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Dean's Update

Greetings friends, alumni, colleagues! I usually begin my "Update" in each Honors College Newsletter on a lively note about Honors College progress. That's a fairly safe approach: all folks like a bright opening and even more they like to hear about progress. But let me take a risk and begin a little differently this summer. We all know that it is only by taking a risk that success eventually happens. So here is my risky opening:

We are right on the brink of something and I need your assistance to take us onward. In August we will move into the most magnificent facilities that The Honors College at Oakland University has ever had. These facilities will compare with any Honors College facility anywhere in the nation, and will substantially exceed the quality and scope of most

of them. In September we will welcome the largest ever group of Honors College freshmen, a number that looks likely to exceed 250. By next year we will have reached the 5% of Oakland's undergraduate population – a percentage that has long been discussed but not reached. It will be in 2015. Of course, we are now the home of the Presidential Scholars program at Oakland, and in the coming year we will advance the academic standing of that prestigious program on behalf of Oakland University. We are about to launch the Oakland University Honors Institute – an institute created to celebrate all those at Oakland University who have contributed to honors work in a significant way. We have successfully begun our work as the home of the Michigan Center for



Undergraduate Research (MCUR) and look forward to advancing that important work. We celebrated this year as a Fulbright scholar emerged from your Honors College to join the ranks of other successful Honors College students who have won awards for their academic achievements, their service to the community and their contributions to the university. We have begun to advertise that from Fall 2015 to gain

automatic admission to The Honors College at Oakland University students will require a 3.7 GPA and an ACT score of 27. This requirement now places us in the top band of Honors Colleges in the nation. So, you might ask, where is the risk I mentioned?

Today I went to the press conference announcing the appointment of Oakland's new Athletics Director, Jeffrey Konya. Jeff has wonderful ambitions for Oakland Athletics and they are ambitions that ring true for so many Oakland students, alumni, faculty and staff. Being a basketball fan, and an eager collaborator with Athletics, I was very pleased to hear him describe those ambitions, in detail – until, that is, he mentioned that it was his aim to see Oakland Athletics in “the top ten” nationally. Now I don't mean to challenge a new colleague, but those who have read The Honors

College Newsletter over the past few years will know that it is the stated ambition of The Honors College at Oakland to be nationally Top Ten. While we're happy for our friends in Athletics to follow in our footsteps, I'm not so sure we want to get to the Top Ten in second place. That's simply not going to happen. Therefore, Jeff, in two sporting exclamations: “Welcome!” and “Game on!”

My request, my challenge, and my call out to you, friends and alumni of The Honors College, is this: to reach the Top Ten we need to make moves forward so that those around the nation who talk admiringly about honors colleges always mention The Honors College at Oakland. We need those who might support excellence in undergraduate education to be told of the superb quality of our student body and, if they are able,

encouraged to offer support for it in funding more Honors College scholarships, internships and research activities. We need our new building to be discussed and seen and admired. And it needs to be noted that it does not yet have a permanent name – a name that can be a legacy that someone, who can afford to do so, could long recall as part of their contribution to the support of young people who have the potential to change the world for the better. Students of The Honors College at Oakland have that wonderful potential. There is always a risk in investing in the future, but the biggest risk we take would be not giving them support. They will repay that support tenfold in the things they achieve.

Graeme Harper

Dean's Choice Award for Incoming Honors College Freshmen ~ Excellence in Discovery!

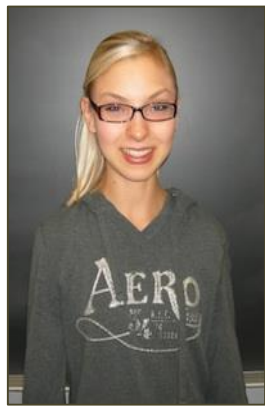
Incoming freshmen from our fall 2014 "Making Discoveries" class had the opportunity to win a \$500 **Spirit of Discovery** Dean's Choice Award kindly sponsored by the **Oakland University Credit Union (OUCU)**.

I chose these 5 Awardees based on their performance in class, their inventive and aspirational ideas, the support they gave to others in their small group, and/or their academic achievement during the course.

The 2013 Spirit of Discovery Award Winners were:



Tiffany Bellomo



Danae Bundy



Gabrielle Bruno



Marie McGee



Benjamin Pierson

MEET OUR NEW FACULTY FELLOW AND HC ADVISOR



Dr. Roberta (Robin) Michel – it is with great pleasure that we welcome Dr. Michel as our 2014-2015 Honors College Faculty Fellow. Robin holds a Ph.D. in Education Leadership from Oakland University, an M.A. in English and Creative Writing from Eastern Michigan University and a B.A. in Political Science

from the University of Michigan. She has been a Graduate Research Assistant in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice and Development Director in the School of Business Administration, among many other roles at Oakland and beyond. She'll be assisting with the freshmen colloquium, "Making Discoveries" and also teaching on the HC390 "Introduction to the Thesis" course, as well as joining us in creating visiting speaker and seminar events. We're thrilled to have Robin joining us for the coming academic year!



