Fall 2016

The Sage Page Fall 2016

Winthrop University Honors Association

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WELCOME HONORS PROGRAM CLASS OF 2020

Kathy Lyon, Ph.D.
Honors Program Director

Dear Honors Students, Alumni, Faculty and Friends,

Welcome to the eighth year of publication of our student-produced Honors Program newsletter, The Sage Page. If you follow our newsletter regularly, you’ll notice we have a new look thanks to our newsletter editor, Kristin Streetman, junior graphic design major. As with previous editions, the students have provided interesting articles on topics such as what honors has done for them, what to expect when you are accepted into the Honors Program, diversity in honors, and Greek life and honors. A current student has shared her perspective on what it is like to be an art student in the Honors Program, and another has written about her experiences studying abroad in Paris as part of one of her English classes. Honors Program alumnus, Christopher Bennett, who is currently an emergency medicine resident at Harvard Medical School, has created an interesting essay on what honors continues to do for him as a physician and scientist. You will also see a listing of the record breaking forty-five Honors Program graduates from May 2016, along with their major fields of study, and a page of photos from one of the social events of our student organization, Winthrop University Honors Association, WUHAI, demonstrating that not only do Honors Program students work hard, they can also have fun.

I want to thank 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. I hope you enjoy The Sage Page!
MEET YOUR 2016-17 WUHA! OFFICERS

Alex Corder
President
Senior | Biology

Audrey Hughes
Vice President
Sophomore | Biology

Colin Frazier
Treasurer
Junior | Mathematics

Waverly Baker
Secretary
Senior | Philosophy

Ariel Prince
Service Learning Coordinator
Sophomore | Business Admin

Kali Smith
Service Learning Coordinator
Sophomore | Psychology

Kristin Streetman
Sage Page Editor
Junior | Graphic Design

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WHAT HONORS CONTINUES TO DO FOR ME

Christopher Bennett, MD, MA
Emergency Medicine Resident Physician
Harvard Medical School

An Honors Program degree from Winthrop was far more than a shiny golden sticker on my diploma; it was an opportunity to be part of a community that challenged me to become a better person, a more engaged student, and a more knowledgeable scholar. As a physician and a scientist, much has happened since I received my Honors Program Degree. However, my four short years in the Honors Program were the foundation upon which my curiosity became my passion and my passion became my profession.

As a physician and a scientist, it is my honors training that equipped me with the fundamental skills I use daily in my research and in caring for my patients. My honors degree taught me how to ask difficult questions and, equally important, equipped me to answer them. My honors degree continues to remind me that life is rarely simple — but where is the fun in simple?

I remain forever grateful to the dedicated faculty who cared more about personal development than multiple-choice questions, administration who encouraged curiosity over compliance, and peers who never accepted anything less than complete dedication. In the world beyond Winthrop, from the bustling research labs of Duke to John Hopkins and from the clinical wards of UNC to Harvard, my honors degree continues to be what I define as the start of it all.

Would I do it again? Absolutely. In all its glory, an honors degree was how this first-generation college student from rural South Carolina found lifelong friends in late-night conversations over burnt coffee, mentors (and now colleagues) in the honors faculty who guided his success, and somehow managed to become a Harvard doctor along the way.

WHAT HONORS HAS DONE FOR ME

Kali Coleman
Junior
Mass Communication

What has the Honors Program done for me? More like what has it not done for me. Now that I’m in my junior year at Winthrop, I can’t thank the Honors Program enough.

One of the greatest things the Honors Program has brought me is my friends. When I first started at Winthrop, I was shy, reserved, and very nervous about making friends. I almost didn’t want to come to college at first because I was so scared about making friends.

The Honors Program allows you to live in The Courtyard, which gives you three roommates. I was fortunate enough to not only find a friendship in one of those girls, but all three of them. Most of my friends, even now in junior year, are still those people I met in the Honors Program two years ago. The Honors Program truly gave me a home and a place to go when I first started at Winthrop, and even though I’ve branched out to more organizations and friends, I still consider the Honors Program to be my home.

Academically, the Honors Program has given me the confidence in my regular classes. When you’re an honors student, your professors take notice.

As I’ve branched out into many organizations this year, I am often very busy and very stressed. On one particular occasion this semester, I accidentally woke up late for my class, and we had a quiz that day. I ran to class, not knowing if the professor would let me still take my quiz since I was so late. I explained my situation to her and she agreed to let me still take my quiz, stating that she knew I was a good student. I honestly think part of that was because I was an honors student, and she knew through my hard work that I took my work seriously. So I feel that having the title of “honors student” helps your professors know that you are serious and you are hard-working.

