

HONORS COLLEGE

Oakland University

ECHO COGNITIO

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2 APRIL 2008



DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 19
Classes End

May 2 5:00-7:00 pm
HC Graduation Reception

May 3
Commencement

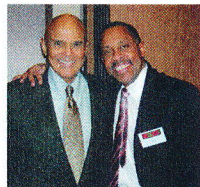
May 5
HC Summer I class begins

HC Fall 2008 Orientations
-2:00-5:00 p.m.

May 27
June 4
June 9
June 26

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Dr. Jude Nixon and **Keeper of the Dream** keynote speaker, Harry Belafonte

The year has been busy and successful with filled classes. We are literally busting at the seams and are working diligently to maintain the small college feel and the quality education that has come to define the HC experience. Lauren McIntyre, a fall 2007 psychology graduate, has been accepted into the school of social work program at both the University of Michigan and Wayne State. And Leah Jeffire, who will graduate this spring with a degree in studio art, has been accepted into the MFA program at the prestigious Parsons New School in New York City, one of only 20 students accepted. The Honors College is about education, first and foremost, providing for our students the best degree possible, which includes scholarly growth, creativity, leadership activities, and civic responsibility. Our Research and Scholarship Day drew the largest attendance ever. There were student presentations from the Second Life class, a new wave of virtual communication that might well be the next stage beyond YouTube. The HCSA put on another set of exciting programs, including a successful poetry reading event and a conversation

the university's vice presidents. Students wanted to know about where OU now stands, what the upper-administration's goals are for The Honors College, about the new medical school, and, of course, tuition. Led by HC Advisory Council member, Mary Wermuth, the HCSA worked on a quilt project to build community and raise funds to support their many programs. We also held the second annual Joy James Williams Lectureship in collaboration with the School of Health Sciences.

Dr. Moon Jae Pak spoke on *Compassionate Health Care* Students, alumni, faculty, members of the administration and board, and friends of The Honors College and OU attended this event.

Dr. Richard Stamps took some students from his China class to Beijing during the winter break and the *Readings in Islamic Literature* class made several field trips to museums and mosques. Our Vision and Visual Perception class, held in collaboration with the Art Department and the Eye Research Institute, hosted Dr. Bevil Conway. A member of the faculty in neuroscience at Wellesley College, Dr. Conway spoke to students in the Honors College class, met with HC students informally, and delivered a university wide address, *Color, Light, Vision, and Art*. Another major event in the HC was Shakespeare Behind Bars, with

Curt Tofteland, who has worked for 20 years with inmates at the Louisville penitentiary to perform Shakespeare. Curt was part of an alumni and student dinner event here in the HC, spoke with students in the HC Shakespeare course, and then showed his SBB documentary to over 400 students, faculty, staff, and visitors in Varner Recital Hall. Students make the HC what it is, and we remain quite proud of them and their many accomplishments. The Honors College and Housing together founded a new first-year students chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta. Over 100 students from the HC and OU were inducted, along with several honorary members. In the winter 2008 issue of *The Oakland Journal*, Matt Onica and Lauren McIntyre have been published, Matt on a creative piece on Euchre, and Lauren on Living and Learning Communities. I wish to thank those of you who support the education we provide our students. Were it not for your support of teaching, scholarships, and study-abroad opportunities, we in the HC would not be as effective in the work we do. We anticipate an even larger fall 2008 incoming class, and scholarships for our students will continue to be a dire need. If we don't educate our students, many of them will go elsewhere, even out of state, and the quality of life we enjoy in this state and in our local community will diminish.



Dr. Jude Nixon, director of The Honors College and professor of English, served as the moderator for the Dyson Debate on campus Monday, February 18. Michael Dyson and his wife, Marcia debated "The State of Black America: Is Bill Cosby Right?"

