

HC Courses

Read about 2 of our many winter courses:
 -Popular Music, Protest and Politics
 -Stone Age to IT: How Did That Happen?

Our Students

-Global Understanding
 -Echo Cognition Publication
 -Study Abroad
 -HC Student Association
 -Award Winners
 -NCUR

Alumni & Friends

-OU Homecoming and The Honors College 35th Anniversary photos

Update from The Dean

A hearty hello! Well, the really big news: as many of you will now have heard: we're moving! Not immediately, but fairly soon. Yes, from Fall 2014 The Honors College at Oakland will be housed in a large new student residence that is currently being built across the road from us here. Teaching and administrative spaces for The Honors College in this new home will be more than three times their current size, with our student informal learning spaces more like ten times their current size! We'll be equipped with the latest in teaching, peer and social learning spaces, and have access to a range of accommodation and meeting spaces and even a 24 hour café. All this will give The Honors College the

opportunity to become one of the top destinations for high achieving undergraduates across the State and, indeed, across the nation.

This is not to say we won't miss our current space! Having had more than one conversation with the ever fine Dr. Murphy about how this current space came about, I have to send a big shout out to Brian and to those who had the vision to create rooms that have stood the test of time so very well. These glassy rooms in East Vandenberg are still some of the most admired spaces on campus. However, very simply, we've outgrown the size of them; and



we now are also competing against other Honors Colleges that have had heavy capital investments so that their "shop fronts" look far better than ours – even if what we provide as an educational experience in The Honors College at Oakland is much better!

So the new Honors College residence is going to



EVENTS & SPEAKERS

Thesis Turn in Day Winter '13

Mentor, Dr. Mary Lewis
HC Student, Candice Savonen

~

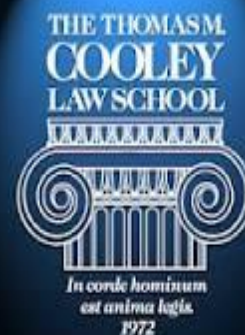
Intellectual Property Rights: the Laws, Pitfalls, and Possibilities

Professors David Berry
& Gerald Tschura (Cooley
Law School)

~

The Purpose of Education

Guest Speaker, Joe Walsh
Director, Malone Center for Creative
Teaching, Learning, & Technology,
University of Montevallo, AL



make a really big difference. In relation to what we are looking to achieve it will provide a clear indication – for all students who join us and all faculty who work with us – of the present and the future of The Honors College. It will also hark back to the clear and spectacular vision of the past – to what I am now often referring to as the vision of “six young people”.

You might know the story. When MSU-O (later Oakland University) was formed not only was it the first university created with the input of an Honors College, it was the first in the world to have its curriculum informed by students of an Honors College (the MSU Honors College, which had been created a mere few months before).

The six young people of what was called “The Honors

College Group” on the Curriculum Committee informed how Oakland University was created and later developed. Records show, this group consisted of “Messrs. Barie, Casler, Chapman, Eckstrom, Smith and Woodruff.”

I wonder what this group would make of where we are now? How might *they* consider the future of the The Honors College at Oakland? What might Messrs. Barie, Casler, Chapman, Eckstrom, Smith and Woodruff say to us now as we set forth into this next stage of Oakland’s history? What would they advise us, as the new The Honors College residence follows the recent development of the Elliott Carillon Tower, the spectacular new engineering building, the Human Health Building and so much more?

I suspect they might say as they did over 50 years ago - and that we should remind ourselves of their exact words - that we should set forth with “unusual care”; that we should make “every conceivable effort”; that all should involve “good planning”; and, most of all, and so very importantly, that we should go forward today with “great vigor”!

Graeme Harper BA MLitt DCA
Ph.D FRGS FRAI FRSA
Dean The Honors College



HC 201

Art

Popular Music, Protest, and Politics

By Professor Paul Schauert

From an interdisciplinary global perspective, we explored the links between mass music and mass movements. Students gained an appreciation for pop music beyond its catchy melodies and danceable beats. Through lively debates regarding the meanings of song lyrics, students interrogated pop music's clandestine messages, double meanings, and indirect critiques of power.

