

HONORS COLLEGE

Oakland University

ECHO COGNITIO

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1 NOVEMBER 2007



UPCOMING EVENTS

HC Research & Scholarship Day

10:00-3:00 in the HC

January 31

"Shakespeare Behind Bars"
(Dinner/conversation, film, & talkback)

March 6

"Biloxi Blues" -Meadowbrook Theatre
Dinner, Conversation & Play

December 15

Winter Commencement
Exams end

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DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS



The Honors College is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year. The event was commemorated by an Honors College Birthday party organized by the HCSA.

Students filled

the HC lounge enjoying music, laughter, and a birthday cake. President Russi and Provost Moudgil joined in the celebration. The Honors College Advisory Council also hosted an Anniversary Reunion honouring Dr. Robert Howes, the HC's second director. The event returned to campus the Howses' daughters and several alums and faculty who reflected on their years in the HC.

Our fall incoming class of some 153 students was the largest in our history. As a result, our Welcome Dinner had to be moved from historic Meadow Brook Hall to our Banquet Rooms. Matt MacLeod (HC '05), American Government teacher at Bloomfield Hills, Lahser, gave the Welcome Address. He encouraged the incoming class towards excellence and determination. Provost Moudgil also challenged the students to make their own

mark on OU's history. Our Peer Mentoring Meet and Greet event was to a packed audience of some 94 mentors and mentees who got to know each other.

Another first are the multiple sections of Honors College classes to accommodate our increasingly large student body and to maintain our small class size. This plasticity is made possible because departments generously release their faculty to teach in The Honors College. The Ann and Jim Nicholson Faculty Initiative Fund has allowed us to target special faculty with experiences and knowledge crucial to the academic goals of The Honors College. The fund also supports such course offerings as **Exploring the Roots of Urban Fiction, Science and Values: Evolution, Global Technology and Social Change, and Readings in Islamic Literature**. It has also helped to fund visiting lectures, such as Professors Kevin Boyle (Ohio State), author of *Arc of Justice*, Jonathan Smith (UM-Dearborn), author of *Charles Darwin and Victorian Visual Culture*, and Mariaconcetta Costantini (Universita G. D'Annunzio, Pescara, Italy), author of numerous publications on Nigerian and Victorian literature and culture.

I cannot end my remarks

without thanking Dawn and Karen for their always positive attitude to the work of the HC, and saluting the HCSA, led by Tawnee Milko (president) and Amy Ring (vice president), for its responsible care of HC student life. Their many programs and events foster a supportive, social, and intellectually engaging community. Soon their online academic journal, the *HC Echo*, will feature the creative work of HC students. The fall issue of *The Oakland Journal*, a special anniversary issue, will feature two stories on The Honors College by Julie Granthen and Brian Murphy, and an essay by HC senior Desiree Long.

I end with expression of thanks to many of you who continue to support us through the All University Fund Drive. Many of you generously support the HC, especially Ann and Jim Nicholson, Walt and Donna Young, David and Charlene Handleman, and Credit Union One. I also wish to thank those of you who have given generously to The Honors College through the OU Capital Campaign, Innovation and Opportunity. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or information on The Honors College. I wish you Happy Holidays!



Happy
30th Birthday!



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

GREECE



The treasury of Athens in Delphi

In April 2007, the Art History Department traveled to Greece. This trip was planned by Andrea Eis, in conjunction with a class in the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Graduate program and was opened to the university community. Students spent seven days traveling and studying the ruins of Ancient Greece.

Students began their studies in Athens, the capital of Greece, visiting the Acropolis, the great Parthenon and various museums. From there, they traveled to Delphi, visiting the Temple of Apollo, the site of the ancient oracles.

Continuing south and west the tour crossed into the Peloponnese to Nafplio, the first capital of

Greece and then on to the ancient ruins at Mycenae.

In addition to studying Ancient Greek culture, students were also able to experience Modern Greece. While traveling, they tasted local favorites including the seafood on the coast, the Spanakopita (Spinach pies), Tzatziki (yogurt and cucumber dip) and Mousaka. Equally impressive were the beautiful landscapes of the mountains near Corinth, calm waters of the Mediterranean, olive trees and orange groves. While visiting the ancient ruins traveling between cities, students discovered a country with a rich past intertwined with contemporary Greek culture.

