

HONORS COLLEGE

Oakland University

ECHO COGNITIO

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1 NOVEMBER 2008



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 19
Community Service Fair
4:30-6:00 Fireside Lounge/OC

November 24
Career Seminars
3:45-5:30 Oakland Center

November 25
HCSA "Pie Sale" Fundraiser
11:00-3:00 HC

December 4
Research & Scholarship Day
10:00-3:00- HC

December 6
Last day of classes

December 13
Exams end

December 13
Fall Commencement

January 6
Winter Classes begin

DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS



Jude Nixon and OU Cricket Club
2008 Champions

Our fall 2008 academic year began with great excitement. We welcomed the largest incoming class in our history, some 160 students. When they arrived for the mandatory University Convocation, our lounge and conference room could barely contain the burgeoning numbers. We are excited to have them here, and especially enrolled in our new

desired, matriculate to Cooley with partial and full-ride scholarships. We hope to create a similar articulation agreement with our new School of Medicine—OU - Beaumont (OUWSOM). We are also working on a faculty and student exchange program with Collegium Artes Liberales, at the University of Warsaw, Poland, and hope to have it in place by fall

HC Colloquium Class, HC 100. The fall semester presented another happy occasion—the signing of our official articulation agreement with Cooley Law School, which allows Honors College juniors to take law classes at Cooley, receive advising, and, if

2010. All of these efforts are part of our 5-year strategic plan to improve our programs and to better position The Honors College within the university, the community, nationally, and internationally. The strategic plan includes a new instructional initiative, HC Faculty Fellows, comprised of emeriti, tenured, and tenure-track faculty responsible for teaching one core course per year in The Honors College (a 3-year agreement) along with mentoring HC students. As you might imagine, we are excited about all of these activities and programs which are vital to the life of The Honors College. Let me once again express my deepest thanks to those of you who regularly support The Honors College. We could not provide the education we offer without your sustained generosity.

~Jude Nixon

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Investing in The Honors College at Oakland University

You can help The Honors College continue to offer intellectually challenging learning experiences to Oakland's academically gifted students in several ways. One is by making a gift to the university's Annual Fund. Every gift that's made to The Honors College through the Annual Fund also counts towards "Innovation and Opportunity," Oakland University's comprehensive capital campaign. Your gift will

help support scholarships for HC students, and the College's study abroad program which offers opportunities for students to acquire new knowledge and understanding of the people, events, movements, ideas, and objects of cultures other than their own.

For those who are Oakland University faculty and staff, you can designate your gift for the Honors College during the All-University Fund Drive (AUFD) currently taking place from now until December 18, 2008.

[Please click here for a secure online giving form.](#)

Investing in The Honors College means investing in the future of our students today and for generations to come.

If you would like to discuss giving opportunities to Oakland University's Honors College, please call Alysa Hunton, Development Officer, at (248)364-6106 or e-mail: hunton@oakland.edu.

~ Alysa Hunton

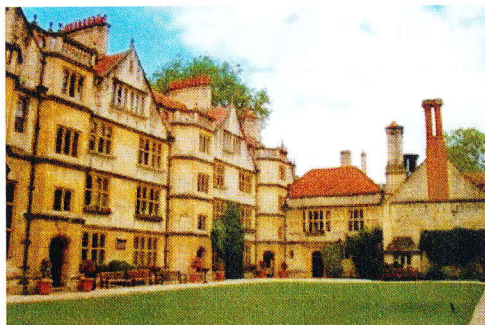
To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

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

STUDY ABROAD

A Day in the Life of a Summer Oxonian (Oxford University)

~ Justin Herring



Brasenose College, Oxford. The "New Quad" where I stayed.

It's 8.30 am. I wake up, grab a shower, and head down to the Great Hall for breakfast. There are fresh eggs, bacon (which looks more like ham), toast, and tomatoes—elements of the traditional English breakfast—along with the most delicious, creamy yogurt I have ever tasted.

At 9.30, I make my way up a winding

flight of mismatched stairs to a room called "The Old Parlor," where class is generally held. We discuss Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream." We'll be seeing it performed tonight.

After the discussion session, some fellow students and I play a game of English croquet on the New Quad lawn and then head back to the Great Hall for lunch. While dining, we strike up a conversation with some students from Paris. "We are going to visit Paris this weekend," I tell them.