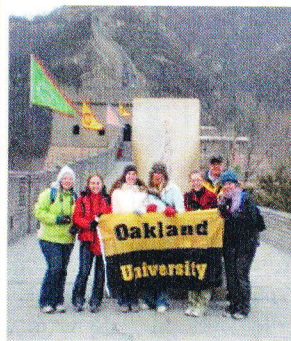
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Questions or comments? E-mail us at hc@oakland.edu or call 248-370-4450

STUDY ABROAD

HC Trip to China

~ Professor Richard Stamps



Amber Degayner, Sarah Tomaka, Emily Fisher, Mary Orczykowski, Kathryn Hall, Professor Stamps, and Amy Ring.

A picture is worth a thousand words but, there is nothing like seeing the real thing! That was the experience of six Honors College students who traveled to China for nine days over the winter recess. "I always dreamed of walking on the Great Wall,

today I did it. I climbed to the top." The students and their Professor visited Beijing, the modern capital of China. They ate Peking Duck, walked through the Imperial Palace, learned Tai chi, visited a family in an old Hu Tong neighborhood, drove past venues for the August Summer Olympics,



Tai chi

took pictures in Tiananmen Square, and experienced the hustle and bustle of this modern city. They traveled on to Xi'an, the ancient capital, where they visited the tomb of Qiu Shi Huang Di, the first Emperor of the Qui Dynasty. Seeing in person the Terra Cotta Army was a

highlight for several students. Shopping on the streets of this 2,000 year old city created lasting memories. Students giggled as their Professor talked with the locals. The last stop was Shanghai and its 19 million residents. It seemed as if we saw them all, the city is so crowded. While in Shanghai we had dinner with an Oakland alumnus and visited the father of one the students who often travels to China for work. As we entered the Qin Mao Tower (the world's fourth tallest building)

Kathryn said "my dad is working somewhere in this building." In Shanghai we experienced this modern center of business, commerce, industry, and history.

Places, events, and personalities from

the class lectures came alive as we walked the streets and drove thru the country side. It was a great opportunity for students working on research projects to gather data first hand. Photos and interviews have enhanced the students' research. It was a great winter recess, not soon to be forgotten.

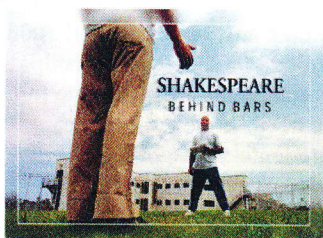


Emily Fisher and Sarah Tomaka...traveling like the locals.

*Thanks to Dawn for all her help on the paper work. Next year, we are looking to travel to Machu Pichu in South America. If interested, see Dawn.

SHAKESPEARE BEHIND BARS

As an important part of his two-day visit to Oakland University, theater director Curt Tofteland—who works with an acclaimed prison acting company—engaged Professor Herold's HC 202 in a discussion of how inmate actors in reduced circumstances bring to life Act One, Scene One of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Having seen the performance of this scene in the film, *Shakespeare Behind Bars*, a group of Herold's students filed the following production report.



While producing a powerful, insightful play within a medium-security prison might

seem impossible, the inmates who participated in Curt Tofteland's *Shakespeare Behind Bars* program at Luther Lockett Correctional Complex in Kentucky showed that a minimalist approach to Shakespeare can prove more effective than productions taking advantage of contemporary theatre's elaborate special effects. SBB's staging of the shipwreck scene that jump-starts *The Tempest* forced the audience to rely almost

exclusively on their imagination, empowered by Shakespeare's words and the actors' performances.

According to Tofteland, "The actor says, and thus it is"; Shakespeare's own audience could only conceive setting through the actors' words. An actor screaming "Boatswain!" then, was enough to communicate the setting, the character's occupation, and the danger of shipwreck at hand. In the SBB's interpretation, the actor playing Prospero held a small model of the ship, tormenting his victims through voodoo-like magic, while Ariel conjured imaginary waves. The terrified actors who poured onto the stage conveyed the terror that swept the deck of the floundering ship; the banging together of metal sheets communicated roaring thunder.

