

HONORS COLLEGE

Oakland University

ECHO COGNITIO

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 MARCH 2007



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15, 5:00-6:30 pm
Law Forum w/ Cooley Law School

March 22, 8:00-9:15 am
Ethical Issues and Globalization Breakfast Lecture
Speaker: Rande Somma

March 29, 6:00 pm
An Evening with Macbeth
Dinner, Conversation & Play

April 12,
Honors College Research and Scholarship Day

April 18
HCSA Pool party & barbecue

DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS

This is the inaugural e-newsletter of The Honors College. The goal is to provide updates on the HC's academic and co-curricular life. We hope to produce at least two annually. If there is news you wish to share or information you wish from us, please let us know.

Rebecca Sellers has been appointed Development Officer for The Honors College, a first. She hit the campus running, and has already begun several initiatives to support our students and program.

Our fall 2006 incoming class, of 130 students, was the largest in our thirty years. This large number of bright students made awarding scholarships a challenge. One of our major development goals is to secure more endowed scholarships to continue to make Oakland University and The Honors College the first choice for many of these bright students.

The size of the incoming class also brought a new challenge—class size. Almost all of our fall and winter Honors College classes far exceeded our maximum class size. Thus, for the first time in our long history we now

have in place for fall 2007 and winter 2008 multiple sections of classes. This means relying on the extreme generosity of departments. We have also benefited from a generous donor whose faculty initiative fund has made it possible for us to supplement faculty instructional costs.

The Honors College Council has been kept busy with increasing numbers of Honors College thesis proposals. The Advisory Council has been exploring ways to improve Honors College outreach and development.

We have three important upcoming events. On 22 March, we will hold the inaugural **Joy James Williams Lectureship**. Rande Somma, Executive in Residence at the School of Business, will speak on **Ethical Issues and Globalization**.

On 26-27 March, the New York based artist Devorah Sperber, invited by Professor Barry Winkler's Honors College class on vision, will speak to his class and classes in Art and Art History. Everyone is invited to her talk on **The Eye of the Artist: The Work of Devorah Sperber**.

Finally, on 29 March, we are hosting



Dr. Jude V. Nixon
at Graduation Reception

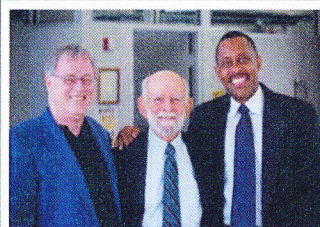
An Evening with Macbeth. This will be a dinner, followed by Conversations with Professors Brian Murphy and Niels Herold, and attendance to the play at Meadow Brook Theatre.

I end by highlighting some notable accomplishments by our students. Sean Buono, Kwame Everett, and Brandon Svenson are recipients of the Keeper of the Dream Award. Senior English major Peter Halabu scored in the 99.8% on his LSAT. As expected, he is being recruited by all of the top laws schools in the country. We are proud of all of the accomplishments of our students, and celebrate their talent, creativity, and industry.

Jude V. Nixon

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Former Honors College directors **Brian Murphy** (left), **Mel Chernio** (center), and current director **Jude Nixon** (right) celebrated the 25th reunion of The Honors College's first graduating class.

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

STUDY ABROAD

LONDON/LIVERPOOL



St. Pauls from across The Thames

In correlation with the HC course, The Art of Slavery, a study of the depiction of slavery in 19th century art, a group of nine students and our instructor, Dr. Jude Nixon, took a trip to England in October 2006. This trip served as a great opportunity for us to get up-close and personal with the art we had been studying throughout the semester by conducting research at museums and libraries in Liverpool and London, including the Merseyside Museum, the Central Library, the National Maritime Museum, the Tate Gallery, the British Museum, and the British Library. Aside from gathering valuable information for our

class studies, we were able to observe and absorb English culture through such experiences as traveling by ferry, foot, bus, train, and the tube (subway); sightseeing, shopping, and excellent dining. However, it is not the pictures, fine chocolates, or fashionable clothes we came home with that underscore the value of this opportunity. But rather, the information we collected and the life we experienced demonstrate the importance of this trip and the value of study abroad.

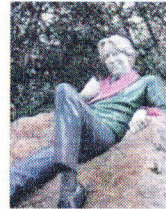
By Desiree Long



Jamie Shorek
in Trafalgar Square

ADVENTURES IN IRELAND

During winter break 2006, thirteen students accompanied Professor Brian Connolly on a trip to the Emerald Isles, in conjunction with ENG 300, "Irish Literature." Ostensibly, the trip was an opportunity for greater identification with the Irish literary greats – Swift, Yeats, and Joyce, among others – that we were already studying.