At 4 pm, We step out into Radcliffe Square, called by some the most beautiful square in Europe. We catch a double-decker bus to London, dine at Wagamama, a

Japanese noodle restaurant—again, delicious, and then the Globe Theatre—a recreation of Shakespeare's original Globe in its exact location. The play begins, "Now, fair Hippolyta..." It was never like this back home.



The OU Group at Warwick Castle:

Justin Herring, Avery Neale, Jenny Van Vliet, Nancy Andrews, Jeremy Brown, Rachel Harbin, Brian Connery, Janel Johnston, Todd Fitzsimmons, Carina Connery, and Erica Graber.

Memories from Spain

~Julie Peplinski

Senior Elementary Education student,
Endorsements in Spanish and Math



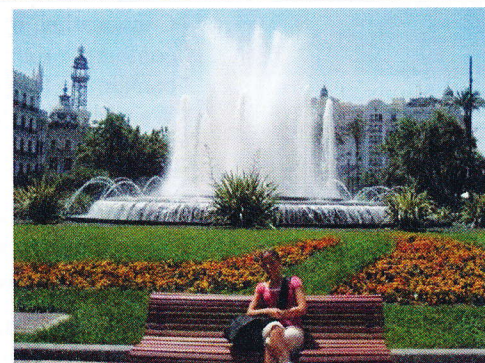
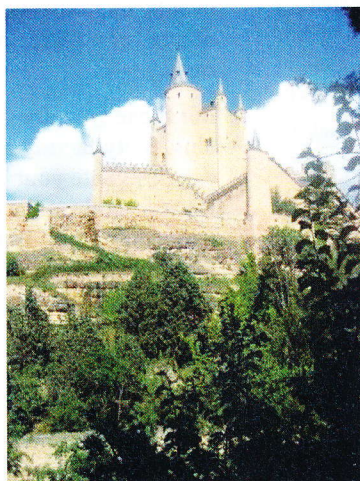
Segovia is located an hour north of Spain's capital, Madrid

This summer I had the amazing opportunity to study abroad in Spain for six weeks. My trip was filled with unforgettable experiences as I stayed in Segovia with a host family, took two Spanish classes, and traveled around Spain, immersing myself in the Spanish culture.

My trip began when I stayed with a host family and was able to live out their

daily schedules, learn from them, and enjoy their delicious entrees. Living in the beautiful city of Segovia, I was able to participate in its cultural festivals, cheer in its Plaza Mayor when Spain won the Soccer World Cup, climb its famous Aqueduct, and tour its beautiful Alcázar castle.

As I took classes, the friendly and supportive staff members and professors in the AHA International Program truly cared for their students. My favorite part was when they extended our learning outside of the



Julie takes from a break touring the gorgeous city of Valencia to enjoy the city's incredible architecture and sparkling fountain.

classroom and we visited the outdoor market that came to Segovia every Thursday morning, traveled through different cities to historical museums, castles, and palaces, viewed Spain's rich architecture, and hiked through Spain's gorgeous mountains.

I am truly thankful for all of the support The Honors College has given me in making this past summer unforgettable! My memories from my studies in Spain will last a lifetime.

HONORS COLLEGE CLASSES

"A BIG THANK YOU"

to our Fall 2008 faculty
and their departments

Greg Allar

Modern Russia

Geoff Brieger

Survival in the City

Alice Horning

The Language of Cities

Jude Nixon

First Year Colloquium

Erik Mesko

Urban Art

Pamela Mitzelfeld

Introduction to the Thesis

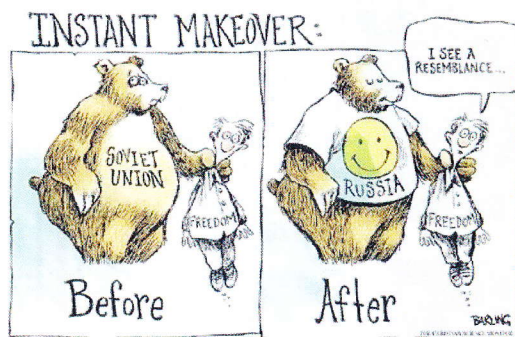
Mary Wermuth

The Mythology of Travel

HC 205

Defining the New Russia

~Greg Allar



Russia is an anomaly, a country which spans two continents each with its own distinct cultures. Throughout its history the country has repeatedly undertaken dramatic reforms with great fervor until the process becomes difficult and the changes asked of the society become too great; then there is a collapse in the reformist ideals and

a desire to return to the previous status quo. It has a mentality which values stability in the present over the possibility of a better future. This could be described as a cycle, though a more apt description

would be that of a pendulum; Russia swings towards the west, towards change, but then loses momentum and returns to its old patterns, its old ways, and swings back in the other direction. Each time the outside influences are regarded as corrupting the Russian "soul" and are denounced in favor of something more authentic, more

Russian.

