Council conference was held in Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 24-29, 2010. Kevin Ryan, senior biology major from Lyman, S.C., and Sara Merlie, senior biology major from Charlotte, N.C., represented Winthrop's Honors Program this year. Kevin had conducted research on watershed quality in Costa Rica with a biology department faculty member over the summer of 2010 and presented his findings in a research poster. Sara also conducted research over the summer of 2010 and presented her poster enti-

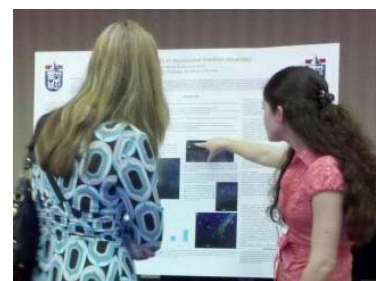


Above: Kevin at NCHC.

tled "Stem Cells in Aeolosoma headley (Annelida)." Both Kevin and Sara commented on how much they appreciated the thoroughness of the feedback they received from honors students and faculty from around the country. NCHC combines disciplines from across the spectrum, from the arts

and humanities to the empirical sciences. NCHC allows honors students to learn from one another, something Kevin and Sara appreciated greatly. NCHC is available for all honors students with research to share. The 2011 NCHC conference will be held Oct. 19-23 in Phoenix, Ariz.

Below: Sara at NCHC.



WUHA! on Community

Several semesters in a row, WUHA! students have been semester-long volunteer note-takers for the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. For this volunteer opportunity, students photo-copy or type up notes for individuals in their classes with documented disabilities. Many students have found that they actually do better in these classes and are able to help a classmate do the same. In November, WUHA! also participated in a can drive to support the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen around Thanksgiving. The can drive was held outside Earth Fare and all food col-



Above: Jamaal Cox, Melody Chapman, and Allison Raper show off their collected canned goods outside of Earth Fare on November 20, 2010.

lected was organic. We collected more than 150 cans to help support those struggling in the Rock Hill community just before Thanksgiving.

-Melody Chapman

Service learning is a big part of WUHA!. For years WUHA! has provided service to the Rock Hill community and that service continues today. In September several WUHA! students participated in a project called Rollin' in Rock Hill. The project consisted of painting houses around Rock Hill for owners who are too old or disabled to paint their own homes. WUHA! was lucky enough to be teamed up with the Rock Hill Police Department to tackle two houses. The houses were painted

within four hours because of the great teamwork and dedication by both organizations. Rollin' in Rock Hill was a great project to give back to the Rock Hill community.

-Jamaal Cox

Why I Chose Honors...

"I chose to participate in the Winthrop Honors Program because I was given the opportunity to challenge myself intellectually and push myself to achieve more during my four years at Winthrop. Being a college student is, in my opinion, about stepping outside of comfort zones, appreciating new perspectives, and finding the motivation to learn more than ever. I believed that to pass on the choice to be a Winthrop honors student was to miss out on constructive, valuable, and introspective knowledge that I could benefit from not only during, but after my college career. I also wanted to surround myself with other motivated and goal-orientated people, and I knew that the Honors Program would consist not only of students who are energetic about learning, but professors who are enthusiastic as well. Thus far, I have not been at all disappointed by my expectations of the program."

- Debbie Szeman, Class of 2014

What Honors Has Done for Me....

"I took Honors Symposia courses on topics such as children's literature and new religious movements. These courses gave me practice applying critical thinking skills to interesting subjects outside my major. Within my major, honors courses provided a more in-depth perspective of the topic in an environment that was open for discussion. The most rewarding part of the Honors Program for me was the opportunity to travel to regional and national honors conferences to present undergraduate research. These experiences made possible by the Honors Program have been an important part of my degree at Winthrop." - Kevin Ryan, May 2011 Graduate

"I have gained a different perspective from the typical college student by being in the Honors Program. Through the program and classes that I have taken I have developed a stronger and broader knowledge base that has encouraged deeper thought and research in areas of interest. Knowing that I have done something beyond the already strenuous requirements of college itself gives me a strong sense of pride." - Courtney Littlejohn, December 2010 Graduate

The Office

The addition of the new DiGiorgio Campus Center to Winthrop's campus meant something very special for Winthrop University Honors Association: a private office for the University College students. With officer-only keycard entry, 220 DIGS is the new home for honors students on campus and is used for office hours, study nights and meetings. Our private office cubicle is a personal sanctuary for me, as I can



Meagan Hogarth

focus on what WUHA! needs and what the 2010-11 officers hope to accomplish for our organization. The best part of our office, besides the beautiful décor, is what it represents for the honors association. We are one of the only student-run organization on campus to have a private office, signifying our growing and active presence in the Winthrop community. Since my first experience with WUHA! as a freshman, I have watched it expand into what it is today and cannot wait to see where we go from here.

