



Fall 2015

## The Sage Page Fall 2015

Winthrop University Honors Association

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# The Sage Page

Fall 2015

## From the Honors Program Director

### Recent Developments in the Honors Program

- Incoming Freshmen
- Service Learning Updates
- WUHA! Activities

Dear Honors Students, Alumni, Faculty and Friends,

Welcome to our seventh year of publication of our student-produced Honors Program newsletter, The Sage Page.

In this edition, the students have provided you with interesting articles on their activities, such as service learning opportunities and our mentoring program, Bigs and Littles. You will also find articles by an Honors Program alumna, a current senior, and a freshman, further demonstrating the impact of our program. In addition, there is an

insightful article by Rachel Burns about her study abroad semester to England.

Something I'd like to particularly emphasize here is how appreciative I am of the hard work done by the students of the Winthrop University Honors Association (WUHA!), the student organization of the Honors Program. They have been invaluable to the success of our honors community. As always I want to thank each student who contributed to this edition, especially Tamsyn Brasier, the newsletter editor. I want to encourage hon-

ors alumni to keep us updated on what you've been doing so that we may report it in our next edition. Enjoy!



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

### Inside this issue:

WUHA! Around Campus	2
What Honors Has Done For Me	2
Congratulations May 2015 Graduates!	3
What Honors Continues to Do For Me	4
Why I Joined Honors	4
Bigs and Littles	5
Honors Spotlight	6
Service Learning Project Update	6
Study Abroad	7
Class of 2019 and Transfers	8

## Meet the 2015-16 WUHA! Officers



*The WUHA! Officers (from left): Zach Masters, Vice President; Christine Davenport, Service Learning Coordinator; Emily Rounds, Service Learning Coordinator; Katie Smith, Treasurer; Rachel Burns, President; Tamsyn Brasier, Sage Page Editor; Shelby Peay, Secretary*

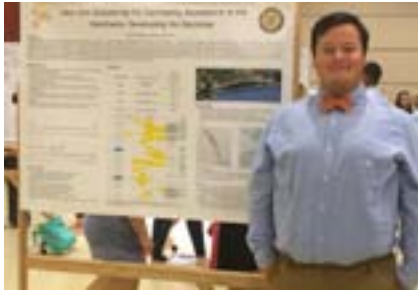
## WUHA! Around Campus

A common concern of incoming honors students is that they won't have time to get involved in other activities outside of the Honors Program. It is an understandable concern—academics can be time-consuming. But the Honors Program is focused on creating a well-rounded college student as well. Honors students can be found in almost every facet of life on campus. They work in the Residence Life and Career and Civic Engagement offices. They are tutors in the Writing Center and the Academic Success Center. They are peer mentors, Ambassadors, Greeks, and student leaders. Take a look at what some of our honors students are up to around campus!



### Sara Tennant

Sara is a senior studying psychology and religion. She is president of Psi Chi (the psychology honors society) and the Psychology Club. In addition, she was a resident assistant for two years (named the RA of the Year in 2015) and a student representative to the Presidential Search Committee. Last year, she joined Gamma Beta Phi, where she leads a project to raise awareness about human trafficking.



### Alex Corder

Alex is in his junior year at Winthrop, and he is majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry. In addition to working as a veterinary assistant, Alex works as an office host in a residence hall on campus and as a teaching assistant in the biology lab. He is a brother of Pi Kappa Phi. He hopes to go on to graduate school and become a veterinarian.



### Kat Yoffie

Kat is a sophomore English and political science double major. Although she has only been at Winthrop for a year, she is already a sister of Chi Omega Fraternity, and the president of the Winthrop University College Republicans.

## What Honors Has Done For Me

### *Tamsyn Brasier*

As a high school senior, I had no intention of joining the Winthrop University Honors Program or such program at any other university. When I received the letter from Dr. Lyon with the invitation to apply, I almost threw it away. At the time, I was mentally exhausted from the honors program at my high school, so the last thing I wanted to do was join an honors program in college. I had been down that road once before, and I wasn't going to do it again. But my dad told me to at least wait until the honors reception at Winthrop Day to make my final decision, and I'm so glad I followed his advice.

