

HONORS COLLEGE

Oakland University

ECHO COGNITIO

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1 FALL 2009



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Classes End**
Saturday, Dec. 5 (10pm)
- Final Exams Begin**
Monday, Dec. 7
- Final Exams End**
Saturday, Dec. 12 (10 pm)
- Fall Commencement**
Saturday, Dec. 12

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

- Classes Resume**
Tuesday, Jan. 5
- HC Mandatory Assembly**
Jan. 12 (4:30-5:30)
- HCSA "breakfast for dinner"**
(Immediately following the assembly)

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DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS



When I became the Interim Director of the Honors College last July and moved my office from the

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures to the fabulous glass dome in Vandenberg, I expected that I would learn more about the ins and outs of Oakland University than in my previous twenty-one years. Indeed, it has been a very busy, rewarding, and challenging time working with the 190 bright incoming students in the First Year Colloquium, the various boards, the Honors College Council, and the many students, faculty, and friends of the HC.

Some of the highlights this semester have been; attending the Michigan Honors Association Conference at Higgins Lake, accompanied by two HC student representatives; the mandatory Assembly in September, where we had standing room only; President

Russi's and the Vice Presidents' presentations at the First Year Colloquium class about the structure of the university followed by a lively and open question and answer session; the HC 100 Career Day Workshop with HC alumni, Oakland faculty and administrators in the areas of Medicine, Law, Business, Education, Engineering and Arts and Sciences; and hosting a breakfast for students and faculty with Professor Stephen Prothero, chair of the religion department at Boston University, whose book *Religious Literacy* was used in the HC 100 Colloquium.

There are currently over 550 students in The Honors College and it has been very exciting to share in the celebrations of various scholarships that HC students have received this year:

- 104 Presidential, Distinguished, and Talented Scholars Awards for our incoming Freshmen
- Four "Summer" Young Study Abroad Scholarships—M. Joey Meyer, Oxford, Amy Ring, Segovia, Spain, Kerrie Ruebelmann, Italy, Jake Wendt, Japan
- Current Study Abroad

Awards: Jenna Barnes (Japan) and Sarah Lazarescu (Ukraine)

- Keeper of the Dream Awards (2010-2011): Chelsea Grimmer and Juquatta Brewer
- 3 Credit Union ONE COS Full Ride Scholarships for freshman year: Jessica Drogowski, Justin Tonarelli, and Michael Lohrer;
- 3 Credit Union ONE Scholarship for incoming freshmen
- 9 Handleman Scholarships
- 13 Alumni Association Scholarships

On December 3rd, we closed out the academic year with the HC Research and Scholarship Day. We had a record number of participants and attendees who presented papers or did power points from their various HC courses this semester. For next semester, we have already started plans for a Winter Meet and Greet event. We are hoping to launch an HC Lecture Series, and are offering, for the first-time, summer classes in the HC.

Happy Holidays

Barbara Mabee, Interim Director



Honors College Freshmen "packed" the O'rena at fall Convocation.



Katie LaBelle, Laura Collier, Fara DiNoto and Courtney Zimmer showcase Alpha Lambda Delta (a freshmen honor society) at the Involvement Fair following convocation.

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

Oxford, England

M. Joey Meyer



Joey at Brasenose College

Brasenose College

In July this year I, along with ten other students, took advantage of the extraordinary Study Abroad program to England, provided by Oakland University and promoted by our Honors College. It proved to be a trip of a lifetime. We stayed in

at Oxford University, some in dorms that were 500 years old. I couldn't help but wonder how many others over those years had studied within the same four walls where I slept. Two other students and I took Medieval Studies, taught by a Trinity professor. Can you imagine a class of three students casually meeting in the professor's office, intensely discussing a topic? It was an amazing learning experience.

To supplement our studies we took wonderful excursions including palaces and castles, the historic Tower of London, Stonehenge, Avebury, Bath—the very same place from the pages of Chaucer, and many more. We were encouraged to explore on our own and so I spent a day in Paris and a weekend in Dublin with friends. I am very grateful for this experience and would highly recommend it.



Day trip to The Louvre in Paris.

