

HONORS COLLEGE

Oakland University

ECHO COGNITIO

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2 WINTER/SPRING 2009



DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Classes End

April 20 (10 pm)

Final Exams Begin

April 22 (7:30 am)

Final Exams End

April 28 (10 pm)

HC Graduate Reception

Meadow Brook Hall
April 25th (12-1:30)

Spring Commencement

May 2 (9-5pm)

HC 202 Spring Class

*Exiles from Eden: Jamaica
Kincaid's Caribbean*
May 5 –June 18

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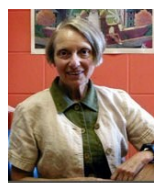
Tawnee Milko, Renee Blackburn, Marta Bauer and Dr. Jude Nixon at the Innovation and Opportunity Gala

The winter semester has been a rather busy one. The students in the first year class have settled into their work and program of studies, and the upper-class students continue their active involvement in the HC and throughout the university. Tawnee Milko continues to serve as the Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees, and Marta Bauer addressed a crowded room at the Innovation and Opportunity celebration in the Fireside Lounge marking the successful culmination of our Capital Campaign. Renee Blackburn, winner of the 2009 Matilda Dodge Wilson Award, spoke at the Innovation and Opportunity Gala, thanking donors for the scholarships she received. Jordan Twardy, the Outgoing

Student Body Vice-President, and President of the Student Association of Michigan, introduced to the university the new student president and vice-president. And Jessica Pike took OU's Women's Basketball to the finals of the Summit League, just missing out on a trip to the "Big Dance." But she did take them to post-season play in the Women's NIT. These are only a few of our students' many leadership activities. Our students are active in their respective majors, and many (far too many to enumerate here) have won prestigious university and departmental honors and awards. Honors College winter classes have been packed with students enrolled in our most interesting courses. Brad Roth (Physics) taught a course on the Making of the Atom Bomb, and Lisa Ngote (Art and Art History) took some students to Rome. With research done from the class and trip, she delivered to a packed audience a lecture on **Obelisks of Rome**. The class is also publishing a book on their research. Meir Shillor (Mathematics) taught a most intriguing class on Spiral Dynamics Integral and a Theory of Everything. The class looked at the evolution of human worldviews and, more generally,

the evolution of just about "everything." Using a system's approach, it allowed the class to observe and analyze current issues in the world, ranging from the personal (micro) to societal (meso), to national (macro) to the world (mundo) processes. The HCSA launched its online journal, *HC Echo*, which features the scholarly and creative work of Honors College students. We remain grateful to many of you who contribute financially to students and programs in The Honors College. Without your generosity, we could not continue to provide the quality of education we offer our students. We awarded the few scholarships available to our incoming students, and wish we had more funding to support our highly qualified, talented students. We are about to graduate 24 students, who are moving to jobs and graduate programs. I wish to express appreciation to Walt and Donna Young for increasing their endowment that allows students to study abroad, among them Candice Yono completing a semester in France, and Grace Gahman completing a year in Germany. And my thanks to Haija and Miron Stano for endowing an Honors College Scholarship.

~Jude Nixon



HC/OU Professor Awarded "Distinguished" Status

Provost Virinder Moudgil was "pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Judith K. Brown**, Professor of Anthropology, to the rank of Distinguished Professor at Oakland University.

Professor Brown taught one of the very first Honors College classes, with 29 students, in 1977.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at hc@oakland.edu or call 248-370-4450

STUDY ABROAD

“Moin” from Oldenburg, Germany

~Grace Gahman



Grace outside of her student residence building where she lives with 11 other students. Holding one of the “delicious pastry Easter rabbits” made at a local bakery.

“Moin!” That’s the North German greeting I hear every day in Oldenburg, Germany, where I’m studying at Carl von Ossietzky University. While spending my junior year here, I’ve been up to more than just hitting the books. At the university’s refectory, I find a myriad of advertisements for events. Whether it’s a silent film showing, a bossa nova concert, or a peace demonstration, there’s plenty happening here.

As I bicycle to these events, I see many more fellow cyclists than I do at Oakland. If the event is further away, I use my semester ticket, which allows for free public transportation in Northwest Germany. It’s fantastic that there are diverse ways of commuting in Germany, and owning a car is unnecessary.

When I’m not expanding my cultural horizons, I’m at one of Oldenburg’s natural reserves, where tranquillity reigns. Since spring has recently sprung here, the North Sea is also a pleasant, nearby getaway.