Oscar Wilde

The unique cultural atmosphere of Ireland, however, proved to be an irresistible mixture: Christianity and paganism, English and Gaelic, traditional and modern, all in constant, fruitful tension. The wild beauty of the landscape, the natural amiability of the people, and the rich history of the island were at the same time strange and intriguing.

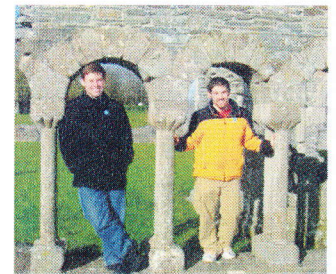
The contrast between cosmopolitan, essentially European Dublin and rural West Ireland showed a nation which was at the same time looking forward and backward.



Drumcliffe Church

The Irish culture we experience was indelibly stamped on every literary work we studied in class. Acculturating ourselves into the Irish worldview was like stepping into the shoes of the authors themselves. My classmates and I returned from Ireland enriched, not only as scholars but also as human beings.

By Peter Halabu



Peter & Paul Halabu at the
ruins of Mellifont Abbey



Oxford University and Brasenose

British Studies at Oxford—Summer 2007

Oakland University is proud to cooperate with Brasenose College to offer our British Studies at Oxford Program for the 35th successive year. Our program is designed to immerse students in the historical, artistic, political, cultural, and commercial milieu that has informed literary and political works, business management, communication, educational theory, and fine arts studied in our courses.

All courses consist of a combination of lecture and tutorial, each of them with course-related excursions. Tutors require either tests or essays, sometimes both.

- Four-week, four-credit courses of study in Art History, Literature, Medieval Studies, Political Science, and History
- Courses taught by local faculty incorporating local resources (archives, museums, guest speakers, performances, and field trips)
- Residence at Brasenose College, Oxford University
- Excursions to London, Stonehenge, Salisbury, Avebury, Stratford, Blenheim Palace, Broughton Castle, and Bath



HC Students

Matt Hostetler (far left), Ann Schrier (3rd from right) Sandra Mierzejewski (far right).

Four weeks:

July 1 - July 29, 2007

Six spaces left, (as of March 5, 2007)

Honors College Classes

We have a number of very interesting classes offered this year: a math class on **Infinity**, a western civilization class on **Blogging and Western Self-Consciousness**, a natural science class on **Vision and Visual Perspective**, and an art class on **Looting and Vandalism**.

Our Senior Colloquium class, **Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness**, taught by Professor Brian Murphy, discussed Will Smith's recent movie *The Pursuit of Happyness*, and read and discussed such works as John Stuart Mill's philosophical treatise, "On Liberty."

HC 204



"Many people use a blog just to organize their own thoughts while others command influential, worldwide audiences of thousands."

Blogging: The Writing of Self ~Pamela Mitzelfeld and Rachel Smydra

At the risk of sounding like we are having too much fun, this semester's course on blogging (HC 204) is surpassing our expectations. Since the first day of class, we have been impressed by our students' openness and enthusiasm. It has allowed this course to evolve in ways we hadn't anticipated, and it has provided the opportunity to challenge ourselves while examining these traditional and contemporary genres.

Throughout the semester, students are examining blogging as a modern layer of Western Civilization's preoccupation with writing about the self. From the journals of Samuel Pepys, Emerson, and Virginia Woolf to Benjamin Franklin's autobiography, to current political and personal

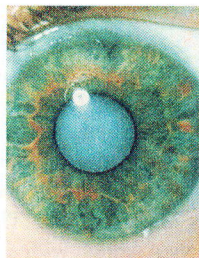
blogs, we are examining the ways in which people shape their stories for public scrutiny.

Using our unique instructional techniques, we present our material based on our own interests and opinions regarding blogging and writing. Rachel Smydra is the techno-geek, who loves blogging and sees it as a viable medium; Pamela Mitzelfeld is the traditionalist, who appreciates traditional genres and wonders how people have time to write and respond in this electronic medium.

Our students are placed in scenarios that challenge them to examine self-narrative, place themselves in alternate personas, make judgments about the ways in which audience, voice, and persona play significant roles in self-narrative, and follow and create blogs.

From giving oral presentations in the voice of Benjamin Franklin to examining political blogs and contemplating the "virtues" that modern political candidates might espouse in their blogs, we are delighted with the way our Honors College students make even more of the assigned tasks than we might have imagined. Their creativity is bringing unexpected bonuses to this team-teaching experience.

HC 208 Vision and Visual Per- ception



~Barry S. Winkler, Ph.D.

Teaching an Honors College science-based course on vision to predominantly first-year, non-science students is a challenge for all involved. The subject matter encompasses a broad array of disciplines, as the study and understanding of the process of vision does.