Nagoya, Japan

Jenna Barnes

“Kon’nichiwa” from Nagoya, Japan

~Jenna Barnes



Jenna with her host family

To my fellow OU Honors College students, I am pleased to send word from the East. I have been living fourteen hours in future in the “Land of the Rising Sun” since the beginning of September through OU’s Japanese exchange program.

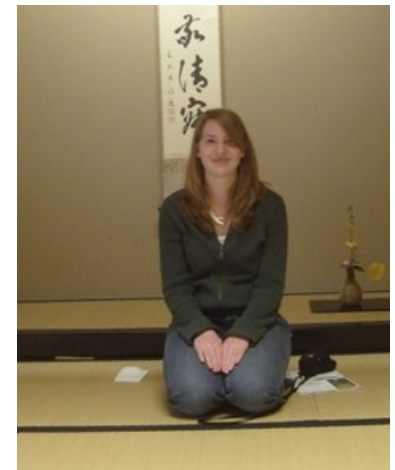
Though I have yet to find flying cars, I have had a myriad of experiences.



Nara is full of very bold deer, Kabuki plays are amazing, Hiroshima has life-changing museums, and Japan’s castles provide fantastic views. In my experiences, Japan really is as beautiful as the guide books suggest. Temples, and shrines are in abundance, and the streets of Nagoya are lined with flowers and trees. My daily commute is a stroll in the park.

Japanese cuisine is worth a mention as well. From city to city, the menu changes extensively. For example, Nagoya has the

delicious kishimen noodles. My tea ceremony class provides possibly the world’s best sweets. With the class program and my host family, my language skills are really developing, and I have been able to meet so many amazing people.



Tea Ceremony Classroom

HONORS COLLEGE CLASSES

"THANK YOU"

to our Fall 2009 faculty
and their departments.

Geoff Brieger: *Science as Religion*

Alice Horning: *I-Brain: This is Your
Brain Doing Language*

David Kidger: *Renaissance Venice-
"La Serenissima"*

Barbara Mabey: *Literature & Film in
Post Unification Germany*

Kieran Mathieson: *Believing*

Fritz McDonald: *Nietzsche & His
Antagonists*

Pamela Mitzelfeld: *Thesis Preparation*

Aldona Pobutsky: *Different Faces of
Violence in Contemporary Latin
American Literature & Film*

HC 201: *Renaissance Venice- "La Serenissima"*

By Professor David Kidger

What was it like to live in Venice in the sixteenth century? What were the problems that ordinary people faced? What were the political and economic issues encountered by the Venetian government? What was the influence of the east on artistic endeavors? In the face of a decline in wealth and influence, how did Venice manage to support so many artists, architects, writers, poets, composers and sculptors? And why did their patrons choose to spend their money as they did?



Against this backdrop, this class attempts to provide a living context for what became a distinct expression of the Renaissance movement in Italy. At the same time we consider the influence of some of the great artists and

artworks from Florence on painters in Venice, as well as considering how painters such as Titian, Tintoretto and Veronese worked as individuals and rivals. How did composers transform the soundscape of the city, particularly in the second half of the sixteenth century? Perhaps most importantly we examine how Venice transformed itself into the city known as "La Serenissima," and how that myth continues until the present day.

HC 202: *Literature and Film in Post Unification Germany*

By Sara Lieblein (HC 202 student)

The Wall in 1990



Many people in the current generation of Oakland University students are

unaware that November 9, 2009 was the 20 year anniversary of the opening of the Berlin Wall. This has given the Honors College a unique chance to study the history of Berlin and German Unification while it is a hot topic in the media. We have utilized literature, film and current articles about the epic events surrounding the memorable day when Günter

Schabowski announced that the border was going to be more accessible. He also mistakenly made this statement go into effect immediately, causing a surprise for the people, the GDR government, and the border guards as the world watched on television in wonder. The opening of the border is the tip of the iceberg in the history of the GDR (German Democratic Republic) and the FRG (Federal Republic of Germany). By the guidance of Dr. Barbara Mabey, whose area of specialization in her Ph.D. studies at Ohio State University was East German Literature and Culture, we have studied all aspects of life in the GDR as well as the effects that unification had and is still having on Germany today.