Congratulations!

Courtney Littlejohn graduated with an **Honors Program Degree** in sports management with a concentration in pre-law at the December 2010 commencement. The title of her honors thesis was *The Ethics of Sex Testing in the Olympics*. **Congratulations, Courtney!**



Why I Teach Honors....

In *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, Paulo Freire views the classroom as a community of teachers and learners in which all students teach and all teachers learn. The intellectual community co-created by the students in my honors symposium entitled *Theory in the Flesh* turned Freire's theory into a living reality.

As an instructor, I have yet to find a learning environment as intellectually stimulating as an honors classroom. The students consistently demonstrated their exhaustive analyses of the course readings by presenting a myriad of perspectives that enabled us to engage in deep and meaningful class discussions.

Taking on a life of its own, the free-flowing exchange of ideas in each class manifested into a profound educational experience.

"Taking on a life of its own, the free-flowing exchange of ideas in each class manifested into a profound educational experience."

As each class concluded, the energized feeling I developed from teaching reminded me why I chose to become an academic; I find great pleas-

ure in witnessing the empowering transformation that occurs when students actively participate in their education and the enlightenment that results from such endeavors.

The students' contributions to our learning community and the diligence with which they approached their individual research projects exceeded my expectations and represented an ideal educational experience; the students operated as teachers and learners, which produced an enriching and engaging classroom.

- Professor Stephanie Milling, Assistant Professor of Theatre and Dance



Above Left: Some new and returning WUHA!-ers gather to enjoy lemonade and cookies at our annual dessert party in August.



Above Right: All of WUHA!'s Bigs and Littles gather for our annual Bigs/Littles Reveal.



WUHA! A Semester in Pictures



Above: Caitlin Manning and Nicholas Scarborough entangle their string into the bushes to make it more fun for their Littles to find them at Bigs/Littles Reveal.

Right: Pumpkin carving fun at WUHA!'s first annual Fall Festival.



Left: Shelley Stone paints Meagan Hogarth's face as part of WUHA!'s Fall Fest.



Above: A rare sighting of some WUHA! boys in their natural habitat.



Above: From left to right: Melody Chapman, one of the Service Learning Coordinators; Dr. Lyon, Honors Program Director; Meagan Hogarth, WUHA! President.



Left: Willie Meier and Miri Smith embrace in what can only be true nerd love at the Annual Dessert Party in August.

Right: From left to right: Colleen Rice, Katie Zanowski, and Sam Baker follow the strings all around The Shack to find their WUHA! Bigs at the Bigs/Littles Reveal.



Reflection on Fall 2010 Plans **Elise Comber**

WUHA! started off the semester by welcoming the incoming freshmen with move-in help and a pizza party. A delicious dessert party was hosted during Welcome Week to get students connected. Once classes got started, so did the program's famous study nights, every Monday through Thursday. Informational meetings were held throughout the semester to

educate honors students about opportunities on and off campus. The Bigs and Littles program—pairing an upperclassman with a freshman—kicked off with a reveal and dessert potluck. The Bigs and Littles, along with other honors students, got together late October for a Fall Fest, with pumpkin carving, face-painting and even pumpkin bowling.

WUHA! actively served in the community this semester by painting houses for Rollin' in Rock Hill, preparing their plot in the new Rock Hill community garden, and running a Thanksgiving food drive. On the last day of classes, the honors kids took a study break to play games, eat treats and wrap up the semester.

Spring 2011 Plans

- * WUHA! Spirit Days on the first Monday of every month
- * Study Nights Monday-Thursday, 7:30-11 p.m. (necessary caffeine provided)
- * Relay for Life
- * Nerds Ball and Overachiever Awards
- * Bigs/Littles social events
- * Trivia Night

Honorable Mentions

Geoffrey Bernard, junior English major, married his fiancé Desiree Oathout in San Diego, Calif., on Jan. 4, 2011.

Katie Parrott, May 2010 graduate, obtained a job at CNN in Washington, D.C., as a video assistant.

Meagan Hogarth, junior psychology major and WUHA's President, is part of a trio of dancers selected from the 2010 Winthrop Dance Theatre to perform and be adjudicated at the 2011 Southeastern Regional American College Dance Festival in Tallahassee, Fla., in March 2011.

Allison Howard, junior psychology major and WUHA's Newsletter Editor, had her short story selected for *The Sanctuary*, the literary journal of the SRHC.

Dr. Sarah Lageman, '97 Winthrop graduate, recently received national board certification in clinical neuropsychology and accepted a new position at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va. Her faculty appointment is in the Department of Neurology and she is a neuropsychologist at VCU's new Parkinson's Disease Center where she conducts clinical research in an interdisciplinary setting.