The Honors Program has helped me so much in my college career, and I have no doubt it will continue to help me when I graduate. I am very thankful for all that it does and continues to do for me, and I think it can help other students at Winthrop as well.
WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU’RE ACCEPTED

The day I checked the mail and saw a little handwritten envelope from Winthrop University was the day that set the course for my freshman year. At that point, I had been waiting to hear back from Winthrop University’s Honors Program for about a week. I had slaved over my essay for days and made sure my application was perfect; there was nothing I wanted more than to receive an acceptance letter. However, when I opened the envelope and saw the congratulatory greeting, I was filled with panic. I felt as though, despite my previous success in school, I would not be able to succeed in the Honors Program at Winthrop.

In my mind, this program would be a lot like the honors program at my high school: difficult, competitive, and filled with students who would rather have good grades than good friends. College already seemed hard enough without the added pressure of competitive peers and an extra rigorous course load. I was torn on whether or not to accept my place as an honors student.

Then Worldwide Winthrop Day came along. I was alone on the campus for the first time and definitely nervous when I noticed an Honors Program meeting on the itinerary. Despite my apprehensions, I went to the meeting, just to see if my assumptions would be proven wrong. They were.

When I walked into the Honors Center it was packed with students, all talking and laughing with each other. Three people greeted me at the door and asked me whether or not I was definitely joining the Honors Program. I told them about how I was uncertain, and they responded with so many kind words and great stories of their experience in honors, and it was at that point that I decided to join.

Fast forward halfway through my first semester and all I have to say is that joining the Honors Program is one of the better decisions I have made so far in my college career. In these few short months, I have definitely been challenged and given a bigger course load than I would have if I had opted out of the program; however, it has all been interesting and beneficial. I have been given the opportunity to take a plethora of unique and exciting classes, and I have been put in classes with students who love to learn purely for the sake of learning. Academics aside, the Honors Program has provided me with a community. Between getting paired up with a “Big” and attending the many events that WUHA! puts on, I have been able to get to know people I otherwise would not have met. To me, the Honors Program is not just an accelerated curriculum, but rather a community that helped make my transition into Winthrop much smoother.
ARTIST TALKS: HONORS PROGRAM

Carmen Little
Sophomore
Graphic Design

I’m an art student, and I’m also in the Honors Program, which is not the most common combination. When I came to Winthrop, I decided I wanted to aspire to having more than just a regular degree, I wanted to have an honors degree. My thought process was along the lines of “I had always been in honors and AP classes in high school, so I should continue with that trend in college.” Also, being in the Honors Program shows I care that much more about my education and academic career in college, which will hopefully be what my future employer will think of me when they see that I graduated with an honors degree.

As an art student my life consists of projects. Freshman year it was a small project each week; this year it’s more time-consuming projects that require additional thinking, planning and articulating. The biggest impact of being in honors and being an art student is scheduling my classes. I have to make sure I’m on track with my general education requirements, and I have to make sure I’m on track with my honors requirements. This isn’t always easy because the majority of classes for art majors consist of studios, which are three hours long and typically overlap with most honors and other sections of classes.

I haven’t contracted one of my honors classes yet, but if I did it would be quite the test of my time management. Most likely, I would be completing an additional project on top of the regular course requirements. I would also be taking two other studio classes, and it would be interesting trying to balance the workload of multiple projects at the same time.

Honors classes are honors classes because their nature is to be more challenging than the regular sections, which is one thing if you’re in an actual honors class but totally different if you’re in a hybrid class of honors students amongst regular students. Outside and extra work can test the limits of anybody who’s got other demands, especially if those things are three simultaneous art projects. But that’s like any responsibilities you take on in life, you figure out what works for you to get everything you need to do to get it done.

Being in in the Honors Program and being an art student is no different than being in any challenging major, except instead of spending the majority of my days in a lab or other venue, I’m in the studio.
When I decided to enroll at Winthrop University for the 2013-14 school term, I was heavily influenced by the tremendous amount of diversity on campus. As a Predominately White Institution (PWI), Winthrop’s large minority population (around 30%) attracted me. Not only was the percentage high, but the involvement on campus of minority students was incredible. I saw students of all colors working on committees, running organizations and, in general, the vibe I received on campus was one of inclusion and acceptance. As a student coming from an overwhelmingly black high school, I had been encouraged by many people in my life to attend an HBCU like Howard University or Morehouse College. I was told that I was going to experience a huge culture shock, and that a PWI would not speak to my needs as an individual. I looked at Winthrop as my compromise between the two. A place where there were people who looked like me, but also where I would be exposed to other ideas. I was invited to join the Honors Program, and I jumped at the opportunity to start off my college experience with people who were goal oriented and considered the brightest of the bunch. We had an honors meet and greet for the freshman class, and I was incredibly excited to meet my fellow honors freshman. However, when I entered the room I realized something instantly; the color I saw on campus was not represented within the Honors Program. I learned that of all the freshmen in the program that year, I was one of only three black males. There were a respectable number of Latino and black females, but still nowhere near the general distribution of the university as a whole. I am now a senior and will be graduating in May with an honors degree. Over these past three years I have made many friends and have learned and grown more than I ever could have expected. I truly love my university and what it has given me, and I am thankful for the experiences I have had in leadership and in the classroom. However, the issues I saw when I came in as a freshman are still here. Students of color are still overwhelmingly underrepresented in the Honors Program, especially male minority students. More importantly, I still receive the same looks and stares I got my freshman year when I tell students my major, or when they see me walking to my room in honors housing. The positive thing is that those stares are not stares from racist eyes. They are surprised eyes, eyes that are surprised because of my looks, my hobbies, my organizations, and the spaces I occupy on campus. Those stares of surprise have motivated me to show them there is no reason for surprise, and I have tried my best to recruit other minority students into the program. The Honors Program presents a challenge, which is explaining to minority students that they belong on all parts of campus. But, it also presents an opportunity for those minority students to educate others, and broaden their horizons. Winthrop is a diverse community, and the Honors Program should be a part of that diversity.
A STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

