Spring 2010

The Sage Page Spring 2010

Winthrop University Honors Association

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Dear Honors Program Students, Alumni and Friends,

Welcome to the second issue of “The Sage Page,” the student-produced Winthrop University Honors Program newsletter. In this publication you can see that the honors students have been very active this semester with civic engagement, study abroad, conference presentations, publications and social activities. I am particularly proud of the contributions of the Winthrop University Honors Association (WUHA!) to Kiva and the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen.

I want to thank each student who contributed to this edition, particularly Rachel Heidenberg, WUHA! president and Allison Howard, the newsletter editor. I also want to thank Honors Program alumni who’ve kept us updated on their interests and careers. I ask that each of you stay in touch with us by filling out the form on the back of this publication and mailing it to us. We look forward to hearing from you, and we guarantee an exciting next edition of “The Sage Page.”

From the Honors Program Director

In spring of 1960, then Winthrop College President Charles Davis appointed an honors council to oversee the creation of an Honors Program. Invitations were extended to one hundred of the entering students that fall semester. From the beginning our program was a leader in honors as one of the first honors programs in the country and as a founding member of the Southern Regional Honors Council, now in its 38th year, and the National Collegiate Honors Council, now in its 45th year. In the 1980s, there were two honors programs at Winthrop, one for upperclassmen and another for freshmen. Under President Anthony Di Giorgio, the freshmen and upperclassmen programs were merged in 1997, and today the Honors Program offers small advanced classes; perks such as priority registration, commencement regalia, honors housing, and most importantly, a sense of community. Dr. Lyon, Honors Program Director, feels one impact of the program on honors students is that “it gives them a true sense of accomplishment when they take the risks and complete the challenges of an honors education.”

Honors Program 50th Anniversary

Dr. Kathy Lyon
Winthrop University
Honors Program Director
Service Learning Update: Helping the Hungry
Elise Comber, WUHA!’s Service Learning Coordinator

On two crisp Saturdays in November, WUHA! students gathered outside the Earthfare on Cherry Road to collect Thanksgiving food items and donations for the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen. The students who volunteered to collect and transport the contributions partially fulfilled their service learning requirement for the honors degree. WUHA!’s goal was to assist the soup kitchen during the holiday season and collect as many donations as possible. The outcome of the food drive was unpredictable, but thanks to the generosity of Earthfare shoppers and dedication of our honors students, WUHA! delivered five large boxes of food and $230 to the soup kitchen. The soup kitchen, located in Bannon Hall of St. Mary’s Catholic Church on Crawford Road, serves lunch to approximately one hundred people six days a week. Ms. Bev Carroll, director of the soup kitchen, was thrilled to receive the donations. After the honors students dropped off the food, she shared, “When our funds and supplies get low, it is donations like this that keep us going.” Thank you to all of our helpers and to all of those who donated!

Why I Teach Honors . . .
If I may begin with a pun, I am honored to teach honors courses. I have taught honors sections of the American literature survey course, ENGL 211, as well as honors sections of our critical thinking course, CRTW 201. What a privilege it is to have a course that gathers the very best of Winthrop’s students: they accept the challenges that I pose for them, and they challenge me to take the courses to a deeper level. I often leave class feeling that I have been the one to learn the most, given the amount my excellent students teach me. In other sections of my courses, such top-notch students are spread through the classes like leavening, but the concentration of them in an honors course certainly makes for a turbo-charged learning environment. I am glad Winthrop has an honors program, for the experience it provides to our best and most motivated students, but also for the experience afforded the faculty, who are themselves recharged by their encounters with the cream of the crop.

- Dr. John Bird
Professor of English

Why I’m An Honors Program Student . . .

“I decided to become an honors student at Winthrop for quite a few reasons. First, I have always been in honors or AP classes so I am used to the caliber of work that is expected in an honors program. The perks of being in a program such as this are also very desirable; for example, priority registration is a great help. Finally, I thought it would be a good idea to start college connected to a group of people who have similar desires and traits as I do. It has turned out to be a very good decision to join. Not only have I done well in my academic classes, I have also made many friends in this new environment.”

-Aileen Alon, Senior

“I came upon the honors program looking for a way to get more out of my college experience. In the end, I found myself very connected to the university, presenting research with great friends, and a rewarding thesis project under my belt.”