Yes, there was more work involved than that of the average college student, but with four years of honors, AP, and community college classes under my belt, it didn't feel like much work at all. In my honors classes, I constantly felt challenged by my professors to think harder and deeper about concepts, rather than just learning what was in the book. I quickly found that, although the professors expected more, they would work harder to help you. The perks the Honors Program offered only added to my enjoyment.

The one perk I didn't think about was the friends and mentors I would gain

through the program. I met my honors "Big" the day I moved to campus, and although she graduated at the end of my freshman year, she is still an amazing mentor to me. I found my best friends among my honors hallmates. I've also met my own honors "Littles," who make me proud every day.

While my college career has expanded beyond it, the Honors Program is still a big part of my college life. It's has opened so many doors for me to be the person I am today. It has challenged me academically and allowed me to meet so many amazing and wonderful people.

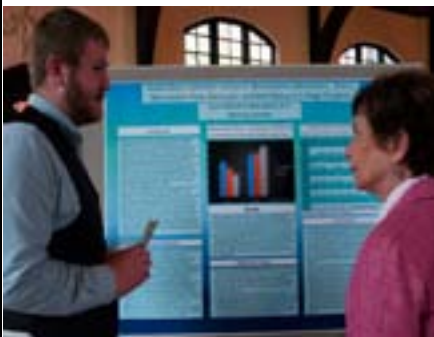
## Congratulations May 2015 Graduates!

The following students graduated with an **Honors Program Degree** at the **May 2015** commencement. Also listed is his or her thesis title. An asterisk indicates the student graduated with an **Honors Program Degree with International Experience**.

### Austin Bischoff

Psychology

*"Associations between Romantic Relationship Satisfaction, Stress, Non-violent Risky Behaviors and Well-Being in College Students"*



### Anna Brenner

Fine Arts

*"The Journey: An Exploration in Self-Portraits"*

### Brandi Marie Geurkink

Political Science

*"Voices within the Movement, or Why the Occupy Movement Failed"*

### Julia Greiner

Athletic Training

*"A Practical Approach to Clinical Application: The Effects of Sports Participation on Neurocognitive Function in NCAA Division I Collegiate Athletes"*



### Ali Jensen

Biology

*"The Effects of Summer Bridge Programs on Academic Performances and Retention in Undergraduate STEM Students and Recommended Model for the Winthrop University Biology Department"*

### Katherine Le

Biology

*"The Construction of Lysophosphatidic Acid Receptor to Study Effects on Axon Guidance in the Chick Visual System"*



### Karenmarie Marley

Fine Arts

*"An Artistic Parody of the National Endowment for the Arts"*

### Justin Moore

Economics

*"Income Tax Expense vs. Cash Taxes Paid: An Empirical Analysis of Faithful Representation"*

### Jordan Steele

Sociology

*"Underreporting of Sexual Assault at Winthrop University: Reasons and Potential Solutions"*

### Trey Stokes \*

Spanish

*"Factors Affecting Second-Dialect Acquisition among English-speaking Undergraduate Spanish Students Studying Abroad"*

### Gabrielle Wolfe

Fine Arts

*"Cacophony of Influence"*



### Elizabeth Yost

Political Science

*"Sustainable Development: Meaning and Methods through an Examination of Energy Poverty in the Global North and South"*

*Pictured: Honors Program seniors presenting their thesis research*

## What Honors Continues to Do For Me

### *Miri Smith*

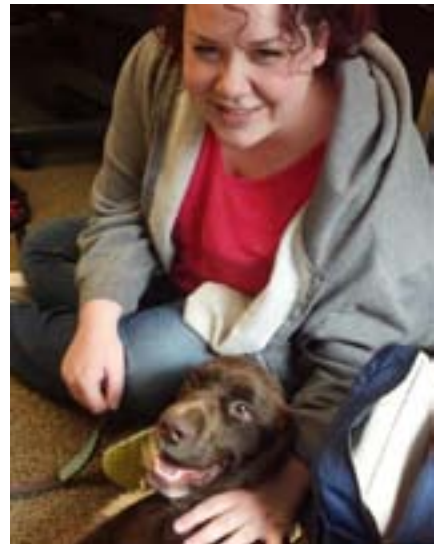
There are ways that the Honors Program helps us all—smaller and more advanced classes, and opportunities for student leadership and service. These were all invaluable parts of my Winthrop experience that continue to aid me, but the biggest way honors helped and continues to help me is not as academic as one might expect. Some would say it's the opposite, in fact. The encouragement and support I received from all sides in the Honors Program helped give me the confidence to pursue my current course of study—an M.F.A. in screen- and television writing. In a few months I'll move to Los Angeles (hopefully) get an internship, and eventually get on staff for a show. At Winthrop I encountered a lot of support for going into academia, but it was my honors thesis committee that gave me the push I needed to try for the career I really want. I wrote a screenplay for my thesis and presented it at the Southern Regional Honors Council Conference. That was my eighth conference presentation, again because

