

HONORS COLLEGE

Oakland University

ECHO COGNITIO

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2 WINTER/SPRING 2010



UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Session I
May 3-June 23

HC Summer Classes

-*The Civil War in the American Imagination* (Christopher Apap)

-*Art & Literature: Dialogues In, Dialogues On, Dialogues Between, Art, Artist & Audience* (Susan Beckwith)

Summer Session II
June 28-August 18

New Student Convocation
September 1

Fall Classes Begin
September 2

DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS— DR. BARBARA MABEE



Dr. Mabee, Chelsea Grimmer & Juquatta Brewer

We launched the exciting 2010 winter semester with the Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Award Celebration on January 18, at which two Honors College students, Chelsea Grimmer and Juquatta Brewer, were the recipients of this prestigious award. The Honors College Student Association (HCSA) had many different events, ranging from a Super Bowl Party to filling Easter baskets for area children. To feature the scholarly and creative work of Honors College students, The HCSA continued with its online journal *HC Echo*. The new co-editors in chief for next year, Chelsea Grimmer and Kaitlin Huff, plan to expand submissions to the *Echo* beyond the Honors College and invite OU students who are taking creative writing classes and workshops to submit their best work. They believe that this will add diversity to the publication, help it grow, heighten its prestige, add friendly competition and potentially attract highly creative students to the Honors College. Several students received study abroad grants to study in such places as Spain, Germany, Israel and other places. Tawnee Milko who completed her

second year as Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees received the coveted 2010 Matilda Dodge Wilson Award at graduation on May 1.

A large number of students from freshmen to seniors volunteered to join the new initiative, a Diversity Outreach Committee, which I launched this year to bring more diversity to the Honors College. We visited with students in the Lathrup/Southfield High career center and have communicated with guidance counselors and advisors for NHS in eight schools in the Metro area that the committee will visit in the fall. This semester, seniors at the thesis writing stage were the first group to benefit from the expertise of Dr. Julie Borkin, a writing and communications specialist. We believe that Dr. Borkin's help will alleviate some of the *angst* of the thesis writing process among HC students and also lighten the work of faculty mentors to thesis projects. This summer for the first time we are able to offer two general education courses to accommodate the growth of the HC student body.

Several graduating seniors presented first-rate summaries of their theses on Research and Scholarship Day on April 19th in the Banquet Rooms. On April 30, over 40 alumni, friends of the HC and HC council members met at the Detroit Institute of the Arts for a dinner in the museum's CafeDIA, followed by a tour of the museum and Friday Night Live events, such as listening to live music or drawing in the Galleries. We were very happy to welcome

at this event Richard Deary, HC and CAS graduate '85 and today director of an investment advisory firm in San Diego. Mr. Deary recently donated \$5,000 to support Honors College Scholarships and will be able to meet with the three fortunate students who received his scholarships. We are grateful to many others of you who have contributed financially to students and programs in the HC.

The 2009-2010 Graduate Reception was held at Meadow Brook Hall on April 24 with the largest graduating class so far: 30 in total. The brief descriptions by the students of their future plans showed the caliber of students we have in the Honors College: a large number of students have received scholarships or assistantships to prestigious graduate schools all over the country and some have already landed jobs. They have set the bar high for their lives and are passionate to make a difference in the world and to succeed in their chosen careers.

As for me, my passion for research and teaching German in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures has called me back to the classroom and to publishing and professional commitments. It has been an unforgettable year working with such bright and creative students and with dedicated and inspiring faculty members. All courses for next year are in place, the guest lecturers and cell group leaders for the HC 100 have been selected, and in July a new director will have the charge to take the Honors College to the next level.

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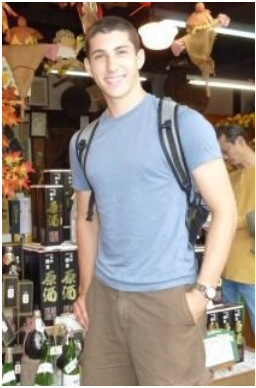
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STUDY ABROAD

Hikone, Japan

Alex Green



In front of a sake shop in Kamakura

This past fall semester, I was fortunate enough to be a student at the Japanese Center for Michigan Universities in Hikone, Japan. Hikone was a small, quiet city, but one

with immense character. No more than a twenty minute bicycle ride from Maibara's shinkansen station, but situated directly on the shore of Lake Biwa, the city was the perfect combination of being off the map,