Beginning in America, we explored spirituals as resistance to slavery, examined blues empowerment, and discovered how folk music sung out against fascism. We also analyzed jazz as Cold War diplomacy, studied the soul of Civil Rights, and investigated the furious funk of Black Power. Students recognized popular music as activism while discussing its role in protesting war and social injustices.

Beyond America, we discussed the power of African popular music during liberation struggles and the anti-apartheid movement. Examining Arab music, students were urged to view 9/11 and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from a non-Western perspective.

In self-designed class projects, students created podcasts, compilation CDs, and documentaries that

illustrated the political dimensions of their favorite music. Students discovered new musical interests from across the world, which fueled passions for global citizenship.



Image courtesy of franky242/[Freedigitalphotos](#)Image courtesy of Nutdanai Apikhomboonwaroot/[Freedigitalphotos](#)

HC 206
Social Science

Stone Age to IT: How Did That Happen?

By Professor John Wermuth

Students in this winter's **Stone Age to the IT (HC 206)** travelled through a very unique picture of history. Marveling at how early humans observed natural forms to develop useful tools like a fork or the wheel led to discussions and readings that broadened their understanding of what technology really is. Students discovered that a very early simplistic computer system helped run the tapestry looms in Belgium in the late Middle Ages. Hand crafted tooth pullers to sophisticated rockets, dazzling lights in the night sky to bullets of war, sharp edges of flint to microscopic surgical instruments gave students a deeper appreciation of how the 21st Century came to be.

Debates, student led discussions, presentations, and a variety of historical and technological readings from unusual sources challenged traditional thinking about history. Students learned that technology through creativity and imagination has shaped our current society. Thank you to all the students for your thoughts and ideas, keep thinking.

Dr. Harper commented: "I was personally excited to see John Wermuth's proposal for "Stone Age to IT".

You'll understand why when you read this extract from an article I published in *The Campus Review* late in 2010":

The technologies of today are technologies of human experience. The fact that they are 'digital' is of rapidly decreasing relevance, and it has been of rapidly decreasing relevance for quite some time! In essence, contemporary technologies are synaptic. Synaptic, meaning they are technologies of flow, of bringing together, of transmission, exchange, networking, of social, financial, political, cultural and personal activity. The experience-focus of these synaptic technologies, that experiential nature, has thus long superseded any logical reason for a continued reference to the 'digital'. And yet, in universities this reference continues to be widespread, as if we have entirely failed to grasp the size and complexity of the changes that have been occurring in the world around us, most particularly over the past decade.

"Putting technology in context is becoming a key to understanding not only the past but the future. We very much look forward to reading student responses to John Wermuth's HC206 class."



Global Understanding Forum

By Evan Jones

The Global Understanding Forum held at the OU incubator highlights a turning point for the future of both the Honors College and the state of undergraduate research at OU in general. It simultaneously launched the Center for Undergraduate Research and Leadership (CURL) as well as created momentum for the Global Citizenship Symposium held on April 5. The forum exhibited what happens when students and professors from across the disciplines gather in open dialogue—an enlightened collective understanding. As a co-organizer of the event, I gained practical experience in what it takes to make such an event happen. From coordinating participants to advertising, there is a tremendous amount of work going on behind the scenes of any event. I look forward to watching CURL grow in the coming year as a hub of undergraduate initiatives and ingenuity.

Dorothy Nelson, Vice Provost for Research & Graeme Harper, Dean of The Honors College



Echo Cognito

By Jason Storms

This February, some fellow Oakland undergrads and I launched a new student-run print journal, *Echo Cognito*, funded by the Honors College Critical and Creative Society. We culled over one hundred pages of prose from student authors around the United States, publishing everything from scholarly pieces on bioethics to poetry and photography, and everything in between. In addition to publishing the journal, we also hosted a student conversation with U.S. Poet Laureate Philip Levine and a reading by poet and Slavic literature scholar Benjamin Paloff.