of the encouragement Dr. Lyon, the WUHA officers, and everyone involved in the program gave me from the very beginning. At my first conference I was a sophomore and so nervous my hands were vibrating. My senior year, I presented at Dragon\*Con.

The academic and personal lessons I learned through honors remain important to me. Any writer depends on her experiences to enrich her writing, and I have not only a vast knowledge of Western literature to draw from, but also the diverse array of honors. On the topic of diverse interests, honors helped ensure that I met people outside of my major in ways I probably never would have otherwise. College can be very insular, especially for driven nerds, as many honors students are. WUHA and those many honors courses helped broaden my social and academic horizons immeasurably.

Honors gave me many of the tools (both academic and otherwise) that I use today and the confidence to actually use them. Honors helped me

meet the peers and professors who shaped my undergrad experience. It gave me chances to be a leader and to manage my own projects in a way that has laid the groundwork for my master's program. And, it gave me plenty of lovely memories to be nostalgic over when I need a mental break from my graduate program!



*Above: Miri Smith*

*Honors Program Class of 2013*

## Why I Joined Honors

### *Tanner Slagle*

My name is Tanner Slagle and I am a freshman from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina! To some, being a part of the Honors Program at Winthrop means not having to deal with hall-style bathrooms, in some cases, and having the opportunity to register for classes early. While I consider these luxuries, there are many more intangible benefits that the program has to offer. First and foremost, I wanted to belong to a group of like-minded students

who sought a challenge and the ability to grow as a community while pushing and supporting one another. The supplemental ACAD programs this semester are one unique way that the Honors Program is trying to build relationships among freshmen. In addition to the friendships that I will make, the ability to participate in undergraduate research through the Honors Program is very exciting and will provide opportunities to learn and

explore outside of my typical coursework as an elementary education major. Also, Dr. Lyon is always available to listen and the Honors Center is a quiet place to get work done without having to trek across campus to the library. Overall, I'm excited to get settled into my four years at Winthrop and am so glad that I chose to participate in the Honors Program!

# Bigs and Littles

## Zach Masters

The Honors Bigs and Littles program has always aspired to connect upperclassman students to incoming freshmen in an attempt to foster a sense of community.



The Bigs and Littles Program has been a tradition in WUHA! for many years. This year, the officers decided to update the system for matching Bigs and Littles. They are also planning events to foster a sense of community within honors with emphasis on Bigs and Littles.



With an updated system to pair Bigs and Littles, Zach (VP) and Katie (Treasurer) set out to make the reveal more social, to give everyone in the program a chance to meet

others in WUHA!

During the reveal, Littles asked Bigs questions to determine their codeword and then found the Big with the matching codeword. From the feedback received, it was a resounding success!

A freshman, Tanner Slagle, shared his experience: "The anticipation leading up to the Bigs and Littles reveal was the worst part! As reveal night got closer, I felt like every upperclassman that I passed might have been my Big and that I was the only one in the dark! In the end, I had a great time during the scavenger hunt in the ballroom where I met my awesome Big, Vanessa ... I couldn't have picked a better Big!"



Hearing a Little who's happy with his Big showed how the officers' hard work paid off. A Big, Kaitlyn O'Brien, shared her experience from this year: "Preparing for the Bigs and Littles Reveal was so stressful! I was really excited that my Little was my resident, but having only met her a couple times, I frantically messaged her roommates for help! It was so much fun, though, as I found more

things to connect with her! I am really excited to get to know Lauren more and to be there for her as a friend and resource."