It is known more as a "revolutionary" nation – one of sudden drastic changes, rather than an "evolutionary" nation – one in which the slow, steady development of each generation builds upon the foundation laid by the preceding one.

The transition to democracy and free-markets, where the individual is the base unit and motivator of the system, therefore not only signals a change in political and economic systems, but the forging of a new Russian identity which is still asserting itself today as a result of recent failures to stimulate the economy based on Western thinking.

This course examines the ideological obstacles and the real-life challenges that confront Russia in the 21st century.

HC 100

FIRST YEAR COLLOQUIUM: THE IDEA OF A UNIVERSITY

~ Colin Olexa (Indigo Blue Cell Group Leader)



Colin Olexa and Jacquelyn Guba (Cell Group Facilitator)

HC 100 is not so much a class as it is an experiential community. Not only do the 150-some students learn from a broad range of professors in numerous different fields, but they get to know one another, building relationships that will last for the rest of their college experience and possibly also their lives. This is accomplished

through the unique structure of the HC 100 class. It meets two days a week, one day usually being devoted to lecture and the other to what has been termed students' "cell groups." Each cell group contains approximately 15 Honors College students, akin to a small class, with an exemplary older Honors College student as the leader and facilitator. This smaller setting, along with attendance at two group field trips, three on-campus events, and one community service event, provides a foundation which promotes students to interact with one another and build friendships. At a commuter school like Oakland University, such "community" is sometimes difficult to find. Yet here in The Honors College, thanks to the HC 100 class, it is alive and thriving.

HC 206

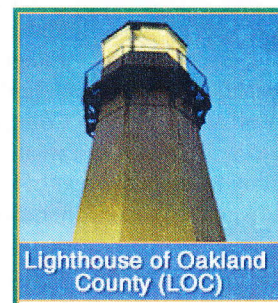
SURVIVAL IN THE CITY

~Gottfried Brieger

Learning can take many forms. Book learning is certainly the most prevalent in a university, with the exception of the laboratory sciences. What about a hands-on approach in the social sciences? I have always been concerned that we do not take a good look at our immediate environment in our academic studies. This is the genesis of HC 206, Survival in the City.

The city is in fact Pontiac, and more particularly that population of the city which could be variously described as the disadvantaged, the poor, the near poor, the working poor, and the homeless. In Pontiac, that would be at least a quarter of the population. Just how do they survive in the midst of one of the richest counties in the nation?

HC 206 set forth to find out. Just what are the resources available in Pontiac? That would be the panoply of federal, state, and county social agencies, the churches, shelters, and



private sector charitable organizations. actually visiting Lighthouse—Oakland, Grace Centers of Hope, Gleaners Food Bank, and government agencies, students can get a real-life impression of how things work-or not, at the edge.

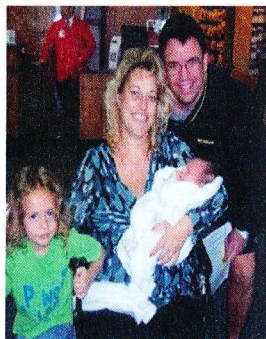
Of course conventional learning has not been discarded. There are books to read, Internet sites to visit, field reports to file, papers and comments to write. It should all culminate in a Survival Manual for Pontiac!

CONGRATULATIONS!



Barth Riley, HC '87—accepted a new position this year as a Research Scientist at Chestnut Health Systems, a substance abuse treatment and research center. His research focuses on the evaluation of

survey instruments that assess substance abuse and mental health issues and on the effectiveness of substance abuse treatment.



Sue Evans, HC '88, her husband Cam and daughter, Haley, welcomed the newest member of the family, Jacob Louis on Oct. 11th! Jacob weighed 8 lbs. 1 ounce and was 20 in long.



David Nykanen, HC '92, an Attorney/ Partner at Steinhardt, Pesick & Cohen, and president of the HC Advisory Council, has recently been named a "rising star" in Super Lawyers magazine.