Shortly after it came off the presses in late February, Evan Jones and I traveled to Boston and did the official launch of *Echo Cognito* at the AWP Conference—the largest conference of publishers, writers, and writing programs, which boasted over 11,000 attendees this year. Our journal competed fiercely against journals published by both undergraduates and graduates.

I cannot adequately convey how proud I am of all the *Echo Cognito* editors for their hard work and dedication this past year as we made the journal a reality. Our first issue is the start of a great legacy at Oakland University.

*Copies of *Echo Cognito* may be purchased from the Honors College for \$7.



“Standing in front of the Sultan Ahmed Mosque in Istanbul after backpacking on my own through Europe.”

Study Abroad – Germany

By Sean Cannady

I don't think I could properly write out even the most important experiences I have had in my time here with a whole journal. Everything is different, but some things feel the same if I think about it hard enough. I've never been one to be very thankful for things in my life. When I got here, however, I knew, almost immediately, that I was so profoundly thankful I would never really be able to repay the friends who helped me get here. If you are a university student, who has never lived in another country, and you're reading this, please, do this for yourself, study abroad. I got help and support,

financially and morally from the Honors College, my professors, Oakland University, and all the people I've met here. I have improved my German astronomically, I have found amazing friends, and I have seen things that I will always remember as the ending of a chapter, and the beginning of the rest of my life. I'm seven months in, with four months left, and so unbelievably excited.



“Heading into the forested, low-lying mountain range south of Oldenburg, Germany called the Harz.”

HONORS COLLEGE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

What an awesome year it's been! In case you missed it, here's the update:

The highlights of this school year for HCSA include a Halloween party, two course exploration events, and an end of the year picnic! The exploration events, a new addition to the HCSA line-up, allowed students to have lunch with professors and discuss upcoming Honors College courses. Both students and professors seemed to enjoy this idea – previous connection makes walking into a new classroom much less frightening!

The end-of-the-year picnic celebrated a fun 2012-2013 year with food and the opportunity to tie-dye HCSA t-shirts! The new shirts feature block print and, because they're white, can be used for quote writing or tie-dye.

It makes a great shirt to wear out and about to show your HCSA pride!



And finally, welcome to the **new HCSA board!**

President:	Liz Lawer
Vice President:	Ben Lashar
Treasurer:	Kaitlin McNeil
Secretary:	Lisa Shammas
Public Relations:	Megan Kabara
Webmaster:	Miranda Pelkey

We wish you an awesome year, filled with popular events and success!

HC STUDENTS WIN TOP AWARDS

News at OU- Monday, January 21, 2013 - **OU honors MLK legacy with Keeper of the Dream celebration**



The Oakland University community gathered together today to honor the legacy of the late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with the 21st annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Celebration.

HC student, Steven Wynne was one of the three awardees. [To read more...](#)

News at OU- Wednesday, April 03, 2013 - **OU board honors student leaders with Wilson and Human Relations awards** *By Katie Land, news editor*



Each spring, Oakland University's Board of Trustees takes time to recognize three outstanding student leaders with the prestigious Alfred G., Matilda R. Wilson and Human Relations awards.

The 2013 winners, all HC students, are international relations major **Benjamin Eveslage**, biology major **Subha Hanif**, and business major **Nicholas Kristock**. The students were recognized by the board at the Wednesday, April 3, meeting. [To read more](#)

National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)

By Fara Di Noto



Fara, Jason & Christopher

Being a part of the Honors College has provided me with many opportunities. I have served as a small group leader for incoming freshmen, been a night worker in the Honors College lab, studied abroad on an Honors College Scholarship and this past month I was able to

present at The National Conference for Undergraduate Research or NCUR.