The response to these updates has been positive so far, as Littles connect with their Bigs and Bigs remember their own experiences. The future of the program looks bright and new friendships have formed that might not have otherwise!



*Pictures from the 2015 WUHA! Big/Little Reveal. Congratulations to all of the new Bigs and Littles!*

## Honors Spotlight: Dr. Kathy Lyon

*Kat Yoffie*



*Dr. Lyon & honors grads*

Dr. Kathy Lyon is a woman you may have seen around, but not know much about. She is the Director of the Honors Program and advisor to our beloved WUHA! She also helps organize events that aid us in developing as students and as adults getting ready for the next step of our lives. Be it graduate school or moving into the work

force, she is here to help. She is always available to students with class schedules, advising, free candy and coffee, and even just a smile and a “hello!” WUHA! President Rachel Burns says, “Dr. Lyon is very accepting when she walks into the Honors Center. She has yet to judge when she’s found me sleeping there.” She is constantly working behind the scenes to ensure the honors students have the best experience they can at Winthrop, while learning as much as they can.

But how much do you really know about the person behind honors? Dr. Lyon has been at Winthrop since 1989 and is an associate professor in the psychology department. In 1990, she became the Director of the Clustered Learning Units for Educational Success (C.L.U.E.S) Program that became the Freshman Honors Pro-

gram. In 1997 the Freshman Honors Program and the upperclassman Honors Program merged, and Dr. Lyon became the Director of the Winthrop University Honors Program, which we all know and enjoy today. Over the years, Dr. Lyon has worked relentlessly to turn our Honors Program into the best it can possibly be. She focuses her daily work and even her research into our honors program and honors programs and colleges regionally and nationally, serving on the Board of Directors of National Collegiate Honors Council. Her presence as our Honors Program Director has given every one of us opportunities we may not have had without her. So, stop by her office sometime and say “thanks!” because without her, some of us may not have had the experiences, opportunities, or support that we appreciate and enjoy.

## Service Learning Project Update

*Christine Davenport and Emily Rounds*

With the commencement of a new year, WUHA! began striving to make a difference through community service. Service learning projects give students the opportunity to enhance, not only Winthrop University, but also their Rock Hill community. In order to graduate with an Honors Program degree, students are required to participate in at least one service project, and the WUHA! officers arranged meaningful projects for the members.

WUHA! began the semester by participating in Rolling in Rock Hill, an annual mission designed to improve

the community by painting houses in need. Students volunteering for this organization not only experienced the joy of helping those less fortunate, but also of learning some useful lessons in how to safely accomplish home improvements. Furthermore, WUHA! also raised money by hosting a Spirit Night at Sweet Frog to increase awareness for the American Cancer Society.

Additionally, WUHA! plans to host its second annual Bluegrass Gospel Concert to benefit the American Cancer Society on November 13. All proceeds will go to the Honors Relay

for Life team, which will participate in the spring semester to help fight the battle against cancer. Moreover, to enhance community awareness, WUHA! will participate in the annual Keystone Chocolate Festival to discourage substance abuse.

All of the events we have planned will enable Honors Program students to become more involved with the community, and will provide them with ample opportunity to grow as individuals. Participation in these worthwhile causes is extremely invaluable!

## Honors Abroad: Rachel Goes to England

*Rachel Burns*

Since I returned from my study abroad experience in England last spring, I'm always asked "What was the best part? Do you miss it? How have you changed?" To all three I want to give the asker a long, hard stare because how can I (let alone anyone!) answer those questions? It isn't a matter of finding the time, but finding the words. For the best part of my experience I could talk about the thrill of standing in London's Globe Theater and being equally excited about the play I'm watching and the fact that the actor, who played Geoffrey in *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, is one of the actors. I could talk about all the opportunities I had to travel inside England (Bath, Stonehenge, Brighton, Stratford-Upon-Avon) and outside of it (Poland, the Netherlands, Italy--to name a few). I could talk about the mornings I'd get up early and walk through the royal gardens, or how I started taking tea with caramel Digestives cookies. Every part was the best, even the moments when I



*Above: A photograph of the Globe Theatre, London, taken by Rachel during her trip.*

wanted to be in my home across the ocean more than anything else.