Oldenburg is a wonderful city for soaking in some European culture. It’s a great place to study abroad!



Near a busy bike trail in Oldenburg.

A Semester Abroad, in Angers, France

~Candice Yono



Candice on the beach of Saint Malo situated in the region, Bretagne.

It’s remarkable how two simple words—“study abroad”—can excite such wonderful images of beautiful landscapes, different languages, and excellent cuisine. Yet, it is even more surprising that such lovely connotations of adventure cannot possibly prepare one for the amazing experience that awaits them.

Since my arrival in Angers, France, I have been living with an elderly couple who have welcomed me into their lives and introduced me to French culture. Traditional meals, which can quite literally last hours, are usually accompanied by discussions of politics, religion, movies, or culture in general, giving me the opportunity to understand the French way of thinking.

Study abroad has given me even more than insight into French culture; it has been a way to meet students from all over the world. My classes are offered through an international program that unites

foreign students in their desire to learn about new cultures.

I will never forget the people that I have met in my classes, on daily walks, or at social events. Hopefully we can stay in contact and laugh about the things we love in France—from the bakeries dotting every cobblestone road to the ancient fortress situated at a major intersection, to the people taking walks with baguettes in hand. These are the memories that will be cherished.



One of the many delicious and tempting patisseries (pastry shops) in Angers.



A beautiful view of Angers from Park Balzac.

HONORS COLLEGE CLASSES

"THANK YOU"

to our Winter 2009 faculty
and their departments.

Lisa Ngote: *Rome: the Eternal City*
Urban Utopia/Urban Dystopia

Gheorghita Tres: *Urban Utopia/Urban*
Dystopia

Mark Rigstad: *Conservatism & Neo-*
conservatism in Political Philosophy

Kellie Hay: *Television, Terrorism &*
Post 9/11 Policy

DeWitt Dykes: *Race Relations, Racism*
and the Search for Equality in America

Meir Shillor: *Spiral Dynamics Integral*
and a Theory of Everything

Brad Roth: *The Making of the Atomic*
Bomb

Pamela Mitzelfeld: *Thesis Preparation*

HC 205: Television, Terrorism & Post 9/11 Policy

~Professor Kellie Hay



To claim that the United State's Patriot Act is a controversial piece of legislation is a cliché in 2009. Political pundits, policy makers, librarians, civil rights activists, legal scholars, The Center for Democracy and Technology, and an array of citizens have been calling into question the sea change in law that it effected.

How do we learn about these acts and changes in law beyond newspapers and the nightly news? Mass communication scholars have demonstrated the ways in which media shapes identity, sets agendas, and effects audiences since the early days of George Gerbner's work on cultivation theory. Media is a key site to explore the ways in which the Patriot Act in our current "War on Terrorism" shape audience's perceptions about these social and political issues. Crime television, in particular, offers a rich site to track these relationships. Students taking this class examined competing

conceptions of terrorism, the controversies surrounding the Patriot Act, and the narratives through which these issues play out on television. Examining *24* and *Law and Order*, they journeyed into the cultural realm to scrutinize the collision between policy, cultural logics, and generic conventions within crime television. To this end, the work that they produced is cutting edge, as no one yet has put these three ways of seeing together.

HC 208: The Making of the Atomic Bomb

~Professor Brad Roth

My honors college class, based on the Pulitzer Prize winning book *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, focused on two topics: the development of nuclear physics in the first half of the twentieth century, culminating in the Manhattan Project, and the historical events surrounding World War II. The students learned much of the underlying science by

reading the original research papers of such giants as Ernest Rutherford, Niels Bohr, and Lise Meitner. I believe the best way to illustrate the scientific method is to examine case studies. For instance, Meitner's hypothesis that a neutron can cause a uranium nucleus to split, or fission, led immediately to Otto Frisch's experiment to detect the resulting nuclear fragments. Similarly, Bohr's hypothesis that the uranium 235 isotope undergoes fission, rather than the more abundant 238 isotope, motivated the first separation of the isotopes by John Dunning and his team. In this way, I hope the students gained a better appreciation of how scientific ideas are discovered and verified.