-Evan Russo, Honors Program Alumnus
KIVA Update
Tim Carpenter, WUHA!’s Treasurer

Last semester WUHA! chose to work with Kiva, an organization which sponsors loans for third world entrepreneurs. Recently, we made our first set of donations to four well-deserving individuals. Rosie, of Surallah, South Cotabato, is a 33-year-old farmer who needs to raise money to buy fertilizers and other farm inputs. Alhassan, 31, runs a business in the local community market in the Accra region of Ghana selling oranges and smoked fish. He needs a loan to increase his output to give his children a quality education. Thoeun Sok, 41, a grocer in Takeo province, Cambodia, needs a loan to keep up with increasing produce costs. Lastly, Carmen Victoriano, 55, operates a retail store in Cauayan City, Philippines, and needs a loan to increase her product line. They are the first of many to receive donations from WUHA!, as we expect to increase the number of our donations each semester.

Congratulations!

The following student graduated with an Honors Program Degree at the December 2009 commencement. Also listed are areas of study and thesis title.

Lauren Nicole Thompson

- Elementary Education
- Special Education, concentration in Emotional Behavior Disability
- Thesis Title: Effective Strategies to Teach Mathematics to Students with Autism Spectrum

Bigs and Littles

The Bigs and Littles Program is designed to be a mentorship between honors freshmen and upperclassmen. We try to find Bigs and Littles within the same major so that Bigs can tell their Littles about experiences with certain classes and other things relating to the major. This year’s Bigs and Littles Program started off with a bang! Thirty-one WUHA! students joined together at the Winthrop Shack for food and fun during our Bigs and Littles Reveal. The evening started outside, as each Little followed a string maze around the yard and up a set of stairs to his or her anxiously waiting Big. As she was waiting for her Little to climb the stairs, Elise Comber, a sophomore psychology major from Doylestown, Penn., said, “I was impressed by the Littles’ enthusiasm to get involved in the Honors Program and to connect with their Bigs.” After the reveal, everyone entered the main dining room of the Shack to find gift bags from each Big to his or her Little and a smorgasbord of casseroles and desserts. A fun evening with good food and conversation was had by all. This event was the beginning of many for the Bigs and Littles Program for the 2009-10 academic year.

WUHA! T-Shirt Design

WUHA! would like to extend special thanks to Chris Sellinger, for designing this year’s t-shirt. Chris graduated from Winthrop in December 2009 and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in graphic design. Thanks, Chris! Also, thank you to Double B Graphix for printing our t-shirts.
Above: Rachel Heidenberg, Katie Parrott and Allison Howard represented WUHA! at the Clubs and Organizations Fair on Sept. 8, 2009.

Above: WUHA! members collected cans and donations for the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen outside Earthfare on Nov. 14 and 21. The picture above is only a small percentage of the cans we collected.

Above: Griffin Glaze and Meagan Hogarth at the Bigs and Littles Reveal at the Shack on Sept. 27, 2009.

Right: Morgan Overcash, Allison Howard, Meagan Hogarth and Maria Schmelzer wait for their Littles to arrive at the Bigs and Littles Reveal.

Right: Tim Carpenter’s pumpkin wasn’t feeling well at the Pumpkin Carving event at the Shack on Oct. 26, 2009.
Left: The Littles are coming! Samantha Smigel, Danielle Robinson, Katharine Lindberg, Griffin Glaze and Judson Abraham follow their strings to find their Bigs during the Bigs and Littles Reveal.

Right: Katie Parrott, Willie Meier and Griffin Glaze learn to tie pirate knots at the Pirate Exhibit at Discovery Place Museum in Charlotte, N.C., Nov. 22.

Bottom: WUHA! jack-o-laterns, carved by Elise Comber, Kenzie Davenport, Travis Whisenant, Katie Parrott, Rachel Heidenberg, Tim Carpenter, Breanna Robinson, Justin Campbell, Samantha Smigel, Kathryn Gregory and Willie Meier

Left:

Top Row: Andrew Niswander, Jessica Creel, Erin Mitchell, Meagan Hogarth, Rachel Heidenberg, Katie Parrott and Daniel Selvey

Bottom Row: Miri Smith, Willie Meier, Michelle McMurray and Griffin Glaze pose for a group shot at Discovery Place.