Kate Burt
Junior
English Literature

I knew I wanted to study abroad before I ever got to college. When I was a sophomore in high school, a college senior came in and talked to our Spanish class about her adventures in Guatemala and Chile, and she made study abroad sound every bit as magical as receiving a letter from Hogwarts.

However, when the time came to consider studying abroad seriously, I was uncomfortable with leaving the country for a semester or even a summer because of serious health problems within my family. Instead, I took one of Professor Ann Jordan’s travel classes, ENGL 320: Paris in the Jazz Age.

The way the class worked was that we had 7 or 8 weeks of classes at Winthrop where we met two times a week for 75 minutes and discussed the works of the Jazz Age and American writers who went to Paris after World War I. We read and discussed several works in class, including Ernest Hemingway’s The Sun Also Rises, F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby, poems by Langston Hughes, poetry by Ezra Pound, and short stories by Zelda Fitzgerald and Gertrude Stein. We had our final exam for the class the same time everyone else was taking midterms, with the understanding that we would receive the rest of our contact hours when we traveled to Paris and Venice in May.

We traveled to Paris for 8 days and Venice for 2 with one goal in mind: To discover why so many American writers went to these cities to write, especially Paris. The trip was a lesson in stamina. We walked, by my pedometer’s count, anywhere from 9-13 miles every day exploring every possible corner of Paris and Venice we could before we ran out of time. I have a life-long attachment to The Hunchback of Notre Dame, and the day we climbed the 387 steps to the bell tower was, for me, the most amazing part of the trip. To see not only the gargoyles and bells, but to hear the haunting music sing across Paris was incredible. My adventures in Paris and Venice were short, but rich and fulfilling, and I would recommend a class like this to Winthrop students who want a taste of studying abroad before they commit to a full semester or summer.
Before I even moved in for my freshman year of college, I thought of scenario after scenario of how I would budget my time amongst everything I wanted to experience in my collegiate career. I was involved in honors courses in high school, so I decided to take the leap and apply to be in the Honors Program here at Winthrop University. I remember thinking about how much I wanted to succeed and get into the graduate school that would lead me to my dream career, but I also had heard that my college years could easily be the best time of my life. I remember feeling as though I would have to choose between being an honors student or joining student organizations that I may find interesting. I couldn’t have been more wrong. In fact, I am not only a senior science major about to graduate with an honors degree, but I have also had the opportunity to act as a student leader alongside my brothers as a fraternity man.

Greek Life is often associated with added responsibility, accountability, and challenge to college students. I’m not writing this to tell you that college will be a breeze, but I can say without doubt that the Winthrop University Honors Program has only improved my college experience. I became a brother of my Greek organization in the spring of my freshman year. Since that time, I have grown as both a leader, a student, and as a friend on this campus. Most of you may think this meant I worked myself to death to make this happen, to have handled the honors coursework and the fraternity events and still found success. Honestly, I don’t know if I would be the same person I am without either of these experiences, and the support that fellow honors students and faculty have given me has been invaluable along the way. Being an honors student never held me back from being whoever I wanted to be as a student at Winthrop University; in fact, this program’s resources, support and education are what gave me the confidence and wisdom to be as involved as I wanted to be. You will often hear people say they found a home in Greek Life, and I couldn’t agree more. Nevertheless, I’ve had a home here at WU since I got the Honors Program acceptance letter, and it was this support that allowed me to grow my support system, take another leap, and find the best brothers I could’ve asked for. Both can happen. Both do happen. And as a senior, the best advice I can give is to let the Honors Program help you find your home here as well.
## CONGRATULATIONS 2016 SENIORS

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<tr>
<th>STUDENT NAME</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Altman</td>
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<td>Jessica Zinna</td>
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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
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City / State / Zip: _________________________________
Degree Year: _____________________________________
Spouse’s Name: ___________________________________
If WU alum, spouse’s degree info:
__________________________________________________
Home Phone: _____________________________________
Employer / Job Title: ________________________________