Tokyo's Roppongi District

but not far from it. On the weekends, the inner city, cocooned by the darkness of the quaint, surrounding farmlands, bustled with light and energy as everyone flocked to the friendly ambiance of the restaurants and karaoke bars. My fondest memories, however, are those of my solo ventures out across the country. I walked the hallowed grounds of Sekigahara, stood at the feet of the

immense Daibutsu in Nara, traversed the many shopping districts of Kyoto, and looked out upon the brilliant nightlights of Tokyo's Roppongi district from the heights of the Tokyo Tower. My time in Japan was an absolute pleasure, and I am forever indebted to Oakland University for making the experience possible.



In front of a "purification Fountain" at a shrine in Nara

NEW HONORS COLLEGE STAFF MEMBER



Julie Borkin

In January 2010, the Honors College welcomed new part time staff member **Julie Borkin** to the team. Julie spends approximately ten hours each week working on Honors College projects, primarily focusing on supporting students as they write their thesis proposals and projects. She is eager to help students coordinate with their mentor, manage their busy schedules, and stay encouraged through the process.

Julie is proud Oakland University alumna, with a B.A. in communication. She received her Ph.D. in communication from Wayne State University and has been teaching part-time here at Oakland for the past several years. She also works in the Bachelor of Integrative Studies program. Look for her most Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons in the Honors College.

HC WINS "LINK" AWARD



The 32nd Annual
Student Activities & Leadership Awards Night
The Center for Student Activities and
Leadership Development
Link Award
Honors College
On this 8th day of April, 2010

The Honors College received a Center for Student Activities Link Award for contributions to the department, student organizations and student leadership.

HONORS COLLEGE CLASSES

"THANK YOU"

to our Winter 2010 faculty
and their departments.

Peter Bertocci: *India: Past Confronts Present-Globalization and its Discontents*

Brian Connery: *Irish Literature*

David Garfinkle: *Physics for Informed Citizens*

Sara Maher: *The Impact of Religion/Culture on Health Care*

Pamela Mitzelfeld: *Thesis Preparation*

Barbara Oakley: *The Science Behind Pathological Altruism*

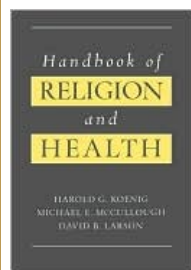
Ingrid Rieger: *Family as Experiment in Goethe's Novels and in German Film*

George Sanders: *Sociology of Pop Culture & Religion*

Susan Wood: *Sacred Spaces of the Ancient World*

THE IMPACT OF RELIGION/CULTURE ON HEALTH CARE

By Professor Sara Maher



During the winter semester, nine students and I began a journey which explored the intertwining and often inter-dependent relationship between natural science and religious doctrine from its earliest beginnings to the modern day. Over the years, science, medicine, and religion have had turbulent and often precarious interactions. The question about whether religion has had positive, negative, or neutral effects has been controversial. We examined the eight

major religions of the Western World, focusing on those doctrines that have the most significant impact on healthcare. Next we examined the following question in great detail: Do religious beliefs and activities help to keep people physically and mentally healthy? Each student was responsible for finding case studies from their personal lives or in the media that reflected the influence that religion had in both physical and psychological health. Finally, the class spent time in experiential religious activities that were described in our texts as having an impact on health care, such as meditation and yoga.

IRISH LITERATURE

By Professor Brian Connery



The study of "Irish literature" generates both delight and exasperation, as twenty-two HC students discovered with me throughout the Winter 2010 semester. Aside from the question of "What is literature?" which you can hear debated regularly at academic conferences, there's the even thornier question of "What is Irish?" which you can hear debated in pubs around the world. By mid-semester, members of the class were resigned to the fact that I would be answering neither of these questions definitively for them but would continue to ask these questions of them.

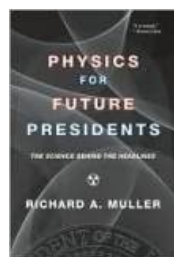
The goal of the first half of the course had been to familiarize ourselves with both Irish history and the common themes, conventionalized symbols, and mythic background – the Irish literary tradition – so that in reading

works of the twentieth century, even something like Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape* which aspires to comment on the universal human condition rather than on local politics or culture, we would be able to identify traces of Irishness in the work.