Below: Rachel Heidenberg and Dr. Lyon at the NCHC Conference in Washington, D.C. in October.
**Honorable Mentions**

Chris Bennett, ’09, discovered a new disease gene while completing his internship with the Molecular Genetics and Microbiology program at Duke University during summer 2009. He is currently working in a metal biology lab in pharmacology.

Tim Carpenter, senior finance major, now works at Ameriprise Financial in Charlotte, N.C. as a result of his summer 2009 internship.

Allison Howard, sophomore English major, will be studying abroad in Dublin, Ireland, during the spring 2010 semester.

Erin Long, ’05, recently graduated with a Master of Arts degree in history from University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She now works as the Coordinator of Residence Life and Summer Programs at Presbyterian College.

Chris Howle, ’96, is currently teaching for the Rock Hill School District and part time at Winthrop.

Senior English major, Katherine Parrott’s, poem “Knitting Lessons” was recently published in The Sanctuary, the Southern Regional Honors Council’s literary journal.

Amy Schober, junior, and Rachel Heidenberg, senior, were elected to Homecoming Court.

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**Poverty and Science Symposia**

Here at Winthrop, all honors students are required to take a one credit-hour honors symposium as a requirement for their Honors Program degrees. As a chemistry major and honors student, I was very excited to participate in one of the latest symposium classes, HONR202H: Science in American Society. While the course met for an intense but brief five weeks, I found myself amazed by the perspective I gained highlighting the interplay between science and society, both past and present. My own project on the pharmaceutical industry and medicine was fun and challenging as I realized how my own work in chemistry could both enhance disease treatment while also changing the dynamics of the doctor-patient relationship. I know that I have gained great insight into how science and the world interact and would highly recommend these symposium classes to all who are interested.

- Zachary Curry

Honors symposia may be taught by any faculty member in any subject the professor wants to explore, or it may be something he or she already specializes in. Dr. Kim Porter taught my honors symposium, HONR201H: The Human Face of Poverty, in the fall of 2009. For the class, we read Nickel & Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich. The class itself was incredibly valuable because it cleared up many misconceptions of poverty. After we dispelled some false notions we had previously held, we discussed current issues and challenges in the welfare system. Lastly, we strove to integrate our knowledge of the truth about poverty with our thoughts about what could change. Above all, we learned how to inspire such change.

- Allison Howard

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**Honors Housing**

I asked Beth Glenn, a sophomore Psychology major as well as a current WUHA! member and Honors Program student, about her experiences in the newly established honors housing on the fourth floor of the Courtyard at Winthrop. She was delighted that she was around people she already knew from WUHA! events during her freshman year, and when she was not able to make a WUHA! meeting, she was able to ask her roommates and fellow residents down her hall about the content of the meeting. Glenn cites the biggest benefit of living in the Courtyard as “having your own room and being able to set your own hours according to your schedule, without disturbing your roommate.” Combined with having your own kitchen and living room, it makes for “a much more independent experience than living in other residence halls.” Glenn says that she would recommend honors housing to honors upperclassmen because of the “sense of community that comes from living with other honors students.” Also, given an honors students’ appreciation for studying, Glenn says that she never has any problems with asking her roommates to keep their volume down!

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**National Collegiate Honors Council**

Rachel Heidenberg, WUHA!’s President

On Oct. 28, 2009 I traveled to Washington D.C. for the 44th National Collegiate Honors Council Conference. During the conference I attended the Southern Regional Honors Council Committee meetings to fulfill my obligations as Student Representative to the Executive Committee. I looked forward to serving in the same capacity at the SRHC conference in Greenville in March. NCHC’s theme this year was “Honors in the Global City.” True to its theme, I was able to explore the city with other honors students from various universities through a program called “City as Text,” where students gain an understanding of how residents of different districts and neighborhoods in the conference city live and work. Additionally, I attended seminars to adapt “City as Text” to “Campus as Text” and effective strategies for peer mentoring honors students.
With International Experience  Kevin Ryan

The University of Otago is nestled into a coastal city dominated by student life and surrounded by adventure. In addition to the rolling green hills spotted with millions of sheep, New Zealand’s South Island boasts steep mountain ranges, pristine lakes, and roaring rivers surrounded by beaches and rocky coastline. What more could an outdoor enthusiast want while studying abroad?

