Fall 2009

The Sage Page Fall 2009

Winthrop University Honors Association

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Recent Developments in the Honors Program!

- The graduates in December 2008 were the first to wear cords at Undergraduate Commencement.
- Upperclassmen honors housing has been moved to the fourth floor of the Courtyard.
- Honors students have been granted the privilege of early course registration.
- Lauren Bohn was the first Winthrop student to serve on the Southern Regional Honors Council Executive Committee as a student representative.
- Rachel Heidenberg has been elected as an SRHC Executive Committee student representative for the current year.

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From the Honors Program Director

Dear Honors Students, Alumni and Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Winthrop University’s inaugural edition of “The Sage Page.” This entirely student-produced newsletter provides insight into the accomplishments of these exceptional students and their pursuits. They have been active this year with service learning projects, study abroad opportunities and conference participation. I think you’ll agree Winthrop Honors Program students are engaged learners, dedicated leaders and responsible world citizens.

I believe each student who contributed to this edition deserves praise, but I want to especially thank Lauren Bohn, class of 2009, who created “The Sage Page” from scratch. Without her motivation, diligence, vision and sheer hard work this would not have been possible. All of us thank you, Lauren.

I would also like to ask each of you to stay connected to us because your contributions make our newsletter newsworthy. You may do so by filling out the form on the back of this publication and mailing it to us or e-mailing us at wuha@winthrop.edu. We look forward to hearing from you, and we promise an exciting second edition of “The Sage Page.”

Again, welcome. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

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

WUHA! WU ...what?

The Winthrop University Honors Association, affectionately referred to as WUHA!, serves to unify the students of the Honors Program in both academia and community. WUHA! hosts meetings to inform honors students on how to graduate with an Honors Degree and to take advantage of opportunities such as studying abroad, which earns the student an Honors Program Degree with International Experience and the Washington Semester Program. Additionally, WUHA! is active in creating social events for honors students, such as pot lucks, parties, and outings and is very earnest in sponsoring service-learning projects on Winthrop’s campus and in the surrounding Rock Hill area. WUHA! seeks to promote awareness of the Honors Program on campus and works to further strengthen its role within the Winthrop University student population and larger community.

Allison Howard
The Winthrop University Honors Association has made some major strides over the past year regarding service learning. In Fall ’08, we introduced a new position among the WUHA Officers, Service Learning Coordinator. Shortly thereafter, WUHA! officers began laying the groundwork for service activities for the coming year. The majority of the fall semester was spent outlining future goals and researching potential projects. We chose two ongoing projects: Kiva and Relay for Life. Our first large scale service activity was a campus-wide book drive. We collected books at the end of the semester that students were no longer using and sold them online in order to raise money for both projects.

Kiva is an online microfinance organization which enables users to loan money to third world entrepreneurs. These loans are then repaid, free of interest. WUHA! was excited to take on this project because we can donate to more entrepreneurs each semester, since the money we raise is paid back.

Relay for Life is an event at Winthrop every spring sponsored by the American Cancer Society to help fund cancer research. This year, for the first time, WUHA! created a team—the WUHA! Smarties—of eleven members that raised money throughout the spring semester. We raised over $1,400 for the ACS, mostly through fundraising events such as selling World’s Finest Chocolates on campus and through our first annual Student vs. Faculty Trivia Night. For Trivia Night, various local businesses donated prizes to the winning teams of each round and to the grand prize winners. We are proud to report a great turnout; everyone who attended had an exciting night. In fact, we went into three tiebreakers to declare an overall winner between the highest scoring student and faculty teams! Finally, the students won to a single toss up question. We couldn’t have been happier with Trivia Night’s turnout.

Southern Regional Honors Conference ...aka Geek Week!

This March, Winthrop honors students traveled to St. Petersburg, Fla., to present their research at the 37th Annual Southern Regional Honors Council Conference. Seniors Linda Atiase, Lauren Bohn, Jeremy Klutch, Chris Osborne, Candace Porter, Amy Rundio, Evan Russo, and Nicole Thompson presented their Honors Theses during panel presentations. Seniors Abby Pitchford, and Chelli Lowe presented their Honors Theses during poster presentations. Traditionally, this conference is attended only by seniors, but this year, three juniors: Tim Carpenter, Rachel Heidenberg, and Laura Nelson also presented their Honors Theses. Additionally, Dylan Phillips presented student research and Katie Parrott attended the conference.

The theme of this year’s conference was “Global Solutions Through Honors.” The conference also included a student pool party, Gala at the Salvador Dali Museum of Art, and historic tours of St. Petersburg.