The students, like most Americans, continued to be attracted particularly to the myths and folklore associated with the Irish "brand," and some produced term papers and projects on fairy lore and Cú Chulainn; others used their newly acquired Irish cultural literacy to pursue the question of Irishness in other directions, researching Irish culture in American cities, Irish-American bands like Flogging Molly, public sculpture in Dublin, the waning influence of the Catholic Church on Irish culture, Irish dance (behind and beyond Riverdance), and folk traditions.

PHYSICS FOR INFORMED CITIZENS

By Professor David Garfinkle



What effect is the burning of fossil fuels having on global climate? How close are the Iranians to getting a nuclear weapon? When we eventually run out of oil, should we get our energy from solar power? Wind power? Nuclear power? Coal? All of the above? None of the above? How come we don't hear much about "the hydrogen economy" any more, but we hear a lot about electric cars? All these are questions of public policy; but in order to understand them we need to know some of the science behind these issues. In other words **informed citizens need to know physics!** For a deep understanding we need to know **how** scientists know what they know. Using a combination of instruments and theories, scientists measure and

then understand a host of objects from tiny atomic nuclei to immense galactic clusters. In HC208 the students first learned how knowledge is gained in astronomy, beginning with an everyday astronomical object, the Sun, and then progressing to more exotic objects like black holes, dark matter, and dark energy. We then moved on to more down to earth subjects directly related to public policy: nuclear weapons and nuclear energy, global warming, and sustainable energy sources. Each student picked two topics in science or in public policy with a science component and did a written report on one, and an oral report presented to the whole class on the other. The class also did a group project on the Iranian nuclear program. At the end of the class, both students and professor were truly more informed citizens.

ALUMNI NEWS

2007 Graduates are Graduates Once More.....

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Peter Halabu, graduating
from Harvard Law School



Lauren Sanchez-Murphy
graduating with her law
degree from Loyola
University



Desiree Snyder (nee Long), graduated with her
Masters in Science (Chemistry) from OU

"THANK YOU" TO OUR MOST RECENT DONORS

Susan Awbrey
Phillip Clampitt
Dr. Robert Fink
Susan Goepf
Julie Granthen
Gary Laidlaw
Barbara Mabee
Jean Ann Miller
Rosemarie Smith

MEMORABLE ALUMNI EVENT



Forty HC alumni, students and staff attended an evening at the DIA courtesy of the OU Alumni Association and The Honors College. Everyone gathered for a delicious and relaxing dinner in their CafeDIA, after which attendees were free to join a group tour, listen to live music in the Rivera Court and/or explore the museum on their own. A great time was had by all!

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR ALUMNI UPDATE



Please take a minute and update us on what you are currently doing, then just copy and paste it into an email and send to conn@oakland.edu. THANK YOU!

Name: _____

Grad School or Current job: _____

Any other information you would like to share:

2010-2011 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

ALFORD JONES MEMORIAL

Alissa Bandalene
Sara Gerhardt
Christina Grech
Michael Lohrer
Mark Martin
Michele VanFleteren
James VanNada

RICHARD DEARY

Chelsea Grimmer
Hasan Kaakarli
Max VanRaaphorst

CREDIT UNION ONE

Yusaf Ahmed
William Christenson
Michael Grant
Helen Haas
Kaitlyn Kimmel
Kathleen Saigh
Gurbaksh Shergill
Kelsey Sturza
Lauren Tibbits
Ashima Vohra

HANDLEMAN

Danielle Ager
Marta Bauer
David Bond
Alex DeBusschere
Ian Green
Kaitlin Huff
Chris Jozwick
Mark LeMerise
Ashley McIntosh
Kaitlyn Springer
Emily Tissot
Candice Yono

OUAA

Joseph Conigliaro
Aarin Covyeau
Daniel Elliott
Taylor Fisher
Chelsea Grimmer
Lindsay Harrington
Luiza Iervolino
Michael Kazmierski
Michelle Lopez-Arciniega
Sarah Maas
Oleksandra Perpelytsya
Dave Thompson
Emily Tissot
Jake Wendt

CONGRATULATIONS to our Recipients!