Beatles and Economy Symposia

The Winthrop University Honors Program requires that each student take a one-credit-hour symposium as part of the Honors Degree. It combines disciplines in both course material and faculty.

From their "lovable mop-top" days to psychedelic rock, this semester's honors symposium "The Beatles: A Music and Popular Culture Revolution" covered it all.

Through PowerPoints, primary and secondary video footage, and discussion of the Beatles musical and cultural progress from their early

days as The Quarrymen to the breakup were examined. Student groups researched and presented on individual albums, as well as examined the group's evolution in themes and musical style throughout their career. The class, taught by John "J.T." Timmons, was very successful and popular.

-Miri Smith

In Dr. Pantuosco's symposium "What in the World is going on with the Economy?" we researched, discussed, and learned about

the economic principles behind the debt crisis and the burst housing bubble. We also discussed the more global aspect of the economy with the unification of the world's governments and its subsequent impact on our nation's economy. The interactive nature of the class allowed us to learn from each other's research and opinions while providing the opportunity to discuss common misconceptions in the United States regarding the state of our economy.

-Carly Moss

Southern Regional Honors Conference

Allison Howard

The 39th annual Southern Regional Honors Council Conference will be held in Little Rock, Ark., from March 31 to April 2. Emily Pratt, Sara Merlie, Katrina Jorsch, Amy Rivers, Carly Moss, Carol Perkins, Rachel McCoy, Hien Dang, Kevin Ryan, Amanda McLeod, Amy Schober, Sybil Senn, Betsy Jenkins, and Allison Howard are among Dr.

Lyon's HONR 451H Spring 2011 students who will be presenting their honors theses to the SRHC and again at the Honors Thesis Colloquium to the Winthrop community. The theme for this year's conference is: "Bridging Scholarship and Citizenship: Making Honors Count." The keynote speaker, longtime friend of former President Bill Clinton

and Dean of the Clinton School of Public Service, Skip Rutherford, will discuss the conference theme during his luncheon address. A gala will be held at the Clinton Presidential Library on Friday evening with food, drinks and tours. The River Market Entertainment District awaits afterwards.

KIVA Updates

This semester, WUHA! has made a total of \$200 in loans through KIVA: *Taitika Harriet* of Jinja, Uganda, is a mother of six with a poultry business. She makes around \$18 a week. *Yolanda Herrera Gonzalez* of Acuna, Mexico, needs a loan to lay concrete for the walls and floor of her house, which she shares with her husband and

three young children. *Marilyn Fajardo* of the Philippines is the mother of three and wants to expand her rickshaw business so that she will have enough money for her children's education and help others in her area by providing jobs. *Isata Sesay* of Bo, Sierra Leone, lives with her husband, two children, and six depend-

ent sisters. Some of them are students, and some help her with her clothing and shoe sale business. She hopes to expand her business and ensure that her children receive educations. Repayments from the current loans will be reinvested in the future.