Sandi Powell – those who have followed activities in The Honors College over the past few years will quickly recognize Professor Powell. Sandi has taught for us in various capacities, including as a professor on "Making Discoveries" freshmen colloquium. She holds an M.A. in Counseling Psychology, an M.T.D. in

Human Resources, Training and Development and a B.A. in Integrative/General Studies. She joins us now as Honors College Adviser, doing the important work of creating an ongoing partnership between Honors College students and The Honors College, empowering students to plan their success. With Sandi's assistance, and with the recent introduction of our formal Honors College "probation period" where students can be assisted to address any momentary shortcomings, we look forward to supporting more students to reach their goal of graduating in that top 5% of students who graduate from an Honors College. Welcome, Sandi!

NATIONAL CONFERENCE on UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH



Mark, Alex & Kathleen

FROM NEWS AT OU

March 15, 2014

Three students in Oakland University's Honors College will present original research at the 28th National Conference on Undergraduate Research April 3-5, 2014.

Mark English, Alex Morton and Kathleen Saigh are among a distinguished group of undergraduate students whose projects were selected from more than 4,000 submissions. They will join student scholars from around the world at this year's conference, which is being hosted by the University of Kentucky.

English will present research he conducted at OU's Eye Research Institute (ERI) examining how the absence of peripherin/RDS, a protein in the eye, can lead to vision loss.

Morton's research led her to the mountains of northern Spain, where she took part in El Camino de Santiago, a pilgrimage to the historic cathedral some believe houses the remains of Jesus's apostle Saint James the Great. Morton observed and interviewed pilgrims to better understand the journey's cultural significance.

Rooted in cognitive psychology, Saigh's research explores "physical, social, and relational categorization formation in young children," particularly those with Autism Spectrum Disorders, and also highlights "emotion recognition and theory of mind." The psychology major presented her work at the 2013 Cognitive Development Society meeting and at Meeting of Minds conferences the past two years.

The students contributed these projects for their senior thesis, the capstone of a rigorous curriculum offered to Honors College participants. Graeme Harper, Dean of the Honors College, says he's especially proud of this year's group of presenters.

"This is the toughest year I have ever seen to be accepted to present at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research," he said. "Our Oakland undergraduate researchers can compete with and beat the best in the nation."

To read the entire [article](#)



NATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE:

Leah Greer & Molly Kosnak

Leah:

Through the National Student Exchange program I had the opportunity to study at Western Oregon University for 3 months. I was also lucky enough to go with my roommate Molly Kosnak. As someone who hasn't had the chance to travel a lot, I was very excited to drive across the country with her and see places that I wouldn't have gotten to see otherwise. By going to a different school I was able to take classes not offered at Oakland and still get credit for them. I took classes geared towards what I



would like to do after I graduate, and in doing so I was happy to learn that I have chosen the right career path. I really enjoyed just getting out of Michigan to see new places. We took advantage of the limited time that we had to do something new and different each weekend; it almost felt like a 3-month vacation. I'm very glad that I took part in this program when I had the chance to because it was a once in a lifetime trip that I won't get to experience again.

Molly:

I took five classes at WOU: Intro to Cultural Geography, Cultural Psychology, Psychology of Terrorism, International Environmental Politics and International Law. I can honestly say that these courses were the most difficult and challenging courses I have ever taken.



The content and focus was in depth and specific and it pushed me to think and work in ways that I never before have.

Before this trip I had been racking my brain for thesis ideas for some time (I have piles of notes and a stack of sticky notes to prove it!), but was having trouble selecting the perfect topic. My problem was, and usually is, that I have so many different interests that it becomes difficult to connect them all together and impossible for me to settle on only one direction. For every project I did at WOU, I decided to work within these themes of interest and suddenly my goals became clearer. One day everything seemed click into place. I was finally able to connect several of my interests into something that is (in my opinion) unique but not too scattered!



HCSA-Honors College Student Association

Liz Lawer

What an awesome semester for the HCSA! This past winter semester the HCSA was involved in 3 major events.

- The first event was our annual ‘Meet the Candidates’ event in February, where students were able to enjoy pizza and meet their new executive board for the 2014-15 school year!
- Our second event in March was ‘Meet the Professors,’ in which our students and the professors for next year’s classes were able to meet and discuss class courses, all the while enjoying Chipotle catering.
- Finally, at the beginning of April, the HCSA put on our annual end of the year picnic, inclusive of potato sack race and water balloon toss. We also had many freebies and door prizes, such as this year’s HCSA t-shirt, tie-dye kites, and a limited edition Graeme Harper pin! We were so excited to see amazing student turnout and involvement at these events, and we are also extremely excited to see what our new executive board has to offer for next year



“THANK YOU”

2013-2014 HCSA E-BOARD

President: Liz Lawer
Vice President: Miranda Pelkey
Secretary: Lisa Shammass
Treasurer: Kaitlyn McNeil
Public Relations: Megan Kabara

