



Honors Program 2014 Newsletter

MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

<http://www.mwsu.edu/academics/honors/>

New Discoveries Edition

WORD FROM THE PROVOST



One of the greatest joys in the life of a student is being a part of a new discovery. In the scientific arena, new discoveries are made daily representing the culmination of many years of work and the acquisition of new knowledge. Examples include the identification of a new biological species, the synthesis of a new

compound, the discovery of a new galaxy, or the solution to a complex mathematical problem.

Today, many of the most exciting discoveries occur at the intersections of multiple disciplines. Engineers are working with biologists to develop new tools that can be used in medicine. Computer scientists are developing computers and software that allow researchers to study problems at the molecular level. Social scientists are working with mathematicians to study the chaos of human interactions. Creative artists are interacting with multimedia to enhance and expand exposure.

Faculty and students at Midwestern State University have the opportunity to engage in collaborative multidisciplinary research and creative endeavors that result in new knowledge and the development of new skills that can be used to solve complex problems. Our faculty establish mentoring relationships with their students and help them develop as scholars and researchers. Our faculty also have the opportunity to advance their own intellectual endeavors while working alongside students. Students benefit by gaining an understanding of the research and creative process, completing their projects, presenting their work to a community of scholars, and gaining confidence in their abilities to understand and advance the concepts covered in the traditional classroom lectures and laboratories.

The Redwine Honors Program nurtures and guides our students throughout their academic tenure at Midwestern State University. Students have the opportunity to present papers and projects at regional and national conferences. These opportunities serve to position our students for uncharted territories within a world that is constantly evolving and changing in ways that could not have been imagined. Our students are being prepared as engaged, progressive, and innovative leaders who will positively embrace, impact, and meet the challenges of our continually changing global society.

-Betty Stewart, Provost

MSU Team Takes Top Honor at Model UN Competition



Nine Midwestern State University political science students earned Outstanding Delegation in the General Assembly Plenary Session of the 54th Midwest Model UN competition February 19-22 in St. Louis. This was the university's first time to participate in the competition. Model UN is a simulation of United Nations debate in which students play the role of countries throughout the world as they develop solutions to international problems. The MSU team represented the small country of El Salvador. Team members were Emily Baudot,

Julie Brady, Amy Brister (head delegate), Alexis Gay, Tiernan Harris, Brad Hunt, Madi Parker, Ian Potthoff, and Brandi Rhoads.

"I could not be more proud of these students, and their energetic initiative indicates that we will be more than prepared for the significant challenges facing the international community in the future," said Dr. Steve Garrison, faculty advisor. Dr. Garrison teaches Honors Political Science for the Honors Program, and several of the students on the UN team are Honors students. Amy Brister, the head delegate, just graduated from the Honors Program in May 2014. Emily Baudot and Mady Parker are current Honors Program students.

In preparation for the contest, students were required to learn the history, politics, and economics of El Salvador and understand how they behave in the international arena. The team used this knowledge to respond to topics presented at the conference, including how to best address global health changes, the role of women around the world, the impact of climate change, use of chemical weapons, and disaster response.

In offering solutions to these topics, the MSU team's goal was to work through various committees to get proposals adopted by the General Assembly, which includes all UN member countries. To be successful the students had to develop alliances with other countries around the world based on the substance of these proposals and be on the side that successfully passed these resolutions, said Garrison.

"Students who were once shy and introverted quickly emerged as the strategic architects of the General Assembly. Their teamwork and coordination was like watching a finely tuned machine that was the driving force behind the conference activities," said Garrison.

As a result, the merit-based award was presented in recognition of the MSU's knowledge of El Salvador and successful influence of the solutions adopted by the full assembly.

"More happened this week than in the last two years," said MSU Honors student Emily Baudot.

To learn more about Midwest Model UN visit www.mmun.org.

Story originally published by MSU's Office of Public Information.