HC 207: Spiral Dynamics and a Theory of Everything

~Professors Bruce Gibb and Meir Shillor



Spiral Dynamics is a meta-theory that describes the evolutionary stages of development of individuals and social systems (communities, organizations, nation states, and global society). The eight stages identified thus far are: *SurvivalSense*, *KinSpirits*, *Warrior*, *TruthOrder* (traditional), *StriveDrive* (modern), *HumanBond* (post-modern), *IntegratedSystems* (post-post-modern), and *Wholeview*. Behavior at each stage can be healthy, i.e., good for the systems; or unhealthy,

detrimental for those at that stage.

In the course we explored the stages and how individuals and social systems transition between them in response to changes in their life conditions. We explored typical political structures at each stage (stratified democracy), religion and spirituality, justice, diversity, sustainability, marketing, and humor. We experimented with learning at each stage, and, using this framework, created an optimal classroom for the students to learn in the course.

The Spiral provides an effective tool to understand the current transformation the world is undergoing, and the accompanying large-scale emergence of the *IntegratedSystem* stage that is needed to cope with the new life conditions.

Reflections on Education, Success, and Michigan

~Peter Halabu, HC '07



Yesterday, I got a gift basket in the mail from the law firm I am working at this summer. "Best of luck with exams, from Miller Canfield" the note read. Everything in the gift basket was made in Michigan. Even the chocolates had the state's outline in bas-relief! The gift-basket company is selling Michigan for all its worth, and so is Miller Canfield. They're preaching to the choir with me. Here at Harvard Law School, where I rub shoulders with people from all over the country and the world, I cherish my Michigander friends particularly. We talk about Michigan things whenever we get the chance, and we have a special bond that nobody else really understands. I'm coming back to Michigan for my summer job this year, and I have every intention of returning permanently after I graduate next May; given my family, friends, and connections in Michigan, returning home has always seemed like a no-brainer, but the last half year's economic downturn has given me another reason to come back.

I read a story in the Detroit News online a couple weeks ago, describing the "brain drain" of recent college grads from Michigan. According to the article, fully *half* of them leave within *one year* of graduation. In fact, a number of my own friends from Oakland are thinking of leaving, planning to leave, or even actively trying to leave. That brings up some big questions for me. What kind of place will Michigan be, five or ten years from now, when I'll be establishing my career and starting a family? Will I have neighbors my age? Will my kids have any neighbors' kids to play with? People my age will stay in Michigan if there are jobs to be had. Here at Harvard, nobody asks why someone would want to go to New York or Washington D.C., but I am constantly asked why I would want to go back to Michigan.

The problems in Michigan are not going to get better if college grads keep leaving. Michigan's continuing vitality as a state requires young, educated, confident people living and working in this state: engaging in entrepreneurial pursuits, taking up the task of education and government and business, and having families. Those are exactly the kind of people that the Honors College attracts, enriches, and sends off equipped for success. I know firsthand that the Honors College loves nothing more than to see its students succeed. But the next step is for us students to decide *how* to succeed, and where we want our success to take us.

It's important to get the best education we can. But it's also important to be critical of the idea that success entails "making it big" somewhere other than Michigan, like New York, for example, or Washington. The fellow law students I know who are going to big East Coast firms aren't going because they think they'll be happier there. They're going because they want jobs that will pay off their student loans quicker, and because it's easy to get a job at a random large firm.

The reality is that educated, well-rounded, confident people can be successful anywhere. And right now, our friends, our families, our communities, and our state all need Honors College students to be successful right where we are, right here in Michigan.

"THANK YOU" TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Phil Clampitt
Dawn Deitsch
Susan Evans
Robert Fink
Julie Granthen
Alysa Hunton
Gary Laidlaw
Jean Ann Miller
Jude Nixon
Jim Szocik

Margaret DeGrandis, HC '07



has been accepted to the Master of Professional Studies in Public Relations and Corporate Communications at Georgetown University. The program was recently named a

2009 finalist in the 2009 PRWeek Awards for the category of PR Education Program of the Year. The degree focuses on the positive role communication plays in our lives. The program's goal is to develop a dedicated cadre of global communications leaders who commit to using their skills, passion, and energy to create social impact. To learn more about the program go to: <http://www12.georgetown.edu/scs/mps/prcc/home.cfm>

2009-2010 SCHOLARSHIPS

CREDIT UNION ONE

Jessica Drogowski
Elisa Fusco
Michael Lohrer
Ryan Smith
Justin Tonarelli
Chelsea Uganski

HANDLEMAN

Danielle Ager
Jenna Barnes
Marta Bauer
Alex Debusschere
Sara Gerhardt
Chris Jozwick
Mark Lemerise
Sara Lieblein
Candice Yono

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

College of Arts & Sciences:

Amanda Benjamin
Corey Schmidt

School of Business Administration:

Daniel Malendowski

School of Education and Human Services:

Kendra Seitz

School of Engineering & Computer

Sciences:

Stephen Parker

Honors College:

Sara Gerhardt

School of Health Sciences:

Javier Savedo-Flores

Working Student:

Daniel Breznau
Jenna Bourdeau

Congratulations to all
Recipients!