By Sarah Travis



Sarah, on the beach in Tolo.

JAPAN



The village of Shirakawa-go

Thanks in large part to the Honors College, I was given the opportunity to study abroad in Japan for my senior year; it ended up being one of the best years of my life.

From hitch-hiking up a mountain so I could soak in a hot-spring to navigating the insanity that is the Osu-Kanon Sunday flea market, it felt like every day was an adventure.

It was certainly an adventure I couldn't have had had I not gone abroad. It may sound cliché, but it is the truth: I was able to meet people from all over the world, and my Korean, Japanese, and

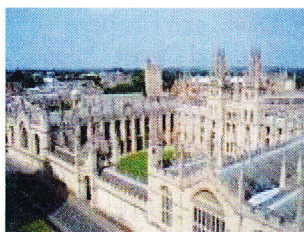
Australian roommates will be great friends for the rest of my life; I know that there will be a door open and a hot meal waiting for me in almost any country I visit; I can also be confident that I am preparing myself for the ever-shrinking world ahead. Though I can't guarantee your experience while abroad, I can guarantee that it will be unlike anything you have done before. I can't recommend it enough.

By Dan Doyen



Dan, far left, and other students he met from around the world.

British Studies at Oxford—Summer 2008



Virgin Tower, Oxford

Everyone who studies abroad will say the same thing – do it. It's worth the money and you'll have the time of your life! But that's old news. Don't get me wrong, every word is true, but what we really take from it comes from those people we spend our time with – the advisor who grows on you more and more each day, the fun (but mostly crazy) students you travel with, and the locals you meet while traveling.

However, the greatest impact throughout my study abroad trip to Oxford, England this past summer came from my professor – Francis Leneghan. Francis, a professor at Trinity College, Dublin, taught me to enjoy not only Chaucer and his Canterbury Tales, but also Beowulf (my loathed enemy from high school). It was pure excitement in sharing all his knowledge of medieval literature that brought forth my own enthusiasm for what I once despised. Not just playing the role of our professor, Francis joined us to celebrate birthdays and sight see. It's these professors that make the strongest impact on students and make our time in school, whether at OU or overseas, worthwhile (p.s. DO IT!)

- 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
- Residence at Brasenose College, Oxford University
- Excursions to London, Stonehenge, Salisbury, Avebury, Stratford, Blenheim Palace, Broughton Castle, and Bath

By Bethany Brichta

Bethany (on rock) and other class members at an English castle



HONORS COLLEGE CLASSES

"THANK YOU"

to our Fall 2007 faculty
and their departments.

Eddie Allen	Guest lecturer
Sara Chapman	History
Philip Clampitt	Biology
David Dulio	Political Science
Kyle Edwards	English
Pamela Mitzelfeld	English
Jude Nixon	English/HC
Tramale Turner	Guest Lecturer

HC 208

Science & Values: Evolution-

"Learning to think like Evolutionists"

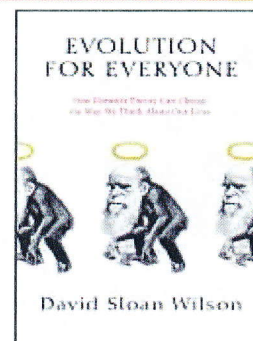
~Philip Clampitt

The Honors College natural science course is going well. All eighteen students are indeed *learning to think like evolutionists* – a major goal of the course. Recent mid-term exam results support this conclusion.

What do we do in Evolution? We read recent books with inviting titles and substantial content, including *Evolution for Everyone* (by evolutionist David Sloan Wilson) and *Endless Forms Most Beautiful* (by evolutionary geneticist Sean B. Carroll). We discuss

these books. I lecture on evolution, as do outstanding guest lecturers. Oakland University's philosopher of science, Paul Graves, talked on what science is and where our values come from. O.U. evolutionary biologist Thad Grudzien spoke on population genetics, natural selection, and speciation, with mathematical models. Professor Jonathan Smith (English, U.M.-Dearborn) lectured to the class on Charles Darwin and evolutionary aesthetics.