HC 206: *Believing*

By Professor Kieran Mathieson

Seventeen students in the Honors College took a course titled Believing. Professor Kieran Mathieson - that's me, writing this now - ran the course. We talked about this question: Why do people believe things? We read one book, *Born to Believe*, by Newberg and Waldman. It looks at the neuroscience and psychology behind religious beliefs. However, the same processes underlie beliefs about people, organizations, and other things.

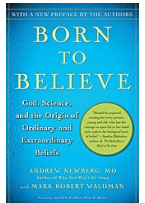
We studied important questions, like:

- How do we know that our memories are real?
- Do we see what is really happening?
- Do theists and atheists see the same event in the same way?
- Are people biologically disposed to prejudice?
- How do people make moral decisions?

Student teams wrote essays on topics like:

- Free will, from a mind science perspective
- Women's beliefs about their bodies
- Inferences from the clothes people wear

Each student also wrote a personal reflection about what they learned, and how they would apply those lessons. The essays and some of the reflections are available on the Web, at <http://believingtoday.org>. Feel free to add comments. Aristotle wrote that the unexamined life is not worth living. Students in the Believing course had a chance to study some deep issues. Hopefully, these lessons will help the students examine their lives, and perhaps start sculpting their lives to fulfilling ends.



ALUMNI SHOWCASE



Erika Hoffmann HC '00

I did my undergraduate work at Oakland in Anthropology. This included two trips abroad to Nepal and India, at which point I made a contact with the deaf communities there (something that was partly inspired by having studied American Sign Language at OU). I then did my Ph.D. in linguistic anthropology at U of M. My research focuses on the project to standardize Nepali Sign Language. I did my post-doctorate at Oberlin, which has now become a tenure track appointment. I have also taught *Introduction to India* at Oakland over the past several years which happens to have been the very first class I myself took as an undergraduate!

"THANK YOU" TO OUR MOST RECENT DONORS

Kathryn (Loeser) Farber
Susan Ogden
Ellen Bristol
Sommer (Stark) Smith

A few of our 2009 Graduates



Mary Cha (who is currently stationed in GA) is serving in the US Army as a combat medic. Mary loves the Army and may soon be deployed to Afghanistan. She is also newly engaged to Professor Nessian Kerrigan of OU's chemistry department.

Anthony Onica is teaching English, making new friends, playing soccer in the mountains, and exploring the countryside, while living in Utsunomia, Japan, about an hour outside of Tokyo.



Shenise Foote has been working with a non-profit organization in Southfield. She is steadily pursuing her dreams of being an executive in the Entertainment/music industry. Currently, she is the CEO of Xstatic Magazine which she started a year ago. She is expecting the release of her first issue early 2010.

MEMORABLE ALUMNI EVENT



Mike Chachich (HC '91), his wife, Michiyo and son, Lukas

On Sunday, August 2nd students, alumni, and friends of the Honors College attended "Musical Magic" at the Meadow Brook Music Festival. Both our previous Director, Jude Nixon, and our new Interim Director, Barbara Mabee, attended. We had a perfect summer afternoon for our picnic and enjoyed listening to timeless family classics performed by the Detroit Symphony.



Cam Evans (married to Sue Jezewski HC'88) and their daughter, Haley.

ALUMNI & FACULTY PRESENT CAREER DAY

By Matt MacLeod

On November 11th, the Honors College hosted its second annual Career Day for students enrolled in HC 100. First-year Honors College students were given the opportunity to hear presentations from a variety of speakers who addressed their unique career paths and how they went from student to professional. Students had the opportunity to attend multiple sessions and interact with the presenters during question and answer sessions.

This year's group of presenters was a cross-section of people from the fields of: Medicine, Law, Engineering, Education, and Liberal Arts. It included university professors as well as Honors College alumni. I am an HC grad who currently teaches high school History and Government and presented for the Education Seminar. What really made this opportunity stand out to students was the great diversity of career paths taken by the various speakers. This was a wonderful opportunity to help new members of the Honors College begin to understand the relationship between college and the professional world, and help them start to develop plans for their possible future career paths.