During the Conference, Rachel Heidenberg was elected as a Student Representative to the Executive Committee of the Southern Regional Honors Council and will attend the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Washington, D.C. this fall. Lauren Bohn held this position during 2008-09.

Students enjoyed interacting with honors students from other Southeastern honors programs and colleges, exchanged ideas and research and enjoyed the warm Florida weather.
The following students graduated with Honors Degrees at the December 2008 commencement. An asterisk (*) denotes students with International Experience. Also listed are areas of study and thesis title.

Hailey Davis  
Political Science  
*The Process of Resolution in Northern Uganda: Demand Justice or Reconcile the Rifts with the LRA?

David Fichter *  
Theatre Performance  
The Mass Audience in the Early 20th Century Theatre  
*England (2007)

Joshua Jones  
Mathematics  
Execution Strategies for the Solution of Integer Programs on Distributed Memory Systems

The following students graduated with Honors Degrees at the May 2009 commencement. An asterisk (*) denotes students with International Experience. Also listed are areas of study and thesis title.

Linda Afiaye  
Political Science  
The Effects of International Financial Institutions on Africa’s Political Economy

Christopher Bennett  
Biology  
3D Cardiac Tissue Cultures as an in vitro Model of Myocardial Infarction

Lauren Bohn*  
Political Science, Sociology  
US Foreign Aid: Directing the Focus from US Foreign Interest to Sustainable Development  
*Australia (2007)

Kayleigh Fort  
Education  
Survey of Rock Hill Area After-School Programs

Chelli Lowe  
Psychology  
Relationship Between College Students’ Parent/Peer Interactions and Health Behaviors

Chris Osborne  
Psychology  
Effects of Artistic Training on Worldview

Abigail Pitchford*  
Biology  
Potential Involvement of HGMA Proteins in the Molecular Pathways Leading to Colon Cancer  

Candace Porter  
Political Science  

Amy Rundio  
Sports Management  
Risk Management of Exertional Heat Illnesses in Competitive Running Programs

Evan Russo  
Business Administration, Entrepreneurship  
Evaluation of Best Practices for Student Emergency Preparedness

Welcome to Winthrop’s Honors Program, Class of 2013!

Judson Abraham, Bryce Benning, Chelsea Brennan, Jacklyn Cika, Makenzie Davenport, Hope Demer, Nicole Drown, Joshua Dunn, Dane Flinchum, Griffen Glaze, Rebecca Guidera, Nichole Haberkorn, Courtney Haggert, Margaret Hyatt, Anna Johnson, Drew Kellis, Kaitlin Lieck, Katharine Lindberg, Kylie Long, Caitlin Manning, Michelle McMurray, William Meier, Allison Minsk, Enrique Miranda, Erin Mitchell, Nicole Mooberry, Matthew Neal, Andrew Niswander, May Okey, Joshua Owens, Emily Poston, Brice Ratchford, Emi Reeves, Emma Lee Ridgeway, Breanna Robinson, Leslie Robinson, Aubrie Salzman, Nicholas Scarborough, Paige Scaes, Sarah Scherini, Samantha Singel, Mirielle Smith, Iris Strzyzewski, Travis Whisenant, Samuel Whitley, Evan Wofford, and Katherine Zanowski

At long last our WUHA! Web site is up and running! Upon visiting www.birdnest.org/wuha, you will find information about our organization, details on upcoming events around campus and forums on which to chat, ask questions, and commiserate. WUHA! thanks Brandon Clopton for designing such an awesome—not to mention very functional—Web site!
Congratulations Dr. Disney!

Allison Howard

Winthrop University is proud to announce another faculty publication. This past fall, Temple University Press released *Women's Activism and Feminist Agency in Mozambique and Nicaragua* by Associate Professor of Political Science Jennifer Disney, Ph.D. Disney’s award-winning dissertation explores the struggles and achievements of women’s revolutionary and post-revolutionary activities in Mozambique and Nicaragua. Examining the transformation that took place from the political revolution, Disney focuses on how the women, mobilized for the revolution, began to think differently about their role in society and organize themselves separately from their male-led parties. Disney examines various multilayered issues: are the interests of women freedom fighters and feminists the same? What is it like for those who experience multiple oppressions at once (i.e. female, race, third world)? What do third world women add to the global concept of feminism?

