

HC Courses

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 Effective Human Interaction
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Our Students

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Update from The Director

Back to the Future

Warm greetings! We all know the past has an uncanny way of informing the future. Michael J. Fox once proved that in a movie! So I must open by saying this fall in The Honors College points forward to many fine celebrations!

90 years this semester Honors education formally entered American colleges and universities. 55 years ago a Curriculum Committee, containing "selected junior and senior Honors students presently attending Michigan State University", was formed to create Oakland University. And, most notably for us, it is 35 years this semester since The Honors College

at Oakland was formally founded.

Just a few weeks ago we celebrated the first Inspiration Awards here in The Honors College, asking our current students to look back at Oakland professors who had inspired them in some way. We soon found ourselves with an Honors College full of nominees and their nominating students! From now on, these annual Honors College Inspiration Awards will highlight the power of inspiration in teaching and in learning.

One way for alums and current students to show their inspired natures is to proudly wear one of our new Honors College pins.



These pins, presented for the first time at our inaugural *Freshmen Induction Ceremony in September, will be presented formally to alumni of The Honors College at the Homecoming celebration on 26 January 2013. We'll hold a small ceremony – followed, incidentally, by a tailgate party celebrating our 35 years! You're



--JOCHEN
EISENTRAUT
Musician, composer &
ethnomusicologist

PHIL LEVINE--
U.S. Poet Laureate

JAN LONGONE—
Curator of American
Culinary History at the
Clements Library



Visiting Speakers

warmly invited to join us!

Getting the word out about The Honors College is a top priority. This year the first Honors College student ambassadors were appointed to assist in doing that. Representing all majors, these students are wearing their Honors College badges at events, they're talking about what it's like to be in The Honors College, and they're encouraging high achieving students to take advantage of all The Honors College has to offer.

What we have to offer you'll know very well! This semester has already seen us hosting the Poet Laureate of the United States, engineers from NASA, one of the country's top culinary historians, and a samba dance and music specialist. Honors College students have featured in every part of the university, alumni

have kindly joined us to talk about careers, and we've been approved to host the university's Center for Undergraduate Research and Leadership, as a focus for undergraduate R&D. We've seen Freshmen presenting brilliant ideas at our inaugural "Making Discoveries" symposium, and unique Honors College student projects at the Fall Research and Scholarship Day.

So, in celebration of our recent NASA visit and to quote from Back to the Future: "Where we are going we don't need roads!"

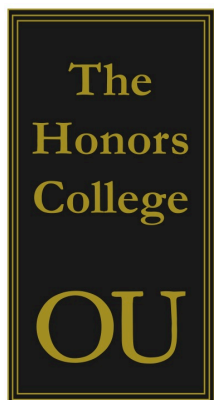
Join us in continuing this 35-year adventure. I very much look forward to seeing you at Homecoming, and beyond!

Graeme Harper BA MLitt DCA
PhD FRGS FRAI FRSA
Director: The Honors College

* Follow this link

http://www.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=34&nid=9499 to watch a video and/or read more about our freshmen "Making Discoveries" class "where students explored the nature of human discovery in fields such as the arts, technology, and medicine, as well as through individual and team excellence."

By Katie Land
Oakland Post





Getting Behind the Mask- Leader and Human Interaction- HC 206

By Professor Sandra Powell

While exploring the seven major themes of effective human relations, communication, self-awareness, self-acceptance, motivation, trust, self-disclosure, and conflict resolution, we discovered more about the real side of leadership and effectively interacting with others. We built upon what we knew and then put it to work through real world applications.

Since leadership and self-development often begins with self-awareness, we explored and analyzed the book *The Self-Aware Leader: A Proven Model for Reinventing Yourself* to develop critical thinking skills about how business, self, and others are interconnected and how we can remain alert and focused on growth of self, others, and business throughout our careers.



An Academic Service Learning project took us to an Alzheimer's care facility. There we learned about developing and practicing patience and conflict resolution while spending time with the residents. We helped create Halloween masks, played balloon volleyball, and engaged the residents at many levels. Here we learned about owning our emotional processes.

We did research and in-class presentations, but we found creative ways to engage with the materials: in-depth discussions, a strengths discovery assessment, and creating our own masks. Knowing how to interact with others is one thing, but effectively practicing it is work!

Self-awareness and getting behind our own masks is a challenge. At the end of the day, students learned how to effectively open up through constructive self-disclosure, while knowing that private information was safe. And we learned more about our natural talents while appreciating complementary talents so that we may more effectively interact with a diverse group of people.