Honors Graduates 2013

Spring 2013:

Minh Bui
Tonya (Bruton) Parham
Erin George
Danielle Hammerquist
Cassie Hermann
Cody Parish
Alyssa Smith

Maria Souliotis
Rachel "Izzy" Terrell
Vonda Thompson

August 2013:

Leah Manya
Andi Wisdom

Fall 2013:

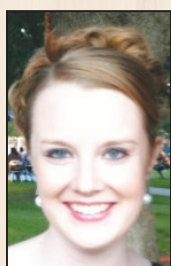
Pamela Bah
Laura Clark
Jacob Heuring
Micki Jimenez
Patience Malgwi
Keidra Phillip
Chase Sawyer



Faculty Highlight:

DR. KIRSTEN LODGE has PhDs in Russian Language and Literature and Czech Language and Literature, a minor in Film Studies, and a Harriman Certificate in Interdisciplinary Studies from Columbia University, where she taught courses in literature and humanities for seven years. She also has a Licentiate of Philosophy in Russian Literature from Joensuu University in Finland, and an MA in the History and Philosophy of Art and Architecture from the Central European University in Prague. Her books include *The Dedalus Book of Russian Decadence: Perversity, Despair, and Collapse*; *Solitude, Vanity, Night: An Anthology of Czech Decadent Poetry*; *Translating the Early Poetry of Velimir Khlebnikov*; and forthcoming translations of Dostoevsky's *Notes from the Underground* and Karásek's *A Gothic Soul*. She spent ten years in Europe, traveling extensively, living in the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Russia, Finland, and France, and working as a translator/interpreter, tour guide, and instructor of Czech literature, French, and English. She loves to teach honors classes because the students are so intellectually curious and engaged, and the discussions are so animated. Everyone learns from everyone else, and she too learns from the honor students.

Staff Update:



Juliana Felts

JULIANA FELTS is happy to be back in the Honors Program Coordinator position, after spending one year in Lyon, France, with her husband Mark.

DR. BETTY STEWART, Provost, will be teaching a new Senior Seminar for students under the new program guidelines in fall of 2014 and spring of 2015. The students transitioning into the new program will present research they did to meet the new undergraduate research component of the Honors Program.



Dr. Betty Stewart

Homecoming Competition

The Honors Student Committee won fifth place in the 2013 Overall Homecoming Competition. The group participated in the banner competition, as well as several other Homecoming festivities.



Honors Student Committee Officers

Spring 2014:

Clint Wagoner, Chair
Danielle Schwertner, Vice Chair
Andrea Mendoza Lespron, Senator
Alicia Ward, Secretary
Joseph Hadwal, Treasurer

Brains and Brawn

Cara Mack-Cross Country
and Track
Lizzie Navarette-Soccer
Lauren Pineda-Tennis
Emily Saville-Soccer
Jennifer Sissel-Basketball

Research Highlights from Current Students



JOSEPH HADWAL, a senior Honors Program student, presented *The Alchemist and the Playwright: Ben Jonson, a Shakespearean Rival* at the 2014 Honors Program Symposium and at the Great Plains Honors Council conference in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Ben Jonson, a Jacobean playwright and Shakespearean contemporary, was highly regarded for his satirical wit. Nonetheless, his neoclassical works delivered him popularity during the romantic period. Joe's research analyzes Jonson's most popular plays and historically illuminates one of England's most respected dramatists.



JONATHAN HENDERSON, a junior Honors Program student, presented *Stepping From the Shoulders of a Giant: An Examination into Aristotle's Separation From Platonic Thought* at the 2014 Honors Program Symposium and at the Great Plains Honors Council conference in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Just as Plato learned his skills under the tutelage of Socrates, so too did Aristotle study under his mentor, Plato. However, in an age of modernity when we examine the two philosophies of Aristotle and Plato and compare them, we come to an understanding that, though similar, there is a strong divergence in method and thought. Aristotle began at the Platonic school in Athens, just as many of the other pupils did, but upon maturation he left his master for Ionia, carrying with him many of Plato's ideas. Sometime, however, Aristotle began to diverge strongly from his master and develop an entirely new way of looking at the world. Jonathan's paper seeks to examine the divergence between student and master and searches for the breaks and key points where this divergence took place.