We are showing the excellent

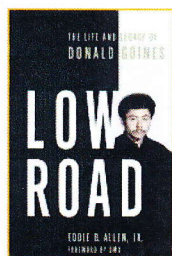


seven-part PBS series on Evolution. Each student is writing an evolution-related term paper as an important part of his/her work. We work hard and learn important new things.

HC 202

Exploring the Roots of Urban Fiction

~Eddie Allen



"Exploring the Roots of Urban Fiction" made its debut at Oakland University's Honors College in

September. Dr. Jude Nixon recruited author and journalist Eddie B. Allen Jr., who penned the book *Low Road: The Life and Legacy of Donald Goines*, to instruct the course, which is among the first in the country to formally examine the popular genre that has become known as "street lit" "urban lit" and, occasionally, "hip hop fiction."

A class of fourteen students responded positively, all

maintaining perfect attendance for the first six weeks, and reading materials that included Donald Goines' once-underground classic *Dopefiend* and Sister Souljah's *The Coldest Winter Ever*.

Among guest lecturers who addressed the class were Scott Burnstein, author of *Motown Mafia*, Dr. Justin Gifford the University of Nevada at Reno, and Dr. Kevin Boyle, author of the book *Arc of Justice*. Three students, Ed Karner, Sean Callan and Kerry Rubelman, were nominated to present papers they wrote, comparing urban warfare in the book *Monster: The Autobiography of an LA Gang Member* with the war in Iraq, before the Honors College.

HC 206

Politics in 30 Seconds:

Television Advertising in American Politics

~Dave Dulio

I'm thrilled to be teaching a course in the Honors College this fall. When Professor Nixon asked me to teach a course, I knew exactly what kind of course I would put together – a multidisciplinary, semester-long investigation of political advertising on television.

I thoroughly enjoy going to class and talking politics with my students, especially advertising and how it applies to the presidential election next year. Thus far this semester, we have discussed topics that you would likely find in a demanding university course on political advertising including the evolution of our system of campaigning that has led candidates to rely so heavily on TV; the history of TV ads in elections,

and the effects of television ads on those who see them. However, we have also talked about more "real world" political advertising topics such as how to make an effective ad, and the strategy behind TV advertising.

In addition to writing papers and exams, the students in this course have undertaken a challenging project – to make a 30 second for a candidate running for the presidency in 2008. I'm looking forward to seeing the ads at the end of the semester!



Honors College 30th Reunion



Mary Wermuth

On Saturday, October 13, 2007, Honors College alumni, HC friends, HC faculty, and HC staff met to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the inception of the Honors College and to pay tribute to the second director of the Honors College, Dr. Robert Howes who passed away in 2006.

Honors College alumni and former students in attendance included Rosemarie Rohlman Smith, HC '86, Christopher Rohlman, HC '84, David Nykanen, HC '92, Anne Hooper, HC '87, Randy Straughen, and Anne-Marie Zell Schwerin. HC Faculty in attendance included John Cameron, Andrea Eis, Gottfried Brieger, Margaret Pigott, Jude Nixon and, Brian Murphy.



Dawn, Jan & Rose

HC staff in attendance included all three present and former HC secretaries, Jan Baker, Rose

Presta, and Dawn Deitsch.

We were also pleased that two of Dr. Howes' daughters, Barbara and Alice, were able to attend.

After a light luncheon, a short program began. Rosemarie Rohlman Smith acted as the mistress of ceremonies. Anne Marie Zell Schwerin remembered Dr. Howes.



Rosemarie

remarks from Laura Saul Edwards, HC 2006 who reminisced about Dr. Howes and reflected on the 30 year history of the HC. Barbara Howes spoke as well about her father and Brian Murphy and Jude Nixon both gave remarks.



Anne Marie



The reunion ended with a trip to the HC for cake and a chance to visit with current HC students.

By Julie Granthen

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS FALL DONORS

Mel Cherno
Leonard Gerulaitis
Peter Halabu
Ms. Diane Kasunic
Vincent Khapoya
Chris Rohlman
Jim Szocik
Mary Wermuth

CONGRATULATIONS!