These disciplines include physics (light, refraction, optics), anatomy (structures of the eye and the visual pathway), biochemistry (transduction of light energy into chemical energy in photoreceptor cells), physiology (signaling and transfer of in-

formation from retina to brain), and pathology (blindness). The trick (if I may use this word) is to choose and present material that does not require a strong background in all of these scientific disciplines without oversimplifying the material to a point beyond which it no longer holds together.

The joy for the students and me is to achieve the proper balance. Along the way, I will continue to challenge and push the students, supplement the lectures/readings with poems that express visual imagery, invite interesting guest lecturers, and take the students to a research seminar at the Kellogg Eye Institute in Ann Arbor.



Eye Institute, AA

HC 201 The Art of Slavery

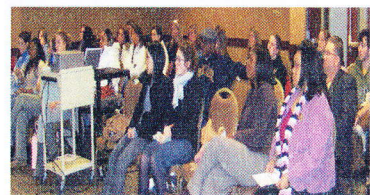


This year is the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in the British West Indies. To commemorate this very significant event, as well as to describe what African-American life resembled before it occurred, five students in the Honors College class "The Art of Slavery" presented "Commemorating Abolition: 1807 - 2007" as part of Oakland University's annual African American Celebration. After a brief introduction by Dr. Jude Nixon and Commemorating Abolition program organizer Tawnee Milko, freshmen Ashley Beck, Whitney Litzner, Ashley McIntosh, Carmen Neely, and Milko shared in-depth research projects that detailed the personas, secret codes, music, and memorials surrounding Western

slavery and abolition.

Including graphically stimulating PowerPoints and rich, handmade visuals, the presentations offered to a multicultural audience a crucial and well-investigated glimpse into the earliest of African-American history. In turn, the audience not only left the program much more informed, but ideally gained a respect for and basic understanding of the sufferings and triumphs of these earliest African-Americans. Only time, however, will reveal the success of the presentation's ultimate goal: that every person present at "Commemorating Abolition: 1807 - 2007" will continue to demonstrate their newfound respect and understanding of the past toward the African-American community of today.

By Tawnee Milko



ALUMNI

OU & HC Anniversaries

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 13, 2007! The Honors College will celebrate its 30th Anniversary, in conjunction with OU's 50th Anniversary with a luncheon and a tribute to the HC's second director, Robert Howes on October 13, 2007. HC alumna Laura Saul Edwards, class of 1986, and former HC student Anne Marie Zell Schwerin will both give remarks in honor of Dr. Howes. Two of Dr. Howes' children, Barb and Billy (a former HC student) plan to attend. Invitations will be sent in the late summer.

Professor Appleton

Retired HC faculty member, Sheldon Appleton, visited the HC in August, 2006. Professors Vince Khapoya and Richard Stamps, HC Alumnae Karen Meyer and Rose Marie Smith, class of 1986, and HCAAC member Mary Wermuth were able to join Dr. Appleton for lunch. Assistant Alumni Director Erin Sudrovech presented Dr. Appleton with a certificate acknowledging his

nomination as an Honorary Alumnus of OU.

Charter Class Reunion

In July, 2006, HC charter class members gathered to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their graduation with a luncheon at the Honors College. The first HC Director, Mel Cherno and his wife Dee were in attendance. Remarks were given by current HC Director, Jude Nixon, the third HC Director, Brian Murphy, and by Dr. Cherno. Dr. James Szocik, HC class of 1981, acted as Master of Ceremonies. Professors Judy Brown and Gertrude White, who taught the first two HC courses attended as well as Jan Baker, the first HC Secretary.

HC Alumni News

Jane Hershey Abraham, HC class of 1981, was reelected Co-Chair of the Michigan Republican Party on February 10, 2007.

Elsbeth Coats (Galloway), class of 1991, was elected as 2006-2007 Chairman of the Board of the Rochester Area Jaycees!

Our congratulations to **Pete Jaber**, HC class of 1981, and his wife Tiffany on the birth of their second child, a son, John Thomas, on December 13, 2006.

Our congratulations to **Walter Torno-pilsky**, HC class of 1999, and his wife Michelle on the birth of their first child, a son, Nicholas Francis, on October 15, 2006.

Alan Terlep HC class of 1994 has accepted a call to serve as pastor of the First Christian Church in Princeton, Ill. He was ordained by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) last September.

Mary Wermuth (Honors College Advisory Council) recently retired from the International Academy where she was the Dean of Humanities. She now enjoys tour directing working and traveling with bands, orchestras, and choirs throughout the world.

Marcia Wieland, HC class of 2006, is the new choral and drama director at Eaton Rapids High School.