CALEB NICHOLS, a freshman Honors Program student, presented *The Sigmoid Curve in Organizations and Leadership* at the 2014 Honors Program Symposium and at the Great Plains Honors Council conference in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Charles Handy published *The Empty Rain Coat* in 1955, in which he discussed the life cycles of organizations. He used the sigmoid in particular as a model of these cycles, which can also be implemented in the life cycles of leadership as well as organizations. The sigmoid curve is a mathematical, bounded function, which exists only in certain parameters, possessing a minimum and a maximum. The curve begins downwardly sloping representing the initial resources an organization or individual inputs into a project or ideal. The curve slopes up in what is called the growth and maturity period. In this period the organization grows in success while an individual grows in skills and leadership ability. When the maximum is reached a new curve must be started or the organization will begin to decline. A new project or idea must begin in order for the individual or organization to continue to grow.



LANCE AUGUSTE, a graduate of the Honors Program in May 2014, presented *Geologic Reconnaissance of the Dalquest Research Site* at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Forum at MSU in April.

Reconnaissance of the Dalquest research site revealed regional variation in rock strata and lithology. Out of the sites studied, striking contrast and geologic variation exists in the regions demarked by the following latitude and longitude locations: Locality 1) GPS: 29, 33, 22.9 N – 103, 47, 21.26 W, Locality 2) GPS: 29, 33, 14.86 N – 103, 47, 14.79 W, and Locality 3 N 29, 34, 06.9 - W 103, 46, 25.3.

Locality 1 is composed of Duff rhyolites varying from a weathered gray white color to its more known pink color. Many of the rocks show significant hematite and sulfur staining. This region has been largely reworked by environmental forces, evident by the presence of canyons east of the research station. Ash was reworked by fluvial processes and largely coats the surface of the area.

Locality 2, dubbed the magic area, is located at the confluence of geologic processes. Its canyon morphology and active streamflow supports biological diversity in this desert environment. Geologically, it contains three or more faults that juxtapose a number of the rock units in the area. Basalts of the Rawls Formation of which are mafic in composition make up a significant section of the mountains. The basalts lack visible primary crystals but are vesiculated and exhibit silica filled vugs.

Rincon-Zachary named Director of Undergraduate Student Research



Dr. Magaly Rincon-Zachary, Midwestern State University biology professor and member of the Honors Faculty Committee, was named Director of Undergraduate Student Research at MSU in 2013, a position designed to oversee undergraduate student research opportunities in a plan to enrich students' learning experiences.

Rincon-Zachary has overseen the summer student research program UGROW (Undergraduate Research Opportunity Workshop) since its beginning. The first UGROW was held in 2005 with four students and four faculty members from the College of Science and Mathematics participating. The program has since grown, and EURECA (Enhancing Undergraduate Research Endeavors and Creative Activities) is a new program established in 2013-2014 for students to have more opportunities to participate in undergraduate research.

MSU Provost Betty Stewart knows firsthand how valuable the research experience can be for undergraduates. "It changed the focus of my career," she said. "We needed to make those opportunities possible for undergraduates and we needed an educator who has a heart and mind to lead this endeavor. Dr. Rincon-Zachary is a researcher and will make research an experience that will enrich students' education. Research is a passion for her."

The creation of the position and appointment of Rincon-Zachary was key to the university's reaffirmation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). MSU officials were required to select a focus for a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) – something that will add value to the students' educational experience. In preliminary committee meetings, a student forum was recommended as the topic. Rincon-Zachary said that the plan would fuse the student forum with undergraduate research, with the forum as a symposium to present research results each spring and fall.

Using UGROW as a model, during long semesters students were chosen to participate in EURECA, with students and mentors from the different colleges suggesting topics. The mentors looked for collaboration

opportunities and ways to expand the topics. Progress and pitfalls were discussed at regular meetings with interdisciplinary cooperation encouraged. Rincon-Zachary facilitated the work between the colleges. The Department of Theatre's fall 2011 original play *Bandersnatch* is an example of the interdisciplinary collaboration that Rincon-Zachary encourages. Theater students collaborated with McCoy School of Engineering students to create large robotic puppets for the award-winning production.

Vice President for Administration and Institutional Effectiveness Robert Clark said that research has been ongoing in "pockets" since the early 1970s, but only in certain divisions. "We've never had a real sustained effort," Clark said. "Magaly took UGROW and ran with it. When we looked for someone who was a leader, she was a top choice. She has made enormous strides with undergraduate research and over the years, involved other faculty, mainly from her college, and then decided to expand this."