Shakespeare structured his plays around Aristotle's Six Elements of Drama: Plot, Theme, Character, Language, Rhythm, and Spectacle. Because Shakespeare considered spectacle, including costumes, the least important element, SBB did, too. Costume Designer, Michelle Bombe, therefore crafted modest garments, with rough fabric conveying uncivilized character

and smooth fabric symbolizing nobility. She designed only Prospero's cloak with distracting colors that highlighted its mystique.

On the sets of other productions of the *The Tempest*, elaborate costumes, bright lights, digital effects, and surround-sound may well transfer the audience's attention away from Shakespeare's poetic themes of transformation and forgiveness—themes resonating deeply with the inmates at Luther Lockett—onto the spectacular event of a total shipwreck at sea. Tofteland's minimalism, on the other hand, is not only more practical for a play produced within the confines of prison; it presents these themes through men on their own quests for personal redemption—inmate actors who empower Shakespeare's poetry in ways only possible behind bars.

—Kelly Durbin, Jerry Mathew, Angela Walentovic, Elizabeth Fleming, for HC 202, *Shakespeare and Revolution*

*Professor Herold and 10 of his students will travel to the prison next month to see a live performance of Julius Caesar.

HONORS COLLEGE CLASSES

"THANK YOU"

to our Winter 2008 faculty
and their departments.

- Catheryn Cheal - E Learning
- Stacey Hahn - Modern Languages
- Neils Herold - English
- Alice Horning - Rhetoric,
Comm. & Journalism
- Alan Epstein - Political Science
- Pamela Mitzelfeld - English
- Jude Nixon - English/HC
- Achmat Salie - Islamic Studies
- Richard Stamps - Sociology &
Anthropology
- Vagner Whitehead - Art & Art
History
- Barry Winkler - Biomedical
Sciences

HC 204

Socialist Revolution: Phantom and Persistent Alternative?

~Alan Epstein

Offered in conjunction with this academic year's theme "Revolution," our course reexamines revolutions conventionally termed "socialist."

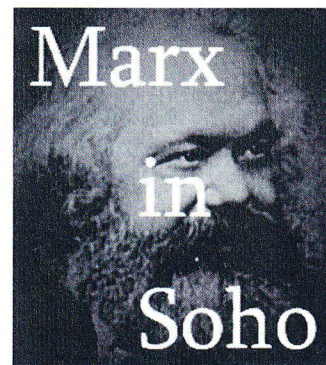
By scrutinizing the typically misconstrued ideals and critical epistemology of socialist theory, we have found them to be incompatible with putative socialist practice in the former Soviet Union, China and Cuba.

Still to be entertained for their fit with socialist revolution are such contemporary arrangements as participatory

economics and the World Social Forum.

Thus far, students have been especially challenged to reconsider the complexity of "democracy" and to determine whether socialism constitutes its antithesis or its embodiment.

As a fortuitous component of the course, students had opportunity to attend a production of the one-person play "Marx in Soho" and to visit with the performer during an informal reception hosted by the Honors College. Despite the intellectual contortions required of

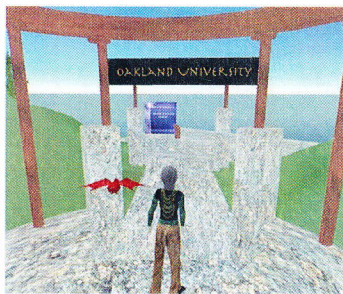


students to date, the course has been fueled by a spirit of open-mindedness and a daring to unbolt previously closed doors of inquiry. A revolutionary disposition, indeed.

HC 207

Second Life

~Catheryn Cheal
~Vagner Whitehead



The technology of three-dimensional virtual worlds promises to be revolutionary for teaching and learning. We can hold up a world like Second Life as a mirror to our own world to magnify issues like liquid identity, social relations, commercialism, university planning, cultural difference, art experience, and educational theory. Students can experience and research these issues in the form of their exploring avatar, who

then can build or create environmental, architectural, video, or performance manifestations of their findings. Our course, called Second Life – Research and Creative Activities in a Virtual Environment, is a combination of reading and discussion about virtual world topics and projects constructed by the students. The students have developed the technical skills to explore and communicate in Second Life and have proposed their topics and projects, that range from the issue of copyright of music to the role of libraries or therapeutic methods. These projects will be actualized as environments, machinima (video), or performances on the Oakland University Island in Second Life.