STUDENT ASSOCIATION (HCSA)

The HCSA Springing into Action ~Jenna Barnes

The HCSA "sprang" into action this semester on the first day of Spring with the annual "All Night Party." This all night adventure featured Pita Pit for dinner, an intense Euchre tournament, a chocolate fountain, and board games and movies. For those who stayed till the early



morning hours, there was also a middle of the night,

breakfast themed, smorgasbord. HC students fully enjoyed the event until it wound down around 4:30 am.

Next we hosted an "Easter Egg Coloring Evening," where students painted and colored more than two-dozen eggs. Dawn, our Honors College administrative secretary, also donated a number of colorful baskets to which we added candy and



drink boxes. Then the whole lot of "Easter goodness" was donated to a nearby women's shelter where they planned to make egg salad from the donated eggs and use the baskets for the children to hunt



plastic eggs filled with candy.

Finally we funded the *HC Echo* premier, celebrating the first online journal to be launched and hosted by a university Honors College. After a delicious lunch, Jude Nixon, the HC Director, discussed the significance of the journal as an important way for students to share their work and research with other students and even professors. Jude further emphasized the importance Journals have in

facilitating academic conversation on a campus. To read Echo articles click on: <http://journal.ouhcsa.org/>

While the current HCSA's activities are coming to a close as students get ready for exams and summer vacation, we would like to welcome 2009-2010 HCSA E-board members.

President: **Chris Jozwick**
Vice President: **Candice Yono**
Treasurer: **Dan Elliott**
Secretary: **Danielle Ager**
Public Relations: **Ben Wiersma**
Comm. Relations: **Ellen Glinski**
Web Master: **Mark LeMerise**

With their collective enthusiasm, next year is guaranteed to be a productive and distinguished year for the Honors College community.

2008-2009 GRADUATES

GRADUATES

Bradley Atkins
Jonathan Benefiel

Renee Blackburn
Heather Brothers
Marilyn Burns
Mary Cha
Leanne DeVreugd
Kelly Durbin
Shenise Foote
Katherine Fox
Jacquelyn Grimm
Paul Halabu
Lindsay Harrington
Justin Herring

Elyse Hyde
Jerry Matthew
Martin Mittner

Avery Neale

Anthony Onica
Jessica Pike
Christina Rick
Adrienne St. Peter
Jordan Twardy
Benjamin Zeilstra

THESIS TITLES

Workplace Stress and Bullying in the Workplace: A Problem Too Costly to Ignore
Leonhard Euler: His Mathematical Achievements in Infinite Series & Music, & his Influence on Mathematical Notation
Gender and Development of Playgrounds in Detroit in the Early 20th Century
In the Beginning: A Comparative Study on Creation Myths
Pendragon Soundtrack
FIZI Protein in Cone Photoreceptor Cells
Life in the 1920's: Rochester and its Farms
Laboring Against the Aggregate: The Value of Blake's Productive Machine
The Commercialization of Hip Hop: Contributions, Costs and Consequences
Conducting and Opera in an Authentic Musical Context
Media Bias and Trust Among Voting College-Age Individuals
The Layman's Guide to Alternative Fuels
Obstetric Brachial Plexus Palsy: Treatments and Functional Outcomes
An Inquiry into the Nature & Causes of the Classical Liberal School: Ancient Economic Thought & its Anticipations of Laissez Faire Economics
Domestic Automobile Manufacturers & Negotiations with the UAW: A Wage Sacrifice
Instrumental Music vs. Lyric Music: Difference in Mood after Exposure
Creating a Self Regulating Quality Control System for the Digital Publishing of Science Fiction Literature
Environmental Programs & Practices at Michigan Universities: The Eco-educational Sift
Out of the Classroom
Song of Four Fairies: The Winds of Change in Keats's Dying Years
Evaluating HIV/AIDS Education and Prevention Programs in Swaziland
Down the Rabbit Hole: A Victorian and Modern Social Commentary
Disasters at Chicago & Galveston: Catalysts of Change with an Analysis on Relief Efforts
The Role of Mass Transit in Urban Development
On-The-Fly Adaptive Music in Game Soundtracks