Stewart and Clark agreed that involving undergraduates in research opportunities benefits faculty as well as students. "We all reap the rewards when these students succeed," Clark said. "It's a win-win not only when students are involved but also when faculty is involved."



"Working collaboratively with faculty campus-wide will enhance the student's educational experience," Stewart said. "Giving them the opportunity for research will add value to their education, and will keep us competitive with other COPLAC (Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges) and liberal arts schools. We're definitely doing the right thing."

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Rincon-Zachary named Director of Undergraduate Student Research *Continued*



Rincon-Zachary oversees UGROW during the summer, the long semester EURECA program, and any other undergraduate research opportunities such as COPLAC's Distance-Mentored Undergraduate Research, which pairs students with mentors from other universities.

Rincon-Zachary has been at MSU since 1992. She divides her time equally between teaching and directing the research effort. She is excited about the possibilities for growth that student research can bring to the university. "UGROW has been a transformative experience for the students, and that's just one month. Just think what a semester will do," she said. "There is a notion that research is for Tier I schools, that small universities cannot produce research. That's not true. I think 10-20 years from now MSU will be a destination, with students coming here for research and to be around a research atmosphere."

EURECA kicked off for the first time in fall 2013, with 20 students and 14 faculty members participating. Among those students, three

were Honors Program students or alumni. Carpenter Wyatt, a freshman Honors Program student, worked on the project "Heart Rate Variability with Fitness Status During Increased Work," and was mentored by Dr. Frank Wyatt in Exercise Physiology. Cody Parish, who graduated from the Honors Program in spring 2013, returned to MSU to pursue a second bachelor's degree. He worked on the project "Postmodern American Identity in Film and Literature," and was mentored by Dr. Todd Giles in English. Kistel Hazel, a senior Honors Program student, worked on the project "Mind over Matter," and was mentored by Dr. Tina Johnson in Computer Science. In spring 2014, 16 students and 13 faculty members were involved, including three Honors Program students. Danielle Schwertner, a junior Honors Program student, worked on the project "Adapting Communication Curriculum to Meet the New Texas Core: Tracking Trends, 2013-2015," and was mentored by Dr. Mitzi Lewis in Mass Communication and Dr. Sally Henschel in English. Jonathan Henderson, a junior Honors Program student, worked on the project "The Legacy of Hippolyte Havel," and was mentored by Dr. Nathan Jun in Philosophy. Lance Auguste, a senior Honors Program student, worked on "Reconnaissance of the Geologic and Environmental Setting of the Dalquest Desert Research Station," and was mentored by Dr. Jonathan Price in Geosciences.

Overall, the first year was a success. Of course, there is always room for improvement, as Rincon-Zachary points out: "The things that need to be improved upon include communicating the research opportunities in EURECA to students and faculty, participation from all colleges, and better publicizing that the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Forum is a venue for all MSU students involved in research/creative work to present their results." She also commented that "the most successful parts of EURECA this year are the development of genuine student-faculty partnerships in research, the quality of the research/creative projects, and the EURECA student presentations at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Forum." Completing research under EURECA or UGROW satisfies the Honors senior requirement, and students will begin presenting their research in an Honors Senior Seminar as part of the new Redwine Honors requirements. The senior seminars will be offered for the first time in fall 2014.

Story originally published by MSU's Office of Public Information.



Featured Alumnus:



STEVEN TAYLOR graduated from the Honors Program in December of 2010. He currently resides in Wichita Falls with his wife Lauryn and their two dogs, Fitz and Paris. He continues to be involved with various organizations associated with MSU. We asked Steven to catch us up on what he has been doing since he graduated from the Honors Program:

"I am still in Wichita Falls and I am currently a Systems Administrator for Pacific Architects and Engineers, an international federal contractor at

the Sheppard Air Force Base site. I have worked there since I left MSU, but I was just selected to join the Copper Cap internship program to train to be a Contracting Specialist with the 82d Contracting Squadron at Sheppard. I try to stay involved with the various organizations I was in at MSU and recently was elected Vice President for Collegiate Relations for the Fallstown Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Pi, the international business fraternity. I am also actively involved with my church, Heritage Church, and I am in a couple of different leadership roles along with playing and singing with the worship team. Apart from all of that keeping me busy, I focus on my wife, Lauryn, and my two dogs, Fitz and Paris."