HC 204 (Second Section)

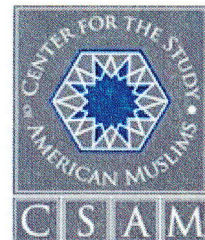
Readings in Islamic Literature

~Achmat Salie

Teaching an Honors College class is an amazing experience. Students are highly motivated, have superior research skills, and are not afraid to speak their mind or differ on almost every topic. The talents and passion they bring to the classroom generate surprising creativity. The **Islamic Literature** course aimed to foster their emotional tolerance, contextual intelligence, social intelligence, passion quotient, and curiosity quotient in addition to their critical thinking spirit. I hoped to create a think-tank as well as a do-tank. I think I have succeeded. Our vibrant collegial life contributed to this success. Students attended the lectures of Juan Cole, David Callahan, and Naomi Wolf as well as other Fireside lounge events. The course used films, field trips, food sampling, extensive writing,

classroom debates and synergy sessions, sharing cases and stories, web navigation, interviews, poetry readings, fatwa writing, book reviews, and out-of-the-box thinking to provide students with rare insights into a living faith tradition with its many voices, identities, and cultural expressions.

I would repeat the experience many times. Congratulations to the Honors College administration for their support and encouragement. Perhaps some of our faculty and staff could benefit from these learning laboratories and jihad of understanding.



The Importance of Giving Back

by Alysa Hunton

This past January, I became the new Development Officer for the Honors College at Oakland, but I am not new to fundraising, or to Oakland University. I have worked at Oakland for the past several years as a researcher and I am also an alumna of OU, having earned my Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from the College of Arts and Sciences in 2006. It's an exciting time to be at Oakland. With having just celebrated our 50th anniversary last year, and work underway to build a medical school, Oakland keep raising its profile,

and its cache. The Honors College holds a special place within the structure of Oakland. It, too, celebrated an anniversary last year, its 30th. Throughout its history, the Honors College has always striven to attract the best and brightest students, to pique these students' interests by offering unique, challenging courses of study, and thereby assisting them to become citizens of their communities, and of the world. A university is best sustained by the people who believe in its mission. As an alumna I feel a lot of pride as I drive down I-75 and see the Grizz peaking out

from underneath his billboard with the tagline "What's all the excitement about?" For me, part of the excitement is having the opportunity to support this great institution by reaching out to fellow alumni and friends to help Oakland University continue the legacy that Matilda Dodge Wilson began when she founded the university more than five decades ago. By giving to the Honors College you are supporting its current students and the students to come in the next 30 years and beyond. Together as partners we can build the future of Oakland and the Honors College.

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS WINTER DONORS

Phil Clampit
Jean Chagnon
Robert & Jane Eberwein
Sue Evans
Julie Granthen
The Deloitte Foundation
Phillip & Barbara Williams



Running with Scissors

OU Magazine

In 1999, Kate Cron Griswold, CAS/HC '88 turned her hobby into a business by partnering with a relative to create

the annual Great Lakes Mega Meet, a weekend scrap-booking convention in Michigan. Griswold has since become the sole owner and expanded the event to one that attracted 9,000 attendees in 2007.

You can check out Griswold's web site at <http://www.megameet.com/>.

RECENT GRADS



After completing his master's degree in Library Science, **Jeff Reid '04** is now the Teen Librarian at the Dayton Metro Library in Ohio. Jeff also recently married fellow OU alum and former HC student, Diana Walcott.

Katie Livingston '05 was offered admission to MSU's program in *Critical Studies in Literacy and Pedagogy* as well as a two year teaching assistantship. She starts school in August.



Sandra Mierzejewski '07 is eating mystery food, making new friends and enjoying being in Japan before she begins teaching English in the city of Kasukabe.

Lauren McIntyre '07 is heading off for her second missions trip, this time to Bolivia. She is also preparing for a July wedding, and looking forward to her HC thesis coming out in the Winter issue of the Oakland Journal.