Finally, we learned that leadership is about self-awareness, credibility, character, listening with head and heart, building trust, improving self and others, and it's about influence. John Maxwell sums it up this way: "Real leadership is being the person others will gladly and confidently follow."



Media & Globalization: Thinking Beyond the Local- HC 201

By Professor Courtney Brannon-Donoghue

What do the Detroit Tigers, a Halal KFC, and The Fist have in common? For their first project called “Global Detroit,” Media and Globalization students picked local sites to explore how globalization operates within and impacts the Detroit area. Students focused on local case studies including Joe Lewis’s iconic fight, MLB as a global business, the localization of KFC, Chinese, Polish, and Japanese restaurants.

Whether through social media or post-screening coffee shop discussion, stepping outside of the classroom became a common theme. Using popular film, TV, music, and digital media from around the world, students examined how larger ideas of cultural hybridity, diaspora, and two-way media flows impact their daily lives.

The seminar challenged students to think beyond their media comfort zones. By exploring media institutions like Apple, Disney, and Google, students debated the significance of who owns and distributes what they watch.

Screenings of *Downtown Abbey*, *Black Hawk Down*, and the Brazilian *High School Musical* provoked lively discussions about the nation, identity, and representation. Not surprisingly, students found new interests in media produced outside the US and new perspectives for reflecting on their own mediated lives.



The *WALT DISNEY* Company

Google



Michigan Honors Association Conference- Fall 2012

By Trung Tran



On and Off Camera

By Rachel Voight

“Pass both pepper and salt even if someone just asks for salt,” Ms. McNeil’s advice from the Michigan Honors Association (MHA) 2012 Conference echoed in my head whenever I sit down for a formal dining event. The MHA conference this year was all about civility—in politics, in social media, and in everyday life. For Honors College students from different universities in Michigan, it was more than learning about civility: it was a time to share their Honors College program and their accomplishments. It was a time for the Oakland Grizzlies to befriend with new “jungle friends” with similarly impressive scholastic achievements.

I personally admit that it was hard to forget the hiking trail that we all took, the games that we played, the songs that we sang, and the stories we shared as we gathered around the warm bonfire that brought strangers together. Strangely, in such moments I realized that our friendships are forged readily through the magic of civility. It is a force that ultimately defines our modernity and our humanity.



This semester, I took the HC 201 class entitled “On and Off Camera,” taught by Professor Steve Blackwood. One of our field trips was to visit the set of *Beyond the Mask*, which was filming at Meadowbrook Hall. Aaron Burns, the producer and an Honors College alumnus, invited us to see the “off camera” action of a real movie set.

First we had to pass through security, after which we were escorted to a taped off area to watch all the bustling action of a real movie set. Assistants were setting up lights, speaking in a seemingly foreign language on walkie-talkies, and buzzing around the set on a golf cart, preparing for an evening scene involving a horse and carriage. In only a few hours we had the opportunity to chat with the director and producer, Aaron Burns, some local actors, and even the personal assistant of John Rhys-Davies. The camera operators showed us how their special RED cameras work and how they film and edit the shots.

When everything was ready, the director called for quiet and began filming. The scene was only a minute long but it took a long time to shoot. Afterwards, we were all invited to see the scene on the director’s screen and it was amazing! They had perfectly captured the Revolutionary war era of the film. The hours of set-up and hard work really paid off seeing it on a screen.

I have a new respect for the effort that goes into filmmaking. What looks so simple is actually an involved process to tell a story and capture life on camera. Many thanks go to our professor Steve Blackwood and the Producer Aaron Burns. Seeing all the work that goes into the filming, I can only imagine what goes on during the post-production process.



Study Abroad – Oviedo, Spain

By Alex Morton and
Jackie Spezia

Study abroad - the experience of a lifetime and a trip you will never forget. We had the amazing opportunity to experience the lavish culture of Asturias, Spain in the city of Oviedo. We spent 5 months living in what some call the Green Paradise and what Woody Allen described as a fairyland.

Each of us lived with a host family that provided us with an inside look at the culture and made navigating our new lives much easier. It's funny how quickly a place becomes your home but that is what Oviedo will always be for us: a second home. By the end we were



Jackie at La santa
cueva de
Covadonga.
(Covadonga, Spain)

true Asturianos: eating dinner at 11pm, cheering on the local soccer club, staying out 'til dawn, drinking sidra and putting olive oil on everything.