Steven was in the Honors Program from the fall of 2007 until he graduated in December of 2010. He remained an active member throughout his time at MSU. He was a member of the Honors Program Student Committee, and he worked as a student assistant in the Honors Program office. Steven also lived in the Honors House for about 2 years.

When asked what his favorite Honors Program memory is, Steven replied that he loved the Honors Program field trips and the various brown bag programs that allowed him to get out of the world of his major field and to learn about other disciplines a little bit. "Working in the Honors Program office was pretty fun, too," he noted.

We also asked Steven what his favorite Honors course was, and he remembers the Honors Introductory Seminar best: "Honestly, my Honors Intro class was one of the best. Ever since I was introduced to Myers-Briggs, I've been fascinated by personality types. Apart from that, the Honors Seminar on the History of Cinema was really fun."

Steven remarked how the Honors Program helped to prepare him for the world after MSU. He explained that "Honors challenges you in such a rounded way. In the collegiate world, you can wind up focusing so much on your major field of study that you don't step out and take the opportunity to absorb all of the other areas that are so fascinating and willing to let you in on what they know. The various Honors courses and programs provide different exercises in thinking outside of yourself so when you are in the career world, you can better understand the requirements of your job and the perspectives of others, whether it be in customer-facing fields or just your fellow colleagues."

Steven's advice to current Honors Program students is to "take the opportunity to see the world. When I was at MSU, my wife and I studied abroad in London and it was one of the best experiences of my life. We went back to visit this spring, and all of the memories that I had made a few years back came to me. You really learn about yourself and about others when you are able to dive into another culture and live among them for a little while. I'll never forget it."

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE? SEND US AN E-MAIL!

We would love to hear from more alumni at Honors@mwsu.edu! We hope many of you will continue to keep in touch with us, and we look forward to sharing your stories in the future.

Honors Fun Facts from Spring 2014:

66 total students in the Honors Program

44 students from Texas

1 student from Colorado

1 student from Ohio

20 international students:

1 from Bulgaria

1 from Cameroon

2 from Dominica

11 from St Lucia

1 from Mexico

4 from Nigeria

Honors Students Serve as Interns in MSU's Writing Center



THE REDWINE HONORS PROGRAM began a partnership with the Writing Center at MSU to allow Honors students to serve as interns. The partnership has been quite successful, with anywhere from two to six Honors students working over the past two years. Dr. Kristen Garrison, Writing Program Coordinator, works with and trains the interns before they begin working in the Writing Center. We asked Cody Parish, an Honors Program graduate and intern in the Writing Center, to give us an interview about the experience. Here's what Cody had to say:

Tell us about the Writing Center. What's it all about?

To put it simply, the Writing Center is a collaborative service that aims to help students at Midwestern improve as writers. Students work one-on-one with tutors to identify strengths and weaknesses within the student's writing. From there, tutors help provide the students with the tools to correct their mistakes and enhance their writing for future drafts and assignments. We emphasize student engagement and discussion over their writing rather than one-way editing advice from tutor to student. We help students brainstorm ideas, prepare thesis statements, outline their papers, use proper formatting procedures (MLA, APA, etc.), and most of all, model the actions of good writers. Our goal is for students to walk away from their session feeling confident in their own abilities to write, revise, and redraft their essays.

From your perspective, how has this internship benefited both the students participating as interns, and those who come to the Writing Lab?