Miri Smith

Study Abroad and NSE: More than a Metaphor

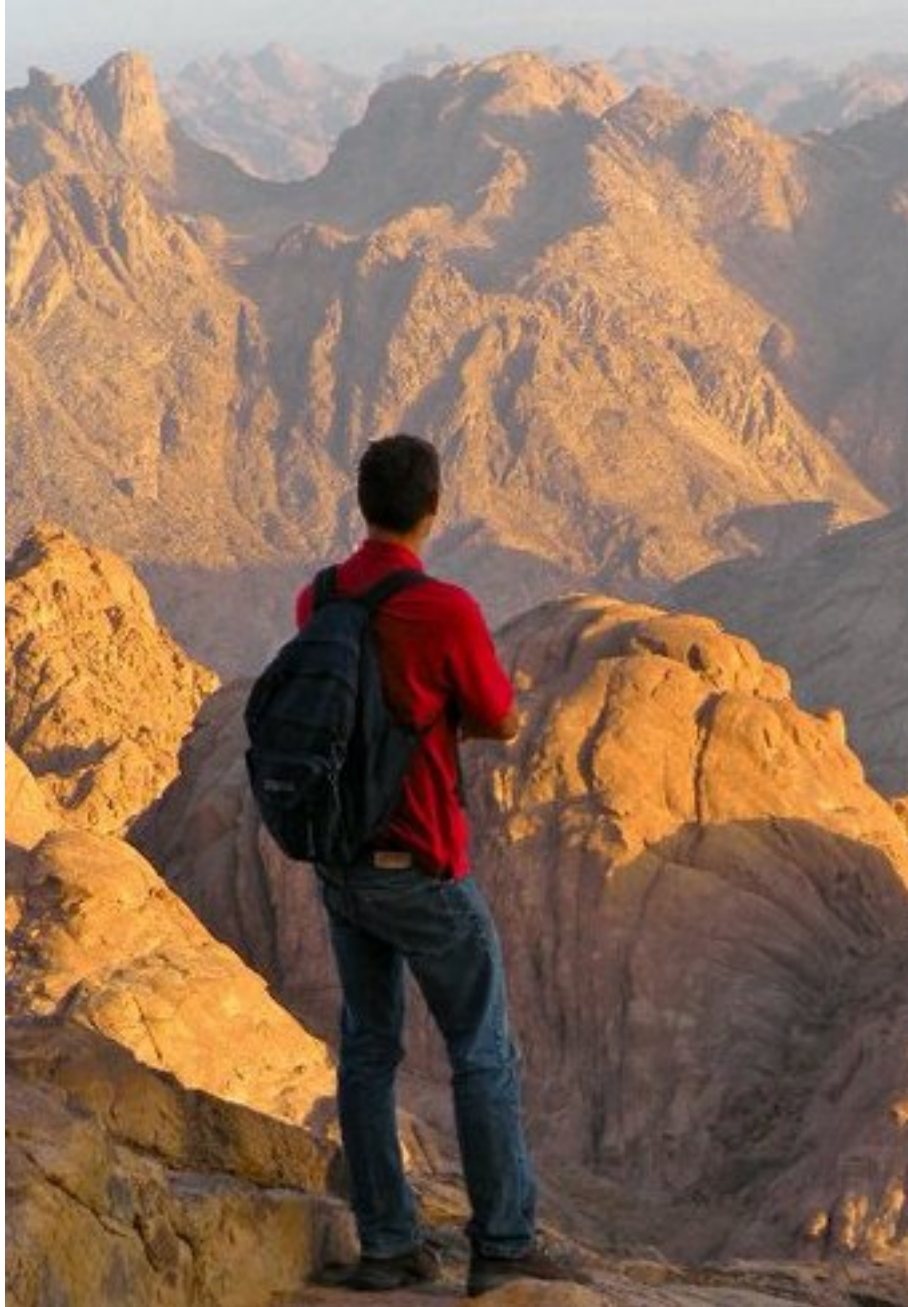
Timothy Kroboth

As an honors student, I have discovered the value of going the extra mile in the classroom, but is going the extra mile not more than an academic metaphor?

During the 2009-10 academic year, I went the extra four hundred miles. I adore Winthrop's cozy campus and personal learning atmosphere, but how could I turn down the challenge of adapting to a dramatically different student life environment at another university in the U.S.? Out of almost two hundred National Student Exchange destination options, I chose the University of Kentucky for its excellence in athletics and vast course offerings, including Arabic classes.

I fell in love with UK. Thrilled by the prospect of watching Southeastern Conference teams, I attended every home football and basketball game I could. Watching the likes of All-SEC wide receiver Randall Cobb and All-American hoopsters John Wall and DeMarcus Cousins, how could I not become a Wildcats fan?

But life at UK involved more than sports. I adopted an English conversational partner from Turkey, served



Above: Tim overlooking Egypt from the top of Mount Sinai.

as vice president of the Arabic Club, and worked as a columnist and copy editor for the student newspaper, *The Kentucky Kernel*. Off campus, I hiked renowned Red River Gorge, sampled Skyline Chili, and wagered on Kentucky's thoroughbreds at Keeneland race track. And how could I ever forget the fantastic friends I made at UK?

After departing the Bluegrass State, my adventures transitioned to Egypt. As a political science and economics double-major wishing to specialize in Middle Eastern foreign affairs, I went the extra six thousand miles to study abroad at the American University in Cairo.

During the fall 2010 semester, I immensely enjoyed engaging the local culture and traveling extensively. I lived with an Egyptian, haggled with Cairo's notorious cab drivers in Arabic, and ate Egypt's staple dish of rice and noodles, *koshary*, almost every day. I attended a soccer match at Cairo Stadium, climbed a minaret at a ninth-century mosque, and from Cairo Tower, heard countless calls to prayer resounding simultaneously at sunset during Ramadan. I have crawled through Khufu's Great Pyramid at Giza, cruised the Nile River from Aswan to Luxor, watched the sunrise from Mt. Si-

nai's summit, snorkeled in the Red Sea, floated in the Dead Sea, explored Petra, ventured to Jerusalem's ancient sites, and stepped into the Sea of Galilee.

Kentucky and Egypt may not be typical study abroad destinations, but as an honors student why would I ever settle for the ordinary?



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**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
WINTHROP UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM**

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Thank you, Griffin!

The photography credit for “WUHA! A Semester in Pictures” for this edition of The Sage Page goes to Griffin Glaze, a sophomore graphic design major from Clemson, S.C. Griffin, your photos are beautiful! Thank you so much for being our unofficial historian!



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