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

STUDENT ASSOCIATION (HCSA)



One of five HC Summer Orientations for incoming freshmen



Welcome Back Picnic

The Honors College Student Association (HCSA) is an organization devoted to working with Honors College students to form and facilitate events that encourage intellectual growth and social understanding. An executive board of six members and a faculty advisor represent

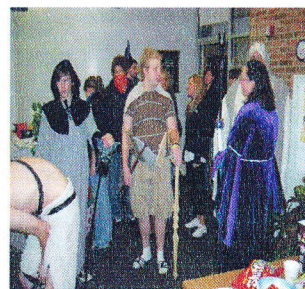
Honors College students, with each board member being supplemented by a committee of people who help to organize events, advertise, enlist community support from nearby businesses, and help the events function in a smooth fashion.

Every month, there is a general meeting where the executive board updates Honors students on its activities and informs them of upcoming events. The 'welcome back' and 'end of the year' picnics are two large events that are

an annual tradition in the HCSA. They are extensive and involve large quantities of food, people, and often times live music led by talented musicians among the Honors students. Two other frequently occurring events are the poetry jams and the movie nights. On many occasions, a specific topic of focus is observed during the poetry jams, while movie nights are often frivolous and a convenient excuse to socialize. One specific poetry jam was devoted to a tremendous guest speaker who visited OU recently, Maya Angelou. At the event Maya Angelou's poetry was read by students and food was consumed; following that the group of students left to hear her speak.

Additionally, the HCSA works in conjunction with other organizations to improve

the campus and community as a whole. Grizz Dance, an organization which forms a yearly contest for amateur film makers, found its beginnings in the HCSA. The HCSA also works with organizations on events like the fast-a-thon, which make a profound change within the community. It is because of this that the HCSA offers students an undeniably superior environment where they can have a truly unique experience.



Halloween Party

SCHOLARSHIPS & SPECIAL AWARDS

2006-2007

Honors College Scholarships

David & Marion	\$2,000 maximum
Handleman	\$2,000 maximum
J. Alfred Jones	\$2,000 maximum
Credit Union One (CO)	Full rides
(COS)	\$2,000 maximum
Honors College	\$5,500 total

Young Study Abroad

In the past two years we have been able to help send students to study in Argentina, France, Greece, Japan, Ireland, London, Oxford, and Spain.

Baccalaureate Scholarships

The Honors College is now the administrative home for all university baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate scholarships, such as the **Marshall, Rhodes, Fulbright, Goldwater, Madison, Truman, and Cooke**. We are already interviewing a number of bright students from across campus wanting to pursue them.

Keeper of the Dream

Strong citizenship, scholarship and leadership in breaking down cultural stereotypes and promoting interracial understanding. (Three of the six recipients were Honors College Students)



Sean Buono



Kwame Everett



Brandon Svenson

Matilda and Alfred Wilson

A graduating OU senior man and woman. Nominees are judged on their contributions as scholars, leaders and responsible citizens of the Institution



Jianna Hair



Peter Halabu

****To make a donation to The Honors College visit:**
<http://www2.oakland.edu/oakland/>

HONORS COLLEGE STUDENT PROFILE 2006-2007

INCOMING FRESHMEN



Welcome Dinner- Meadow Brook Hall

Graduated from:

S.E. MI Public Schools	74	59.6%
Other MI. Public Schools	24	19.3%
Out of State Public Schools	2	1.6%
Catholic High Schools	8	6.4%
Other Christian Schools	14	11.3%
Home Schooled	2	1.6%

Average GPA 3.683
Average ACT 26.37

Gender/Ethnicity:

White Female	75	56%
White Male	33	25%
Af. American Female	12	9%
Af. American Male	2	1%
Asian/Pac. Female	5	4%
Hispanic Female	2	1%
No Response Female	5	4%



Welcome Dinner

CURRENT HC STUDENTS (as of 10/4/06)

Breakdown of Majors:

Art/Art History	4
Bio/Biochem	24
Business	30
Chemistry	2
Comm/Journalism	21
Comp Sci./Engineering	2
East Asian Studies	7
Education	20
English	13
English/Sec. Ed	6
French	2
German	1
History	3
History/Sec. Ed	2
Health Sciences	10
HRD	2
International Studies	1
Linguistics	2
Math	5
Math/Sec. Ed	2
MTD	13
MTD/Ed	3
Nursing	12
Physical Therapy	7
Physics	2
Poli Sci	9
Pre-Law	8
Pre-Med	35
Pre-Pharmacy	1
Psychology	12

Soc/Anthro	5
Spanish	3
Spanish/Sec. Ed	1
Undecided	

Gender/Ethnicity:

White Female	174	52.5%
White Male	85	25.6%
Af. Am. Female	22	6.6%
Af. Amer. Male	7	2.1%
Amer. Indian Male	1	.03%
Asian/Pac. Female	11	3.3%
Asian/Pac. Male	3	0.9%
Hispanic Female	7	2.1%
Hispanic Male	2	0.6%
International	1	.03%
No Response Female	13	3.9%
No Response Male	3	0.9%