What stands out to me in my experience as a tutor are the relationships we build with students. We establish a great rapport with some very motivated individuals who generally want to improve as writers, and I think the combination of having that common goal in mind and showing students that we, the tutors, are in a peer position as their equal, not the preconceived teacher-student dynamic, makes for many rewarding sessions. Honors students considering this internship may forget that they, too, will grow as writers. The level of exposure to every facet of composition, as well as learning effective strategies to circumvent those moments where we don't know the answer to a student's question, forces us to adapt and develop as writers and problem-solvers in our own right. And that's just the beginning! Tutors meet and create these amazing bonds with each other that go beyond the walls of the Writing Center. I've made several strong friendships with graduate and undergraduate student tutors that I never would have otherwise. We all have each other's phone numbers, and we hang out in our own free time; in fact, I'm writing this response and remembering that tomorrow we've all planned to take a trip to a pizza spot in Saint Jo together. These are the same

people who I've had the wonderful opportunity to present group research with at professional Writing Center conferences. Honors students may view this offer as a formal, cut and dry internship, but the experience they will receive from it is far better than anything that could be put into a description such as this.

What are some of the events you sponsor?

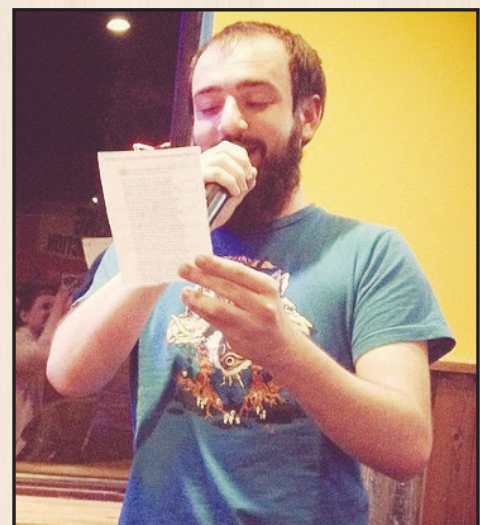
Plans for the future?

Midwestern's Writing Center actively helps organize and participate in several events on and off campus, most notably the quarterly Poetry Slams at Fuzzy's Tacos, the Grammar Fair held in Clark Student Center, and the Write-Ins for students who want to work on essays in a relaxing and encouraging environment. Other events in which the Writing Center has participated include Moffett Library's Banned Book Week and Blind Date with a Book.

Are there any other comments or stories you would like to share?

I don't think I ever realized what I could truly do at MSU until I became a Writing Center tutor. Despite how cliché that statement may seem, I fully believe it. For any student interested in writing in general, not necessarily for English courses, this internship really will open doors for you. I don't mean academic doors, although those will open, too. (Dr. Garrison has a knack for encouraging students to stretch their limits in order to take the most from their tutoring experience at Midwestern.) I'm referring to mental doors, those doors that are overshadowed that you never knew existed, the ones that, when the brass knob is finally turned, they show you the potential that you really have. This experience, being a tutor in MSU's Writing Center, will help you realize, if you haven't already, just what a small college like Midwestern has to offer its students and how you can begin to take advantage of those opportunities before you graduate.

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Honors Students Serve as Interns in MSU's Writing Center *Continued*

In addition to Cody's interview, we also asked several other interns how they feel about working in the Writing Center. Here are a few of their comments:

I enjoy a lot of things as a writing center tutor, but I most enjoy the people I work with. The type of students attracted to this internship are kind, happy individuals who aren't afraid of working hard. However, they are also able to put aside their work and make honest connections with each other - it's not just about climbing a professional ladder there. We all genuinely enjoy writing, English research, and spending time with one another. Additionally, it was wonderful to watch us all grow. In one year, we all became comfortable with getting to know strangers, including each other, and we all were surprised at how capable and dependable we could be. Tutoring helped us hone skills that made us able to get along with anyone that came into the Writing Center for advice. I surprised myself with how well I could handle angry or frustrated students, and since discovering that about myself, I've found that I have more confidence everywhere I go! That revelation wouldn't have been possible without making the friends that I did when I first started working there.

--Emily Baudot, Writing Center intern and current Honors Program student

The Writing Center is something of a family of English nerds. We all understand each other, for the most part anyway, and we all get along. I have found many new and lasting friendships through the Writing Center, and I credit these people with helping me to grow as both a person and a writer. I am so thankful for getting the opportunity to not only share what I know about English with other people but to make new friends in the process. I know I would not be as involved or as happy as I am now without the people I met and the experiences I have had while being an intern for the Writing Center.