Alan Terlep, HC '94 was installed as Senior Minister of Central Christian Church in Connersville, Indiana on Oct. 12, 2008. Alan, his wife Kate, and daughter Lizzie were officially welcomed to the church family.

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Ellen Bristol

Dawn Deitsch

Geoffrey Potts

Linda Schattmaier

Martin Sikora

Sommer Stark

Northrop Grumman Foundation

ALUMNI SHOWCASE



Chicago-Kent Honors Scholar Class of 2010

Jocelyn Floyd, HC '03 grew up in CA, MI, IL, MI, OH, TX and MI. In 2003, she graduated summa cum laude from Oakland University with a BA in English and French Language and Literature. She received

department honors from both the English and French departments, as well as the Honors College Thesis Award in Letters for her senior project, for which she wrote a young adult novel. And she might be willing to share the text of the commencement speech she gave at graduation if you ask her nicely.

After graduation, Ms. Floyd taught dance for several years, ran away to France to teach English for a year, worked for a foreclosure law firm, and sold donuts at a cider mill. She learned three important things from those experiences: law is fun, foreclosure is not, and facing a room filled with eleven hyper three-year-olds takes more courage than it gets credit for.

Since starting at Chicago-Kent, she has worked as a research assistant and externed with a Federal Magistrate Judge. Jocelyn is now writing about parental rights for Chicago-Kent Law Review and arguing about Summum's Seven Aphorisms for Moot Court Honor Society.

RECENT GRADS



Lea Jeffire, HC '08 and a studio-art major, was accepted at Parsons New School in New York City in the MFA program. It was her #1 choice. She is one of 20 students accepted to the program this year and currently have a piece in a show called "Manifest

Makings"

Sheila Brooks, HC '07, accepted a position as an Assurance Associate with Pricewaterhouse Coopers, one of the world's largest professional services firm.



Margaret DeGrandis, HC '07, relocated to Herndon, VA to work with Volkswagen of America. She has accepted a position with the VW Public Relations team and plans to pursue a masters in communications.



Matt MacLeod, HC '05, is in his fourth year teaching Advanced Placement US History and American Government at Bloomfield Hills Lahser High School. He is also an assistant varsity football coach and runs the Model United Nations Team.

*If you are an HC alum, or former student, please update us on your current contact information at conn@oakland.edu.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION (HCSA)

It's All About YOU!

~Latonia Garrett

The HCSA is striving to help you maximize your experience in The Honors College. Our goal is to encourage you to allow yourself to become apart of The Honors College community both academically and socially. So far this year, HCSA has coordinated such events as Red, White and You, The Annual Halloween Party, Movie Night and Game Night.

Red, White, and You (HC Style)- The Final Countdown

Come join us in the Honors College as we watch the election results! **Free and Open to all OU students**
Tuesday Nov 4th from 8-11
Popcorn and refreshments will be provided

Red, White and You was three part program that allowed the HC community

to engage in this years' historic election, together as a student body. During the programs, students laughed, exchanged ideas and got to know other members of the HC.

The Halloween Party this year



Mummy Wrapping Contest

included a piñata, a pumpkin carving contest, OU spooky story telling, a mummy rapping contest and much more. Over 100 HC students attended this event and started to build new relationships with all in attendance.

This year the HCSA has started off with a bang! As we have no intentions on slowing down now. Upcoming events include, HCSA's ** Pie Sale-Fundraiser, The All Night Party, a Poetry Jam, more

Movie and Game nights and anything thing that you would like to see done in the HC. We encourage you to become an active member in HCSA by joining one of our committees.

For more information feel free to contact the HCSA's President, Latonia Garrett, at lagarret@oakland.edu.

**** If you would like to donate and/or purchase a pie, the sale is Nov. 25 from 11-3 pm, outside the HC.**



Pumpkin Carving

HC 100 FIELD TRIP

All the World's a Stage:

A "Team Orange" Trip to Stratford, Ontario ~Marta Bauer



I will say that I wasn't initially excited for what turned out to be an infamous trip to Stratford. The weeks preceding the trip (as my lovely cell group can attest to) were marked by brief "breakdowns" over every

possible contingency. I had every confidence that things would somehow turn out horribly. Luckily my sense of impending doom turned out to be unwarranted, though the trip was filled with... "interesting" detours.