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

STUDENT ASSOCIATION (HCSA)



THE HCSA E-BOARD

Jason Graves, Ashley McIntosh, Amy Ring, Aaron Burns, Tawnee

The Honors College Student Association has continued its incredible year with a final semester of fantastic events! From dusk until dawn January 25th through 26th, the HCSA held its annual All-Night Party. Over 100 students packed the Honors College to finish off a constant supply of food, watch movies, play games like “Apples to Apples” and Pictionary, and indulge in a delicious chocolate fountain.

In February, author and poet John Jeffire held HC students in rapt attention at the annual HCSA Poetry Jam. Following the theme “In Your Own Words,” both Mr. Jeffire and many of the students in attendance enjoyed sharing some of their personal writings. The afternoon concluded with music by the band “Steven and the Reelers.”

Throughout March, the HCSA held a fundraiser involving guessing the number of M&M’s inside a jar. Whoever guessed correctly won a beautiful hand-made quilt made completely by several HC students. All proceeds from the fundraiser go directly toward more fun and stimulating HCSA events like the ones we’ve had in the past semester! And the winner (with the exact guess) was, our secretary, Dawn Deitsch.

CONGRATULATIONS



DAWN!

Finally, the HCSA was very excited to be joined by Vice Presidents Beaghan, Goepf, Moudgil, and Snyder in a Presidential Question and Answer Forum exclusive to the Honors College. On March 28 in the Gold Rooms, the Oakland University VPs addressed students’ questions on a variety of topics ranging from tuition concerns and research opportunities to the new medical school and residence hall. It was a rich

and informative experience for all HC students!

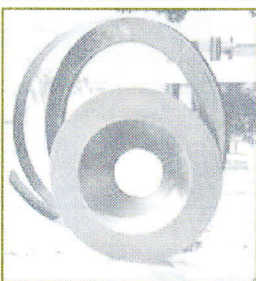
I would like to conclude this update with a heartfelt thanks to the other members of the HCSA E-Board: Amy Ring, Alysse Reynolds, Aaron Burns, Jason Graves, Amanda Benjamin, and Ashley McIntosh. Without their dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm, this year would not have been anywhere near as successful as it has turned out to be. It has been a great pleasure working with them!



Vice President of Student Affairs, Mary Beth Snyder, Vice President & Provost, Virinder Moudgil and HCSA President, Tawnee Milko.

THERE IS A NEW ECHO AT OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

By: Jason D. Graves – Webmaster – Honors College Student Association



The administration of the Honors College Student Association has undertaken an intrepid new project, the creation of an Honors College specific literary and creative arts journal, dubbed *The Honors College Echo*. *The Echo* first began as an idea of Dr. Jude Nixon, Director of the Honors College. Dr. Nixon worked in collaboration with the Executive Board of the Honors College Student Association to hammer out the details of how to set up and maintain the journal, and in what medium to publish it. After much discussion, both parties have agreed upon the format and details of *The Honors College Echo*.

The Echo is set up as a web based journal where the creative and literary works of Honors College students can be permanently displayed in electronic format on the internet. Students will be provided with a unique web address where they can link to their work. This will allow students to post links to their work on a resume or in other publications in which they wish to cite their work. The website of *The Echo* is owned and operated by the Honors College Student Association in much the same way that the HCSA’s own website is, thus making it independent of the Oakland University web server, as well as independent of the size and content restrictions of a website listed under the domain of Oakland University.

The journal is currently accepting its first round of submissions. Submissions, as well as questions regarding *The Echo*, can be sent to editor@ouhcsa.org. As this is the first edition of *The Honors College Echo* we ask that authors remain patient, as we are still setting up the screening and web publishing process for accepted works.