MENTORS

Judy Jacobs
Jerrold Grossman

Suzanne Spencer-Wood
Judith Brown
Terry Herald
Karen Miller
Kenneth Mitton
Robert Anderson
Kellie Hay
Fred Love
David Dulio
Andrei Slavin
Kristine Thompson
Sherman Folland

Kenneth York
Christine Hansen
Kieran Mathieson

Jude Nixon

Robert Anderson
Patricia Wren
Jude Nixon
Carl Osthaus
Karen Miller
Fatma Mili

HC "IN THE NEWS"



HC Student Recognized for Academic, Social and Community Excellence

By Katie Land April 3, 2009

The Matilda R. Wilson award presented to anthropology major Blackburn also brought with it proof of an active and distinguished college career. Blackburn has received numerous awards including the Oakland University Writing Excellence Award, has research published in University of North Texas Journal and received a research grant concentrating on early twentieth century Detroit playgrounds. Active in student and community organizations, she participated in the French Club, Anthropology Club, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society and more.

"This award was a good way to show the substance of everything I have accomplished," Blackburn said.

"Everything I've done was for other people, but this award was for me. It makes me feel like I've done a good job."

"FLOW" (For Love Of Water)

The Honors College hosted a special screening of the documentary FLOW (How did a handful of corporations steal our water?) and participate in a panel discussion with environmental scientists. The film depicts the global water crisis and was shown at the Sundance Film Festival, where it received many positive reviews.



A Helping Hand for My Motherland

by: Sai Vinai Myint



What did you do over winter break? Me? Instead of going down to Mexico or Florida to party and do the stereotypical spring break so many perceive college students do, I went to Washington DC for a conference. In the three day conference at American University I had an inspirational and moving time. The meeting/conference, sponsored by US Campaign for Burma (www.uscampaignforburma.org), was about bringing eclectic ideas on how to further promote the awareness of the atrocities and human rights abuses going on in the Southeast Asian country of Burma (Myanmar). It was quite remarkable to see people from different parts of the United States so interested and involved; there were people from Los Angeles, Seattle, Jacksonville, New York, Dallas, Louisiana, etc. Overall, it was a winter break worthy of an unforgettable memory.

OU Honors the Brightest of its Student Writers

Monday, Feb. 9, 2009



Fourteen Oakland University students, recommended by their teachers, have won awards in the school's 2008 Writing Excellence contest. **Jason Sotzen** won 1st place in papers submitted in socials science, business and education courses.

Exceptional Achievement Award

This annual award is given to a graduating senior in the School of Engineering and Computer Science who has achieved the highest level of scholastic excellence.

Benjamin Zeilstra will receive a certificate of recognition, a check for \$400, have his name engraved on the award plaque in Dodge Hall.

Four Oakland Students Head to Figure Skating Nationals

By: Dave Groves Jan. 14, 2009



The Oakland University community would have reason to be tremendously proud if just one of its own students was headed to the 2009 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Cleveland this month.

In fact, Oakland has four students who've won the distinctive honor. Jonathan Cassar, a senior majoring in dance; Laura Lispzinski, a junior majoring in psychology; **Ameena**

Sheikh, an HC sophomore majoring in communications; and Melissa Telecky, a sophomore considering a major in health science; will join 18 other skaters from the Detroit Skating Club in West Bloomfield for the prestigious annual competition.

Senior Piano Recital



Thursday, Apr. 30 8:00-9:00 pm
Varner Recital Hall Oakland University

Six HC Students Chosen as 2009 Orientation Group Leaders (OGL's)

Marta Bauer, sophomore/English
David Bond, freshman /Writing and Rhetoric
Ryan Gentry, freshman/Engineering
Nicholas Hooper, freshman/Elementary Education
Anthony Kostrezewa, freshman/Biochemistry
Max VanRaaphorst, sophomore/Biochemistry

****To make a donation to The Honors College visit: <https://www.applyweb.com/public/contribute?s=oaklandd>**