These are the questions that students explored in fall 2006 when Disney taught “Women in Mozambique and Nicaragua” as an Honors Symposium course. Lauren Bohn, class of 2009, took this course as a sophomore and describes it as one of the more memorable classes she has taken at Winthrop. “Not only was it exciting to work with Dr. Disney in the midst of her publishing process,” says Bohn, “but I also found the topic incredibly interesting. We don’t often hear about women taking on such prominent roles in revolutionary militancy, then to see how these positions transformed the women’s ideas about their gender relations in society was fascinating. Third-world feminists offer such a unique voice to women’s rights.”

Dr. Disney even acknowledged the class in the opening of her book: “I had the unique opportunity to teach my book manuscript as an undergraduate honors symposium, in which the students in the course provided critical feedback to each chapter and to the book as a whole. The final version of this book has been made dramatically better as a result of the comments I received from Christina Williams, Kristen Thomas, Brooke Rash, Nikia Cummings, Lauren Bohn, and Meredith Besecker.”

Congratulations, Dr. Disney! Thank you for sharing your work with our honors students.
With International Experience

Katie Parrott

Honors students have the option of earning an Honors Degree with International Experience by participating in at least one of the many study abroad programs offered at Winthrop. Katie Parrott highlights one student’s experience in Florence, Italy.

Aileen Alon dreamed of living in Italy for 10 years before she finally got her chance. This past December, Alon, a 20-year-old junior jewelry/metals major at Winthrop University, returned home to Columbia, S.C. after living in Italy for four months. She lived in the center of Florence, studying photography, jewelry making, the history of jewels, and Italian at the Scuola Lorenzo de Medici.

While abroad, she was able to travel across Europe. She repelled down waterfalls in Switzerland, jumped off cliffs in Greece, laid out by the beach in Sardinia, visited the museums in London, and stood beneath the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Of all the cities Alon visited, her favorite was Paris: “I felt like I was in an impressionist painting the entire time,” she said.

While living in Italy, Alon wrote about her experiences in a blog: www.aileenineurope.wordpress.com. In it, she wrote, “In addition to my ‘artistic awakenings’ and whatnot, I can already tell that I’m changing, or at least growing as a person. I have a better sense of myself, who I am, what I want, why I’m here. I feel more comfortable in my own skin, like I’m in my own element, and I feel comfortable here in Firenze… I love it.”

Now she has returned home, Alon notices the differences between each country: “The pace here is much faster, and I miss the slow paced lifestyle where you could enjoy life more,” she said.

When asked what she would tell students considering going abroad, she said “Just DO IT! Get out of this bubble and go experience something! There’s more to life than just what’s here.”

Fall 2009 Calendar & Events

We have many exciting events planned for the upcoming semester, including:

- Annual Honors Freshman Pizza Party
- Annual Welcome Week Dessert Party
- Bigs and Littles Reveal (WUHA!’s mentorship program)
- Honors Requirements Meeting
- Service Learning Project
- 3rd Semi-Annual Book Drive
- Study Nights
- T-shirt Decorating Party
- 2nd Edition of the Sage Page

Honorable Mentions

Chris Bennett ’09 has been accepted to Duke University’s Ph.D. program for cell and molecular biology.

Amy Rundio ’09 has been accepted to pursue her master’s degree in sport management at the University of Texas in Austin.

Congratulations to the following students who graduated as Book and Key Scholars: Linda Ataise, Lauren Bohn, Chelli Lowe, Abby Pitchford.

Hailey Davis ’08 recently wed Ted James. The two are headed to Charleston where Ted will start medical school at MUSC. Hailey is applying to MUSC’s Health Administration Program. Good Luck Hailey!

This summer, Chris Bennett ’09 is interning with the Duke University Department of Molecular Genetics/Microbiology.

Chelli Lowe ’09 will begin work toward a master’s degree in social psychology at Ball State this fall.

Senior Nicole Thompson is engaged. She plans to marry Colin Pond in January, following her graduation in December.

Abby Pitchford ’09 has been invited to join the Kim Robards Dance Company in Denver, Colo., this fall.
Stay Connected!

Please help us stay in touch with you! Send this form with your news and updates to:

Winthrop University, Honors Program, 7A Bancroft Annex, Rock Hill SC 29733.

We enjoy hearing from our graduates and friends!

Name________________________________________
Address_______________________________________
City / State / Zip______________________________
Degree Year_________________________________
Spouse’s Name_______________________________
If WU alum, spouse’s degree info
____________________________________________
Phone (Home)_________________________________
Employer / Job Title__________________________
E-mail________________________________________

Please share your recent news and accomplishments with us.