On the web:

<http://journal.ouhcsa.org>

<http://www.ouhcsa.org>

HC "IN THE NEWS"

Grizzdance Celebrates Third Annual Film Festival

The News @ OU Campus News

Nov. 19, 2007

by Sarah Malczynski



The third annual Grizzdance Film Festival was held Thursday, Nov. 15, and Friday, Nov. 16, in the Oakland Center. Members of the OU community were encouraged to view the student-made productions Thursday and Friday afternoons in the Fireside Lounge. A banquet concluded the festival Friday evening with the presentation of several awards for accomplishments in the students' films. The festival was sponsored by the Honors College Student Association and Student Video Productions.

KEEPER OF THE DREAM SCHOLARSHIPS

The News @ OU Campus News

Jan. 3, 2008

By Susan Twthing-McHale

Two Honors College students were among those honored at the 16th annual Keeper of the Dream Awards Celebration on Monday, Jan. 21. Human rights activist and entertainer Harry Belafonte was the keynote speaker.



Latonia Garrett (left/middle) is an Honors College junior, majoring in journalism. She is a peer mentor for CMI and a resident assistant who pushes and promotes academics and involvement. "Latonia is a friendly person who appreciates and values the difference in others."

Avery Neale (right/middle) is an Honors College mentor, works with minority and at-risk students in grades 7-12, and is very active on campus. "She has a gift for bringing people together and continually encourages fellow students to actively participate in campus life."



Celebrate romance, and more, at Meadow Brook Hall

Rochester Post Jan. 31, 2008

by Linda Shepard



A continuing Girl Scouts program will deliver a group of young girls to the hall Feb. 8 for a viewing of the film "Night at the Museum."

Leanne DeVreugd is the Girl Scout coordinator for Meadow Brook Hall. "We have 100 Girl Scouts coming to 'Night at the Museum.' The atmosphere will be like a sleep-over, the girls will bring sleeping bags and pajamas."

DeVreugd said Girl Scouts are frequent Meadow Brook Hall visitors, attending tours in conquest of Listening to the Past or Architecture patches. "The girls think Meadow Brook is amazing," she said. "The younger girls say it is like a castle and imagine they are princesses. They want to hear lots of stories about the girls who lived here. It is a great way for them to relate to the past."

Election Evolutions Spawns New Tactics

The Oakland Post

Mar. 26, 2008

by Jess Dunsmore

(*Five of the six candidates this year are Honors College Students!)



Ed Karner & Andrew Bashi

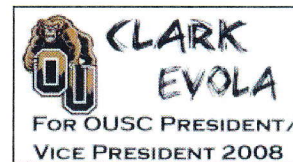
Anyone paying attention can see it's the home stretch of election time. For one, this campaign has an online presence.

As has been a tradition in recent years, each presidential ticket has a *Facebook* group.

At press time, **Bashi/ Karner** and **Clark/Evola** were neck and neck on the *Facebook* front, with 324 and 328 members in their groups, respectively, while the **Twardy/Neale** group trailed with 240.

****UPDATE:** Drawing a record number of voters, and in a very close race, the election went to

Steve Clark and Daniel Evola.

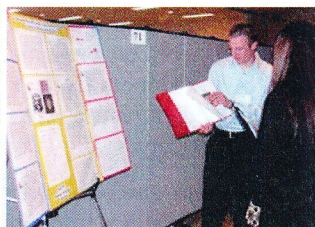


Jordan Twardy & Avery Neale

Meeting of the Minds Held at OU on May 16

Student news

by Rebecca Wyatt Thomas



In 1995, Andrea Kozak (Taszreak), CAS/HC '96, participated in her first **Meeting of Minds**. As an OU student, Kozak worked with a professor in the psychology department on research and used the research to develop a poster presentation for the undergraduate research conference. Now, as an assistant professor of psychology at OU, Kozak is encouraging her students to gain the experience Meeting of Minds offers.

CamieLee Frasher (current HC student) will be presenting an oral presentation about a fine arts workshop and art exhibition she ran this summer for a group of high risk girls in Detroit.

"After going through the experience of presenting at Meeting of Minds at UM Flint last spring, I found out Oakland would be the host for Meeting of Minds 2008 and I wanted to get more involved," Frasher said. Frasher was able to not only get involved as a presenter but also serve on OU's Meeting of Minds host committee.

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