NCUR is held every year at various universities around the country. The 2013 conference was held at The University of Wisconsin La-Crosse. I, along with two other Honors College students, Jason Storms and Christopher Clement, showcased our research at this year's conference. I presented my Honors College thesis. This was the first time that I had presented on a national stage, and I was very nervous. I found that everyone at NCUR was supportive and genuinely interested in learning about current research. This was a great experience! I feel like I have set myself apart from other undergraduates and have gained the skills needed to present in front of large groups of people.

After we finished presenting we decided to explore the great state of Wisconsin and do some sightseeing. While on our travels we saw an almighty thirty-five foot eyeball and bought some delicious Wisconsin cheese. Overall it was a great experience and I am grateful to the Honors College for providing this opportunity for its students.



CELEBRATIONS



Dawn was named

OU Employee of the Month

CONGRATULATIONS

To our 2012-2013 Graduates!



Brittany Broughman
 Rachel Butler
 Jean Cahill
 Nicholas Carlin
 Ashley Cerku
 Savana Ciavatta
 Megan Czarnowski
 Fara Di Noto
 Reanna Douglas
 Jessica Drogowski
 Laura Eagan
 Andrea Evangelista
 Daniel Feldman
 Ian Green
 Amaal Haimout
 Subha Hanif
 Rania Hannan
 Kaitlin Huff
 Nathan Jacobson
 Mahir Jurdi
 Elizabeth Karwacki
 Nicholas Kristock
 Katlyn Leidel
 Sarah Maas
 Olivia Marsh

Veronica Martinez
 M. Joey Meyer
 Christine Milgie
 Brigid Nash
 Kevin O'Bryan
 Alexandra Park
 Luke Phillips
 Laura Pioch
 Anne Marie Pop
 Elizabeth Roscoe
 Julieta Saluzzo
 Candice Savonen
 Alyssa Schmidt
 Laura Schneider
 Leart Sejdarsi
 Andrea Smith
 Kaitlyn Springer
 Jason Storms
 Ann Strickler
 David Tobin
 Trung Tran
 Emily Verstrate
 Ashima Vohra
 Adrienne Wallace
 Noor Zora

Thank you to our generous Graduate Reception donors Mr. and Mrs. George Seifert and The Community Foundation of Greater Rochester.

ATTENTION HC ALUMNI

We can now **archive** your **HC thesis** on the Kresge Library website! This will allow your thesis research to come up in related searches as well as provide you with a URL that will be linked to your thesis. If you would like to give us permission to archive your thesis, please click on the [Alumni News and Info](#) page on our website and fill out the OUR Release Form.

ALUMNI & FRIENDS 2013 Homecoming



IMPORTANT DATES

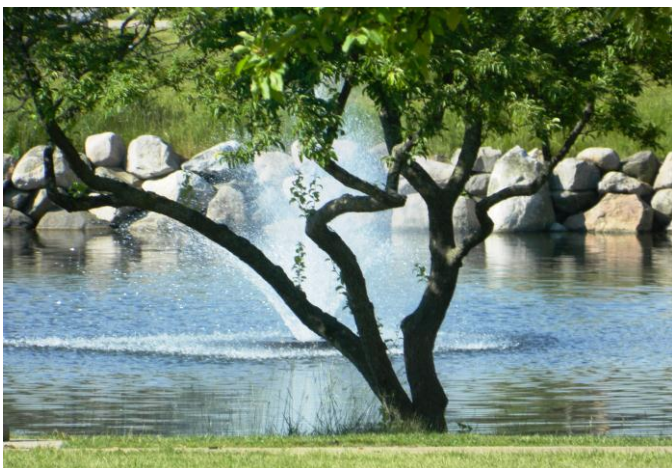
Summer I Session	May 6-June 22
Summer II Session	July 1-August 17
Fall 2013	September 3 Convocation/ Classes begin 5 p.m.



For **more information** about The Honors College explore 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)



Have a safe summer!

The Honors College Staff

Graeme Harper

Karen Conn

Dawn Deitsch