(HCSA) HC STUDENT ASSOCIATION

12 HC Students Chosen as 2010 OGL's



"Breakfast for Dinner"

The Honors College Student Association (HCSA) has had an eventful semester. In January, we started it out with a **Pancake Breakfast** following the mandatory Honors College

Assembly. It gave students the opportunity to meet and network with other HC students and Administrators as well as eat delicious pancakes and sausage. There was a great turnout!

In February, we hosted a great **Super Bowl Party**. Students gathered for food, fun and football in the Honors College.

For our service project in March, the HCSA filled up a number of **Easter baskets** with candy and plastic eggs that were donated to Haven, a shelter for abused and at risk families.

Finally, the new Executive Board has been elected and we look forward to seeing what they have planned for the HCSA next year.

Congratulations to our new 2010-2011 officers:

President: **Jessica Drogowski**
Vice President: **Bill Othman**
Secretary: **Reanna Douglas**
Treasurer: **Michelle VanFleteren**
Public Relations: **Rachel Butler**
Website: **Michael Lohrer**



Super Bowl
Party

Hasan Kaakarli

Michael Kazmierski

Michael Lohrer

Mallory MacDermaid

Caleb Norgaard

Caymen Novak

Kevin O'Bryan

Nabil Othman

Erica Schulte

Dave Thompson

James VanNada

Michele VanFleteren



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!

2009-2010 HONORS COLLEGE GRADUATES



Fall 2009

Christine Nguyen
CamieLee Frasher Peasley
Andrew Hansen
Jaclyn Guba

Winter 2010

Amanda Anne Benjamin
Daniel James Breznau
Lana Kimmerly Brown
Allison Marie Jones
Erin Faith Kott
Benjamin Hans Malburg
Tawney Serena Milko
Matthew James Onica
Tracy Jo Paauwe
Brett Michael Radke
Alysse Reynolds
Corey Joseph Schmidt

Amanda Noelle Stein

Megan Nichole Stewart
Nicholas James Ventimiglia

Angela Marie Walentovic

Sara Margaret Lieblein
Emily Noelle Fisher
Allegra Ann Rowan

Summer 2010

David Allen Beattie
Nina Elaine Lavelanet

Samantha Bryce Haynes
Malott
Christina Marie Walters



College of Arts and Sciences

Get OU Moving: Message Framing & Exercise Promotion in Normal Weight and Overweight Individuals
Enigma: A Visual Narrative
A Workshop in Progress: The Effectiveness of Group Study in Calculus-Level Mathematics
The Dynamic Nature of Music & the Brain: An Overview of the Beneficial Changes in the Musician's Brain

College of Arts and Sciences

TV Stereotyped: The Effects of Stereotypes in Popular Television Shows through the Framing Theory
Visualizing the location of the activated *Fiz1* gene promoter in mammalian neural retina
Japanese Prime Ministers in the New Millennium
A Literary Look at the Treatment of Women during Argentina's Dirty War
The Nerves on the Screen: *The Body in Pain* and the Cinematic "Treatment" of Torture
"Breath-Molecules:" Persistence/Change and Partiality in Jorie Graham's *Overlord*
The Effects of Habitat Size and Fragmentation on Galloway Creek Diatom Species Richness
Preserving the Library: An Oral History of World War II Veterans Living in Michigan
Protecting American Liberties in the Struggle to Find a Consensus in International Defamation Law
The Metamorphosis of Medea
Rivers and the Waters of Transcendence: Water Symbolism in W.S. Merwin's *The Moving Target*
Influencing the Ultimate Decision: Effectiveness of Campus Visit Programs at four Michigan Public Universities
The State of the Safety Net During The Great Depression and the Great Recession: Formal and Informal Resources Then and Now
Structure of the *Fiz1* Gene and DNA construct design for inactivation of the gene in transgenic mice.
Genes Belonging to Quantitative Trait Loci *Edpm9* and Their Resulting Biochemical Factors Related to Tumor Growth in the Rat
'All the World's a Stage': Shakespeare Prison Performance and itsConnections to the English Classroom

School of Health Sciences

Lower Limb Stress Fractures: A Survival Guide for the Female Cross-Country Runner
My Shadowing Experience at the Detroit Medical Center
Is the Patriot Act Terrorizing Our Right to Privacy?