In my spare time, I tramped through the hills looking for new birds or biked to the beach. On longer school holidays, I teamed up with other international students on cross country road trips to visit National Parks with glaciers and caves. With almost ten times as many sheep as people, the sparsely populated countryside is safe and tourist friendly – perfect for curious travelers.

The University of Otago also provided plenty of academic opportunities and challenges. One course that I was particularly excited about was Freshwater Ecology – a course not specifically offered at Winthrop. With a student population three times more than Winthrop’s, the atmosphere in class was much different. To start, classes averaged around two hundred students and most of the grade was determined on a final exam or essay.

Although I never mastered speaking with a Kiwi accent, I became accustomed to eating at local Fish & Chip shops and shouting at rugby matches. Other international students from North America, Europe, Australia, and the South Pacific kept everyday conversations full of diverse views and opinions on current events. Indeed, the United States was the topic of many discussions.

While I may have gone to New Zealand initially for adventure in the outdoors, I came away with new friendships and fresh perspectives. I recommend a study abroad experience to every Winthrop student. Honors students may be especially rewarded by the exposure to different academic philosophies and course offerings. If you’re interested in getting the most out of your Winthrop experience, or even if just looking for a little adventure, studying abroad is the answer. There may never be a better time than right now, so go for it!

See you abroad,
Kevin

Above: Kevin at the top of Mount Cargill with the city of Dunedin and Otago University in the background in New Zealand

Honorable Mentions

Daheia Barr-Anderson, 98, has recently been awarded two grants to examine physical activity and diet behaviors in adolescent girls. She is currently employed as a professor in the School of Kinesiology at the University of Minnesota.

Amy Schober, junior political science major, will be studying abroad in South Africa during the spring 2010 semester.

Courtney Littlejohn, junior sport management major, was named Student of the Month in the sport management department in September 2009.

Ashton Chapman, junior middle level education major, will be getting married on June 12, 2010. He will move to Philadelphia, Penn. with his wife, where she will be attending Temple University for podiatry school. Ashton will complete his degree at Temple University and plans to return to South Carolina after his graduation to teach middle school science.

Dylan Phillips, senior English major, is attending the National Conference for Undergraduate Research at the University of Montana to present his paper on William Faulkner.

Sarah MacDonald, junior integrated marketing communication, will be studying abroad in Dublin, Ireland in spring 2010.

Spring 2010 Plans

Meagan Hogarth, WUHA!’s Secretary

- Trivia Night
- Study Nights
- Relay for Life
- Nerds Ball
- Book Drive
- Notetakers
- Whitewater Rafting Trip
- Honors Society Meeting
- Honors Spirit Days
- Internship Information Meeting
- Cookout at the Lake
- Honors Thesis Meeting
- Hiking at Crowder’s Mountain
Where are our Honors Freshmen From?

Allison Howard, Newsletter Editor

Between 10-30 miles –
- Fort Mill, S.C. (4 students)
- Tega Cay, S.C. (1 student)
- Clover, S.C. (1 student)
- Lancaster, S.C. (1 student)

Between 50-75 miles –
- Blythewood, S.C. (1 student)
- Irmo, S.C. (1 student)
- Duncan, S.C. (1 student)
- Columbia, S.C. (1 student)

Between 100-200 miles –
- Greensboro, N.C. (1 student)
- Taylors, S.C. (1 student)
- Greenwood, S.C. (1 student)
- Greenville, S.C. (1 student)
- Greer, S.C. (2 students)
- Simpsonville, S.C. (3 students)
- Lexington, S.C. (2 students)
- Aiken, S.C. (3 students)
- Liberty, S.C. (1 student)

Between 250-500 miles –
- Norcross, Ga. (1 student)
- Alpharetta, Ga. (1 student)
- Chattanooga, Tenn. (1 student)
- Inverness, Fla. (1 student)
- Louisville, Ky. (1 student)

Between 650-1,500 miles –
- Stockton, N.J. (1 student)
- Swiftwater, Penn. (1 student)
- Norfolk, Neb. (1 student)

Stay Connected!

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

Honors Program, 7A Bancroft Annex, Winthrop University, 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:
______________________________________
Home Phone: __________________________
Employer / Job Title: ____________________

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