Kingston University is a 20-minute train ride from central London and an hour bus ride to Heathrow Airport, meaning that I have never been closer to so many new experiences in my life. But, really, I didn't need to go anywhere to have an adventure. Living with six other students was often too much adventure for me, as well as having to cook for myself for the first time. Classes in the UK are conducted differently than those in the States, meaning that not only did I have to get used to calling my professors there by their first names, I had more free time than I've ever had as a college student. Because of the free time, I was able to travel around the EU with greater liberty. More free time also allowed me to read extensively, journal, and research opportunities for involvement during the summer. I applied to an archaeological dig in Pompeii and a creative writing program in Thessaloniki, Greece. I got into the program and though the dig didn't work out, I still made it to Pompeii anyway. No one could tell me 'no' so I got to see who I could really be without outside influence. If I failed, I failed on my own, and there is something wonderfully, frighteningly exhilarating about that feeling.

While writing this article I realized that I do have one favorite part. Whenever anyone asks me about my time abroad, I space out a bit as I talk on and on about Greece. Though I only spent three weeks in the country (and this was at the beginning of the summer economic



*Above: Rachel embracing her nerdiness at 221B Baker Street*

crisis) it profoundly changed me and made me realize the type of person I want to become. I made great friends, was welcomed with open arms, and saw some of the most beautiful sights of my trip there. How could I not miss being abroad? I've been lucky enough to have had opportunities to travel when I was younger but never for six months at a time. Those other trips were glimpses, my study abroad experience was an elongated tease! Because of my time in England, I hope to teach abroad before pursuing a master's. In what? Well, hopefully more traveling will open my eyes to what I should be doing. If not, then hey, I got to travel.

To anyone considering studying abroad, I say just go. It is scary, exciting, breathtaking, and anxiety-inducing. But those are the parts of life that change you or show you who you really are, and what better time to get a surer sense of who you are than right now?





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

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www.birdnest.org/wuha

# Welcome, Class of 2019!

Cooper Aiken, Sydney Amodio, Alex Anderson, Zuri Anderson, Katelyn Arledge, MiKayla Bairefoot, Emily Beach, Tabytha Beu, Caitlan Boudreaux, Moran Bowers, Molly Boyle, Emily Brazinski, Alex Bringley, Carson Carroll, Ashley Cooper, Rochelle Couture, Akiera Davis, Megan Digney, Julia Dooley, Emma Dunn, John Eaves, Lukas Ferrell, Emily Filik, Dylan Freligh, Devin Griffin, Drew Griffin, Tyler Griffin, Connor Guest, Baylee Guthrie, Alexia Hall, Matthew Haney, Savannah Hoard, Audrey Hughes, Baylee Hughes, Justin Hull, Elliott Hunter, Jaime Irwin, Lauren Jones, Jennifer Kyber, Lauren Leonard, Cali Lewis, Carmen Little, Connor Lockett, Mary McBryde, Morgan McConnell, Bobby McCree, Catherine Metts, Matea Milojkovic, Cameryn Mitchell, Chandani Mitchell, Riley Moody, Joshua Mugabe, Samantha Murdaugh, Matthew O'Malley, Devon Oepen, Kayla Owens, John Stuart Pike, Ariel Prince, Taylor Proctor, Lucia Rodriguez, Christina Sadak, Hannah Salter, Joshua Sauer, Tanner Slagle, Jacob Smith, Kali Smith, Allison Snipes, Mary Spearman, Jessica Stevens, Jonathan Stover, Sarah Survance, Cassidy Tallman, Lauren Travis, John Upton, Anneke van Eldik, Augustine Vinson, Samuel Walton, Eleanor Weldie, Noah Wright

## Welcome, Honors Transfers!

Mary Britton, Derron Davis, Tyler Diggs, Jordan Fortune, Victoria Leroy, Carra Lyons, Amerika McDaniel, Caroline McDonald, Madison Spillane, Grace Wilkerson

### Stay Connected!

Please help us stay in touch with you!

Submit this form online with your news and updates at

[www.birdnest.org/wuha/](http://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.

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