Engineering and Computer Science

Autonomous Climbing Robot

College of Arts and Sciences

Bringing It All Back: Post-Punk's Revival Through Modern Rock Music
Constructs of Color: Representations and Coding of Black American Characters in American Animated Films
Understanding Insider and Outsider Perceptions of The Family in America
The Faithful Women Behind the Faithful Samauai: Utagawa Kuniyoshi's Representation of *Chushingura* Themes in Japanese Art

Keeper of the Dream Kicks Off African American Celebration

By: Rory McCarty Jan. 19, 2010



Chelsea Grimmer &
Juquatta Brewer

People lined the walls and filled the seats in the banquet room to hear Susan L. Taylor's speech at the Keeper of the Dream celebration Monday. Each of the award recipients were able to talk about their achievements in multicultural understanding and what winning the award means to her in prerecorded speeches that were played as they accepted the awards.

Chelsea Grimmer explained about her work with Beyond Basics getting OU students to volunteer at elementary schools. She talked about working in a school in Detroit which is 99 percent African American and receives less funding than other schools due to scoring lower on MEAP testing. Vision, compassion and faith are still necessary in fighting this injustice and working towards a better understanding and equality for all people," Grimmer said.

Juquatta Brewer co-created the ELITE organization, which stands for Encouraging Ladies by Inspiring Them to be Empowered.

She talked about her work as a Resident Assistant in the residence halls, and how it has allowed her to learn about different cultures. "I focused on our similarities instead of our differences," Brewer said. "Doctor King's dream continues to encourage people to overcome their racial differences."

Melissa DeGrandis has served as a senior RA in the residence halls, a peer mentor, and an orientation group leader.

"(This award) means that I have grown and pushed beyond my comfort zone, and I have stood out as a driven leader who made a change in my own life," DeGrandis said.

Students write and win money, OU gear

By: Mike Sandula Mar. 17, 2010

Next semester when professors hand out syllabi complete with lists of required texts, it won't be as expensive as usual for two Oakland University students.

Sai Myint and **Thomas Butler** wrote essays that won them book scholarships from OUSC's scholarship committee.

In his essay, Myint, a sophomore majoring in health sciences, detailed how he would spend OUSC's annual \$80,000 budget. His response won him \$150 for textbooks and other educational expenses.

The other essay contest asked: "How would you change the cultural climate of Oakland?" Butler, a senior psychology major, said OU should plan events that capitalize on the diverse cultures in the nearby area.

In addition to a scholarship, each student received a gift bag stocked with items from the OU bookstore. The black string backpacks contained various gifts decorated with the OU insignia.



2010 Matilda R. Wilson Award: Tawnee S. Milko

By: Dan Bodene Mar. 30, 2010

A biology major with a grade-point average of 3.86, Milko has experience as a student liaison to the OU Board of Trustees and has been deeply involved with the Honors

College, including serving as its Student Association president and student representative to the Honors College Council.

"I know many very talented leaders who have contributed so much to Oakland's scholarship and culture, so simply sharing the Wilson Award nomination with such women is an incredible honor," said Milko. "I've been very grateful to Oakland for giving me the opportunity to gain the wonderful wealth of diverse experiences I've had here. It's very humbling to receive recognition for things I've actually done out of a sense of responsibility to give back to the university."

*Tawnee has been accepted to the Masters Program next fall at Duke University.



Meet the new OUSC president and vice president

By: Kay Nguyen Apr. 7, 2010

Brandon Gustafson and **Amy Ring** were named Oakland University Student Congress president and vice president, respectively, at an announcement event in the Oakland Center's Fireside Lounge Friday at noon.

Q: What was the biggest thing you learned?

Brandon: Just how much work needs to and should go into campaigning. It shouldn't come down to the last two days. That's what our goal was. We wanted to really understand the student issues and not just wait — to actually work on it the whole month 'cause you have a month to campaign. So that way it's more competitive and you're going to get better candidates. That's what we kept talking about — how we campaign is how we

plan on going into office — setting a timeline, setting deadlines, things like that.

Amy: I'd say like taking every single opportunity to talk to people. There were times where we just wanted to have fun and do whatever we wanted, but if we had an opportunity to talk to a group, we took it every single time and there were times where we were like, "Do we really need to do this?" because we were just tired, but we took every single opportunity we could to go talk to people and I think that paid off.