Erika Hoffmann, '00, successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis for The Department of Anthropology at U of M on October 31. Erika did her dissertation field work in Nepal, a country in which she has had a long time interest and spent much time. Her specialty is in linguistic anthropology, and her thesis focused on the relationship between form and ideology in the standardization of Nepali Sign Language.

Erika has continued her relationship with Oakland over the past several years by offering sections of *Introduction to India* both on campus and online.

In January, she begins a year-long post-doctoral assignment at Oberlin College. On the personal front, Erika was married three years ago and has a 5 month old son.

RECENT GRADS

Kimberley Langley (LeClair) '03 is now working at U of M as a student services specialist. She also won an award for her masters thesis project in Public Administration. To read more about this award go to <http://www.qvsu.edu/successstory/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.story&id=1E0D4B68-089D-500F-0E7187CCC645785A>

Lily Sloan '04 was accepted to the Master in Fine Arts in Dance program at Texas Woman's University, and started this fall.

Dan Steffy '04 is a 3rd year student at Georgia Tech getting a Ph.D. in Algorithms Combinatorics and Optimization.

Matt Hostetler '06 is juggling substitute teaching in Lake Orion, tutoring and looking for a fulltime position while living now in Clarkston.

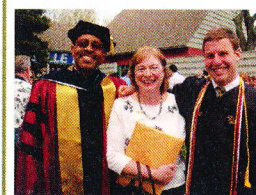
Kalee Iacoangeli '06 is the morning reporter for 9&10 news out of Cadillac. To check out her latest stories go to <http://www.9and10news.com/mtm/>

Alicia Sossi '06 is a project manager at Teacher Discovery in Auburn Hills. She creates English and Social Studies Power Points for middle and high school teachers, and LOVES her job.

Geoff Potts '07 is attending Wayne State Medical School specializing in Microbiology and Anthropology.

SOME OF OUR 2007 GRADUATES

Kirbionne Fletcher
&
Sheila Brooks



Jude, Dawn
&
Peter Halabu

Stefanie Bohde
&
Teresa Veltri



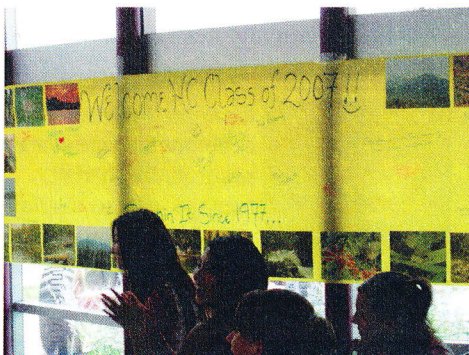
HONORS COLLEGE ADVISORY COUNCIL

We Welcomed 2 new members:

Chris Rohlman '84 and **Matt MacLeod '05**

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

FIRST YEAR ORIENTATION



Our 2007 Orientation Leaders....

Sean Buono
and
Desiree Long.



STUDENT ASSOCIATION (HCSA)



The Honors College Student Association has kicked off the new year with incredible student involvement and attendance!

Amongst streamers and crepe paper, Dr. Nixon, Karen, and Dawn blew out the candles on the birthday cake at the Honors College Birthday Bash. Besides the large student

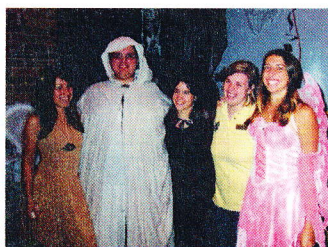


turnout, OU President, Dr. Gary Russi and Provost, Virinder Moudgil also came to help us celebrate the Honors

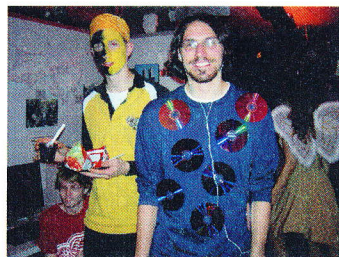
College's 30th Anniversary in style! More recently, the HCSA Halloween Party provided a spook-tacular time for Oakland students on a Friday



night! With scary movies and music playing in the background, many students carved the night away, turning pumpkins into works of art, while others tried their hand at caramel apple and walking taco making.



Later in the evening, OU student Adam Panchenko shared several Oakland University ghost stories with a large and captive audience. Though it was a tight race, Sean Buono's "Music Pirate" stole the 1st Prize OU duffel bag in addition to CDs in the Costume Contest that followed!