This experience provided us with more than we could have ever imagined by expanding the perspective in which we view the world; to anyone who is interested, take the leap and learn what it's like to walk in someone else's shoes.



Alex in Cangas De
Onís (the original
capital city of the
region) atop a
bridge that dates
back to Roman
times.

HONORS COLLEGE STUDENT ASSOCIATION



Welcome to the end of Fall 2012! We're headed into a bright new semester with a ton of new events on the way, but in case you just tuned in, here's what you missed:

On October 31st, the ghosts and ghouls of the HC gathered to celebrate Halloween! From Batman to V, rabbits to tomatoes, and cowgirls to astronauts, costumed characters from around the globe poured into Vandenberg's glassed-in room to eat pizza, drink soda and chow down on candy. To the victors go the spoils, and students competed in several contests for official honors t-shirts, sweatshirts and other prizes.



November 29th brought together all of next semester's professors for a taco lunch. Students swapped tables for the chance to talk to each prof about his or her new class. This semester's gen eds will be taught by returning instructors such as Mary and John Wermuth, along with new professors like the team of Susan Evans and Holly Gilbert! Make sure to check the Honors College website to learn more about the available classes!

See you next semester!

~HCSA



2012 INSPIRATION AWARDS

Students were asked to nominate an Oakland University professor or mentor who has “inspired” them during their time at OU.

Students and the professors they nominated were invited to a reception in their honor. Each professor received a Certificate of Nomination and one essay was chosen as the “most inspiring”



Alexandra Forrest wrote the most inspiring essay nominating Dr. Jennifer Wenson.

Congratulations to all of our Nominees!



PROFESSOR	NOMINATED BY
Lizabeth Barclay	Nicholas Kristock
Mary Bee	Kevin Roumayah & Feras Hares
Cristian Cantir	Marc DuBuis
Sumit Dinda	Lisa Shammas
Frank Giblin	Dan Feldman
Andy Goldberg	Heba Elghoroury
Tamara Hew	Kailyn Angelakos & Brigid Nash
Mark Navin	Subha Hanif
Michael Pytlik	Louise Haven
Richard Stamps	Ashley Cerku
Cynthia Sifonis	Andrea Smith
Mary Wermuth	Julietta Saluzzo
Patricia Wren	Meghan O'Bryan
Barry Winkler	Amaal Haimout
Virgil Zeigler-Hill	Andrea Smith

ALUMNI

Thank you to our alumni, friends and colleagues who gave of their time for our freshmen Career Day!

Korry Bates
Dr. Keith Berven
Stefanie Bohde
Emilee Bohde

Alex DeMare
Peter Halabu
Matthew MacLeod
John Nussbaumer

Stephen Parker
Ameena Sheik-
Walczak
Dr. Lorenzo Smith

Dr. Mohan Tanniru
Anthony Onica
Mary Wermuth

UPDATES

Megan Zannetti (Latawiec), Class of 2000, has three children with husband Michael Zannetti, SBA 99, and is an Accounting Manager & Financial Analyst at Residential Home Health.



Leanne DeVreugd (2009) is the Program Assistant for the Women in Science and Engineering at Oakland University (WISE@OU) program, which is funded by an ADVANCE grant from the National Science Foundation. The program focuses on women and under-represented populations in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) departments. For more information, visit www.oakland.edu/advance."

Nancy Vitale (Honors College/English, 2001) recently formed a theatre company in New York, called Noor Theatre. Their first production, *Food and Fadwa*, premiered last May at the renowned New York Theatre Workshop. Nancy is also an independent producer and writer, having just completed her first screenplay. She lives on the Upper West Side with her husband, Jason Van Nest. Nancyvitale.com.



Nancy Vitale
Credit, Christine Jean
Chambers



A scene from *Food and Fadwa* by Lameece Issaq and Jacob Kader, a co-production of Noor Theatre and New York Theatre Workshop

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Winter Recess

February 17 - February 24

Research & Scholarship Day Presentations

Wednesday, April 10 (10:00-4:00)

(Parents and alums invited)

HC Graduate Reception

Saturday, April 20

Spring Commencement

Saturday, April 27

For **more information** about The Honors College visit our website
<http://www.oakland.edu/hc/>

To **arrange a visit, send an alumnus update, or volunteer your time**, you can also
contact us by email hc@oakland.edu
or phone (248-370-4450)

Watch for more details to follow on **Homecoming 2013 and our 35th Anniversary!**

We hope to see you on January 26th!



From The Honors College Staff

Graeme Harper

Karen Conn

Dawn Deitsch