Two cars went through customs, the second on accidentally following the first. One person tried to get into a car that belonged to some unsuspecting Canadian citizen (in my defense, silver and teal look incredibly similar when one isn't paying

attention). Ice cream was eaten, pictures were taken, swans were antagonized, and a poor parking lot attendant had roughly \$12.00 in Canadian change thrown at him for an eight dollar parking space when we couldn't figure out how much Canadian money we actually had.

"The Taming of the Shrew" itself was interesting, and the theater was certainly lovely. The confusing editorial choices and debate over the misogyny pervading the play sparked some healthy conversation in defense of personal interpretation.

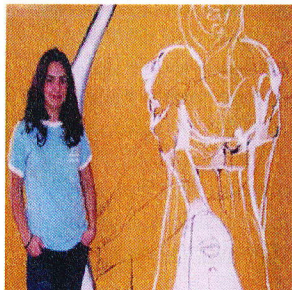
The educational aspect of the play, though, was not the most memorable part of the trip for me. The events of that trip gave Team Orange our own arsenal of inside jokes and this sense of team building



(Back) Ian Green, Luke Phillips, Melissa Bukowski, Morgan Laidlaw, Andrea "Hector" Jackson, Dave Thompson, Leah Garber, Rebecca Poronto.
(Front) Krista Bussis, Melissa Brown, and Ann Strickler

is really what made the trip worthwhile. The amusing anecdotes are part of a shared experience and an identity I think all of Team Orange can take with them even after the semester ends.

HC "IN THE NEWS"



SOPHOMORE DISPLAYS ART

Studio Art major, **Carla Butwin**, showcased her work for the first time as a solo artist when she took part in the Downtown Rochester Spring Gallery Stroll.

OU'S SIFE TEAM AT NATIONAL EXPOSITION



Oakland University's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) qualified as one of the four regional teams to participate in the SIFE 2008 National Exposition Competition.

In addition to qualifying for nationals, **Jenny Van Vliet** was one of 3 undergraduates chosen as national finalists in the areas of market economics and success skills.



LIASON TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tawnee Milko has always believed in giving back to her community. She was heavily involved in her high school, church and her family. At OU, she served OU as The Honors College Student Association president, and was involved in REACH, OU Environmental Coalition and the Pre-Medical Club. Now, she will be serving the students of OU as the student liaison to the Board of Trustees. She will seek out and provide the students' perspective during BOT meetings, and help keep students updated on BOT actions.



THESIS RESEARCH

Oakland University senior women's basketball player, **Jessica Pike** took on an ambitious senior project, as she has headed to the nation of Swaziland as part of her senior project on HIV/AIDS education and prevention programs.

HC STUDENT SHOWCASES SCHOLARSHIP NEED

You can make a difference

Oakland University alumni and friends impact the lives of students by giving to scholarships, exceptional faculty, research opportunities and academic program support.

"Scholarships have been very important because my parents aren't able to help me with my education costs. Scholarships have just been a huge help. I've had many great opportunities that have really enriched my educational experience here at Oakland."

— Emily Fisher, Oakland University junior

» Click to hear more from Emily Fisher, health sciences major in The Honors College

COOLEY, OU IN PARTNERSHIP

Sept. 17, 2008

by Masudur Rahman



Oakland University and Thomas M. Cooley Law School officials announced Monday that OU will be the exclusive education partner university of Cooley's Auburn Hills campus and that Cooley's Auburn Hills campus will be the exclusive educational law school of OU.

Under this partnership, OU students will benefit as Cooley will continue to give preferred admission to OU students and Cooley's Auburn Hills campus will start to reserve a minimum of 15 spots in each section for OU students.

Another part of the agreement is that OU Honors College students with a minimum GPA of 3.5 and a minimum LSAT score of 149 are eligible for early admission to Cooley during or after the second semester of their junior year, and could receive a 35 percent tuition scholarship.



CITY OF BIRMINGHAM "COMMUNITY HOUSE" MAGAZINE

Dr. Jude Nixon, Director of The Honors College, is profiled in the *Community House Magazine* in its section on Interviews with Board

Members. Dr. Nixon is First Vice President of the Board of Directors.

"YOUNG VOTERS"

Two Honors College students made local news following the presidential election.

Marta Bauer ... "broke with her Republican roots" ... read more in The Detroit News

Bridney Perry ... "her smile was as bright as the t-shirt she was sporting" ... read more in The Oakland Press

MERITORIUS STUDENT

Congratulations to **Katherine Fox** who will receive the Meritorious Student Award at the Fall 2008 commencement