**** If you are a fellow alumni who would be willing to share your career with next year's freshmen, please go to page 5 and fill out our short survey. THANK YOU!**



Liberal Arts Seminar

Presenters (left to right) Jordan Twardy, (HC '09), Lauren Klos (HC'07), Professor Derek Hastings and Julie Granthen (HC '81)



Medical Seminar

Students ask questions following presentations by members of OU's Nursing, Health Sciences, and Medical School departments.

AND YOU GRADUATED WHEN?

Was it '83, '87, '94, '00, '03? By Mary Wermuth

After three degrees from Oakland and being involved with the development of the Honors College, I reconnected with the HC about six years ago. Going to events, being a part of the HC Advisory Council, and talking with students whenever I visit campus have added much spice to my intellectual and social life.

The HC needs more alums like me. With today's technology which can instantly connect us all, you can help an HC student network for research projects, career experiences, travel, and post graduate directions no matter where you live. You can spice up your life with minimum effort and make a big difference in an HC student's experience.

The HC now has over 500 students and NEEDS YOU!

Please fill out the short survey below and reconnect with both your past and future!



*You can either cut and paste into an email and send to conn@oakland.edu or send us a note at: The Honors College (see address below).

Name:

Year graduated:

Present occupation:

Willingness to reconnect with the HC/ or an HC student in person: Yes Maybe No

Willingness to help an HC student from afar: Yes Maybe No

I would prefer to be contacted by: Email _____ Phone _____

HC APPEAL



The Honors College depends the continued support of our **alumni** and **friends** in order to fund scholarships, student travel and special student events (such as the Champagne Graduate Reception at Meadow Brook Hall). Please consider making a tax deductible contribution to The Honors College gift fund.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Your contribution can be made online by clicking [here](#) or by filling out and mailing the form below. Please be sure to designate your gift to The Honors College.

Please accept the following gift to support scholarships, travel and special student events.

\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$75 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Company Name and Work Title _____

Please make checks payable to
Oakland University and mail to:

The Honors College
112 E. Vandenberg Hall
Oakland University
Rochester, MI 48309

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

(HCSA) HC STUDENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

HCSA Fall Fun

By Chris Jozwick

The HCSA started off the fall at Oakland University with a fantastic “grill out” and bonfire. This occurred after the mandatory Honor College meeting, and as students lined up to get their food, the E-board was pleasantly surprised and excited about the turnout. It was a good thing that extra food was bought because we had just enough, with no leftovers! The “grill out” was followed by a bonfire and some s’more roasting.



Emily Tissot, Abbey Bates, and Rachel Butler

In October we enjoyed two events. A trip to the Yates Cider Mill was the first. We had cider and donuts, walked a nature trail, and watched a child get his head stuck in the wooden picture cutouts. The second event was a combined Halloween bash with the Vandenberg House Council, Residence Halls Association, and the HCSA. HCSA provided the food, which included Buddy’s Pizza and a chocolate fountain, among other goodies. VHC and RHA sponsored the fantastic events.



Members of the HCSA board: Danielle Ager (Secretary), Chris Jozwick (President), and Candice Yono (Vice President).

Our final event for the fall was the annual Honors College Pie Sale. We sold all of the pies and baked goods that we received, and raised a substantial amount of money so that we can provide more events next semester.



Hasan Kaakarli, Michele VanFleteren, and Ellen Glinski (HCSA Campus Relations) sell pies and other donated goodies outside the HC.

Thank you to all who have come out to support the HCSA at the events. Your participation is what makes the events! Please look out for upcoming events in the winter semester, as well as the upcoming elections which should take place in the spring.

Michigan Honors Association Conference

By Max Van Raaphorst

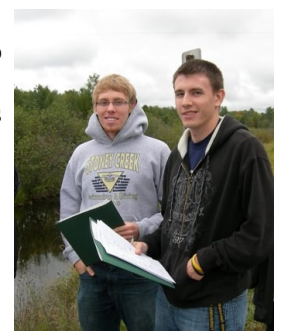


Mark LeMerise, Barbara Mabee and Max Van Raaphorst

It was a great honor to attend the Michigan Honors Association Conference. Dr. Mabee, Mark LeMerise, and I [Max Van Raaphorst] left early on a fine Saturday morning. Once we arrived at the beautiful campsite in Roscommon, MI, the familiar salvo of “ice-breakers” ensued. I was pleasantly surprised by the number of different Honors Colleges around the state of Michigan were present. Everyone present had an interesting story to tell and a smile on their face.