HC GRADS

OUR 2013-2014 GRADUATES



**Graduate
Reception**
**Meadow Brook
Hall**

April 12, 2014

Andrea Aiuto
Caleb Barr
Bradley Barr
Rose Brewart
Sean Cannady
Chelsea Carson
Abdul Chowdhury
Victoria Craw
Julia Dorey
Noha Elghoroury
Alexandria Faber
Ashley Farmer

Elisa Fusco
Allison Hallman
Catherine Harris
Sarah Hunton
Jennifer Jamerino
Jaclyn Kaminski
Rebecca Kaufeld
Brittany Kelly
Kaitlyn Kimmel
Nickolas King
Jacqueline Lee
Poe Lwin

Mallor MacDermaid
Paul Marvin
Marissa Matthews
Colleen Miner
Alex Morton
Katherine Moy
Caymen Novak
Megan Novak
Meghan O'Bryan
Dana Parke
Meghan Quigley

Rebecca Rasmussen
Sunny Rishi
Kathleen Saigh
Lisa Schneider
Josh Super
Noor Tarabishy
Alyssa Vitale
Paige Wanner
Steven Wynne

SOME OF OUR GRAD'S SHARED THEIR FUTURE PLANS....



ALEXANDRIA FABER:

I will be attending the University of Michigan and participating in their Social Work Program this fall.



ALLISON HALLMAN:

I will be attending Wayne State School of Medicine. Before my classes begin in August, I will continue to work at a doctors' office for the beginning of the summer and spend the remainder of my time with family and friends.



BRITTANY KELLY:

I am planning on continuing on to my graduate studies, earning a Master of Arts degree in English from Oakland University, and I hope to pursue a career as an editor in young adult publishing.

**PAUL MARVIN:**

I am currently applying for positions in the federal government. I am also preparing applications for various graduate schools should I not have success in finding a position right away. I hope to enroll in a master's program combining security, Latin American, and applicable foreign language (Spanish and Portuguese) studies. In addition I hope to continue travelling and volunteering abroad.

**MARISSA MATTHEWS:**

My plan for after graduation is to go to medical school hopefully in Michigan. I want to be an emergency room physician.

**ALEX MORTON:**

As of now, I am in the Peace Corps application process with hopes of leaving for my country of service in early 2015. Upon my return from the Peace Corps, I plan to go back to graduate school to further my studies in anthropology, specifically religious tourism and pilgrimage. Ultimately, my goal is to obtain my PhD in anthropology and become a professor.

**KATHERINE MOY:**

I will be starting the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Oakland University in the fall. I do not know exactly what are I want to focus in yet but I am leaning toward pediatrics and/or neurology.

**CAYMEN NOVAK:****WILSON AWARD WINNER**

I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and am attending the University of Michigan in the fall for my masters in Biomedical Engineering. I want to become a professor.

**STEVEN WYNNE:****FULLBRIGHT AWARD WINNER**

My Fulbright Teaching Assistantship will be at a vocational school in Zeven, Lower Saxony; I'll teach English, literature, and topics related to American Studies. The placement is for one year, with a possible one-year extension. Afterwards, I plan on attending graduate school for either Germanics or international education.



Don't forget to join the "Honors College Alumni & Friends-Oakland University" Facebook page

ARCHIVE YOUR HC THESIS in Kresge Library's searchable database ~ OUR@oakland

NEW THIS YEAR!

OU's HOMECOMING has MOVED to FALL !



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

HONORS COLLEGE HOMECOMING CELEBRATION!

- 11:00-11:30** **RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY: Oak View Hall**

- 11:30-12:30** **OPEN HOUSE/RECEPTION & TOURS**

- 1:00-4:00** **HONORS COLLEGE FAMILY FUN CARNIVAL~
for young and old**

- *(2:00-2:20)** **Come and visit with “The Grizz”**
-Games, prizes, cotton candy, popcorn, hotdogs and MORE

IMPORTANT FALL DATES

Sept. 2	Convocation & Freshmen Orientation Part 2	Oct. 23 & Nov.12	Fall Imagination Lab (5:30 -7:00 pm) (HC sophomores)
Sept. 3	Classes Begin 7:30 am	Nov. 20	Inspiration Awards
Sept. 19-20	OU Homecoming	Nov. 21, 24 & 25	Fall Research & Scholarship Days
Sept. 20	Honors College Homecoming Events	Nov. 28	Thanksgiving Recess
Oct. 14	Freshmen Induction Ceremony	Dec. 6	Classes End
Oct. 15	Fall Thesis Turn in Day	Jan. 5	Classes Resume



- For more **INFORMATION**: Explore The Honors College website <http://www.oakland.edu/hc/>
- To **ARRANGE A VISIT**, **SEND AN UPDATE**, or **VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME**, you can contact us by email hc@oakland.edu or phone (248-370-4450)
- [MAKE A DONATION](#) to the Honors College, its programs and/or scholarships
- To be added to our **NEWSLETTER EMAIL LIST**, email [Karen](#).



Enjoy the rest of your summer! See you at Homecoming!

The Honors College Staff

Graeme Harper
 Karen Conn
Dawn Deitsch