To continue with more awesome events like these, the HCSA is having two very important fundraisers. On November 20th, we sold 23 delicious pre-Thanksgiving pies and were able to raise \$450. A special "Thank you" to all of our wonderful pie

donors!

Our second fundraiser involves making an Honors College quilt! With the help of OU alum Mary Wermuth, many Honors College students are making their own quilt squares, which Mary will eventually sew together. The finished masterpiece will then be raffled off during Winter Semester. Look for news on our HC quilt raffle!

Finally, new from the HCSA this year is The Honors College Echo, a specialty online creative journal designed specifically for Honors College students. Students are highly encouraged submit to the Echo their work from a variety of backgrounds. More information and the Journal itself can be found on the new HCSA website, www.ouhcsa.org. Thanks for an amazing fall semester!

By Tawnee Milko

HC "IN THE NEWS"

STUDENTS EXPLORE THEIR PASSIONS

The News @ OU

"Three Honors College students had the opportunity this summer to explore a particular area of interest in a unique way"



Renee Blackburn

was one of nine students nationwide selected to attend a national archeology project in Denton, Texas.



Camilee Frasher

developed a summer art program for at-risk teenage girls to display their instillation art at a Detroit based art gallery



Tawnee Milko

traveled to New Zealand with an international student volunteer group planting trees and sharing conservation efforts

THE ENGLISH CHANNEL *Alumni Newsletter of the Department of English*

- * Retired Professor **Brian Murphy** enjoyed the experience of seeing a play he wrote several years ago, *The Importance of Being*, performed in New York last February.
- * **Jude Nixon** has recently published three articles on Thomas Carlyle, and Gerard Manley Hopkins.
- * **Peter Halabu ('07)** ranked in the 99th percentile on the LSAT's. Peter is currently attending Harvard Law School.
- * **Stephanie Bohde ('07)** was given the 2007 Meritorious Achievement Award
- * **Jianna Hair ('07)** received the 2007 Honors College Thesis Award for her thesis entitled "The Deadly Space Between: Truth and Language in the Fiction of Herman Melville." Jianna is doing her student teaching in addition to working as editorial assistant for the Oakland Journal.

ON STAGE WITH CLARINETIST KATHERINE FOX

The News @ OU



Katherine Fox who is working on her instrumental music education and performance degree, while tackling a minor in theatre, won the Interdisciplinary MaTILDA Award and the OUAA's College of Arts and Sciences Scholarship.

VIRTUAL, REAL LIVES INTERSECT in OU CLASS

The Detroit News Sept. 18, 2007

by Laura Berman

"Two Oakland University professors have designed a course for honors students that will take place largely on Second Life, which at its most prosaic is just another Web site (www.secondlife.com). The idea of a fantasy land as college material is old hat, the stuff of classical art and literature. But **Vagner Whitehead**, an assistant art professor, and **Catheryn Cheal**, an Oakland University vice president for e-learning, are forging ahead with another idea: a class that will meet both in real life and on Oakland University's island in Second Life."

OPEN (SECRET)

The Washington Post

Hava Leichtman, Honors College '06, refused to be an anonymous woman in her child's life. Ten days after his birth she gave her son up for an "open" adoption. Four years later, she continues to "mother" him in partnership with his adoptive parents.

Read how Hava and her son's adoptive family are helping to reshape domestic American adoption in the May 6th issue.

FOND MEMORIES and a FAMILY TRADITION

OU

Magazine Spring/Summer '07



Gary and Ann Laidlaw made a \$20,000 bequest to Gary's alma mater split between the Honors College and Meadow Brook Hall.

"While The Honors College didn't exist when Laidlaw attended Oakland, he graduated with honors and believes in the goal of the college to provide motivated students with an intellectually stimulating experience."

COMING SOON.....

THE OAKLAND JOURNAL

Fall Issue Editor: Jude Nixon

- "Born and Born Again: 1969 and It's Discords" by **Brian Murphy**
- "An OU Family Affair" by **Julie Granthen '81**
- "The Power of an Image: Wedgewood' Slave Cameos" by **Desiree Long (Current student)**

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