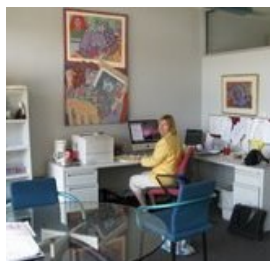
The theme was some where on the lines of developing leadership with a hint of helping the environment edge. We then were divided into two teams. One team went to a stream and collected invertebrates to test for the streams water quality; while the other group evaluated the quality of road crossing over another branch of the stream. It was

very educational and cold. Given the chance to go again I would in a heartbeat. It combined my favorite two things: smart people and a camp atmosphere.



Max and Mark on an Ecology lecture

HC "IN THE NEWS"



Honors College receives a boost with interim director Barbara Mabee

By Eric Reikowski Sept. 16, 2009

The Oakland University Honors College has a new leader at the helm. Longtime OU professor **Barbara Mabee** was named interim director in July.

A veteran educator, Mabee has spent more than 30 years in higher education, including the last two decades at Oakland University, where she has taught a variety of courses in German language and literature, as well as courses in the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program, gender studies and the Honors College.

"I see many possibilities for promoting and developing a more visible Honors College culture on our campus and more opportunities for research and international study," said Mabee. "It is a pleasure and privilege to work with so many bright and curious students and to play a role in shaping their college careers."

Golden Key Provides a Network for Service-Oriented Students

By Amanda Benjamin Sept. 9, 2009



President, Marta Bauer & advisor, Jean Ann Miller at the National Convention Gala

Marta Bauer the new president of Golden Key and a junior English and French major, went to an international Golden Key conference July 30 to Aug. 2 in Orlando, Florida. "The international conference was really, really amazing," Bauer said. At the conference, Bauer said she learned how Golden Key can be a positive force on campus and how she can be a leader.

She aims to revive Golden Key by helping members realize what the organization has to offer.

Student Led-Bike Share Program

By Katie Land Sept. 28, 2009

Tawnee Milko, Erica Moorer and Anthony Ivione are representatives from the OU Student Congress and Sustaining Our Planet Earth (SOPE) student organization.



Tawnee Milko, Erica Moorer and Anthony Ivione present bike share water bottles to President Russi and Provost Moudgil.

Spearheading the student effort, they have been involved in virtually every stage of the process to make the bike share a reality. The bike arsenal has already been increased by 23 bikes donated by students, faculty and staff. The new bikes will hit Oakland's sidewalks after a quick tune up and paint job. Bike Share offers a free, eco-friendly and convenient choice for students, staff and faculty to cover distances on and off campus deemed too far to walk. It also reduces traffic, decreases parking demand and reduces fuel emissions, all while promoting physical fitness and a sense of community.



Brett Radke and 2 of his leading ladies.

The Learned Ladies of Park Avenue

Four Honors College students participated in the Modern Theatre and Dance production of *The Learned Ladies of Park Avenue* this November. **Brett Radke, Lauren Knox, Susanna Allen and Mary Geitzen** were all involved. Mary ran the entire show as the production stage manager and Brett, Susanna and Lauren starred in major roles.

FIRST Robotics Team Networks with Professionals, Mentors Youth

By Eric Reikowski Sept. 30, 2009

FIRST Robotics at OU is comprised of students who serve as mentors to teams at area high schools. In fact, many FIRST Robotics at OU members are alumni of their high school robotics teams and volunteer their time to help current high school students prepare for the series of robotics competitions held each year.

Alex Debusschere, president of FIRST Robotics at OU, added that teams are mentored not only by college students, but also by industry professionals who help inspire young people to pursue careers in science and technology. He emphasized that the robotics team is about much more than robots.



2009-2010 Credit Union One Scholarship Winners

Jana Dedene (CUO OU Branch Manager), Jessica Drogowski, Barbara Mabee (OU Honors College Interim Director), Subha Hanif, Michael Lohrer.

(Not pictured: Justin Tonarelli, Joyce Smith and Elisa Fusco)