--Danielle Schwertner, Writing Center intern and current Honors Program student

There are many wonderful aspects of being a Writing Center tutor. Dr. Garrison as director is a wonderful source of inspiration, knowledge, and food (absolutely necessary). Fellow tutors become good friends, and of course there's the learning element that comes from teaching another student. Adjusting to another's thinking speed or thought processes can be difficult, but it is incredibly illuminating. Being a tutor was by far one of my best college experiences, and I'm sorry to say goodbye.

--Kalynn Smith, Writing Center intern and Spring 2014 Honors Program Graduate



Eighth Annual Honors Program Symposium

“Abstract Thinking in a Concrete World”

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL HONORS PROGRAM SYMPOSIUM was held on Saturday, March 8, 2014. Following the annual tradition, the Honors Student Committee organized and implemented the event. Students voted to select a faculty discussion panel in place of a keynote speaker, due to the popularity of the panel discussions in the last couple of years. Dr. Nathan Jun, Philosophy; Dr. Jeff Stambaugh, Management and Marketing; and Dr. Kathleen Roberts, Nursing, discussed the topic “Define the impact of the Affordable Healthcare Act in terms of economic, political, and social justice.” The student presentations from March 2014 are as follows:

LEONA SANDIFORD

Use of Prosthetics to Enhance Make-Up in Sweeney Todd

JONATHAN HENDERSON

Stepping from the Shoulders of a Giant: An Examination into Aristotle’s Separation from Platonic Thought

JOSEPH HADWAL

The Alchemist and the Playwright: Ben Jonson, a Shakespearean Rival

CALEB NICHOLS

The Sigmoid Curve in Organizations and Leadership

EMILIENNE KWI

Cameroon

THANH HOANG

Rotavirus Genotypes Associated with Childhood Severe Acute Diarrhea in Southern Ghana: A Cross-Sectional Study



Study Abroad



Our study abroad feature this year focuses on Danielle Schwertner, a senior Honors Program student. The Honors Program continues to offer additional scholarship support for Honors students who study abroad through any of the programs supported by the university. The programs currently available through MSU include a summer term in Granada, Spain, a summer term in Tours, France, a summer term in London, England, and a rainforest study in Panama. Danielle travelled to London during the summer of 2013, and her time abroad made such a great impact on her that she is returning to London through MSU again this summer to continue her studies there. Here is a synopsis of Danielle’s study abroad experience:

-Where did you study?

London, England

-What was the most memorable experience you had while studying abroad?

During one of our free weekends, a friend and I travelled to Dover and Canterbury in one day. We climbed the Dover cliffs (twice!) and, after having a picnic lunch in a beautiful park, explored the breath-taking Canterbury Cathedral. We started our trip at about 8:30 in the morning, and we were back on Queen Mary’s campus by 10:30 at night. The fact that we could travel to two different places and see and experience so many unique feelings and atmospheres awed me. In the states, or in Texas at least, I would have had to plan an entire week or weekend around one place, and for no cheap price. In England, however, I experienced a whole new world within a matter of hours, and all for less than 30 pounds.

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Study Abroad *Continued*

-What was the most difficult thing about studying abroad?

I experienced only two difficult things while studying in London: Going without knowing anyone and leaving such a beautiful place. The first, going without knowing a single person, was solved the minute I arrived in London. I was very fortunate to meet and connect with a girl who was taking the same class as I was. We quickly discovered that we liked the same things, and she and one other girl from our class spent the majority of our free time together exploring London and England. Those two girls are still some of my closest friends. Leaving London, however, did not have a solution. Four weeks was nowhere near enough for me. Though I saw so many things and travelled to several places, I wanted more. Leaving the place I felt most at home is still something that makes me sad. Fortunately I am going back this summer, and I will have the chance to see everything I missed!

-How was it different from a typical semester at MSU?

There aren't enough words to explain how different studying in London (or any foreign country, I imagine) is from studying on campus at MSU. In London you get to experience and see things you might only be able to learn about in textbooks while at MSU. For example, my History of the English Language class travelled to Stratford-Upon-Avon for an overnight stay. Our professor walked us around the town, teaching us things about Shakespeare and then literally pointing them out. We saw where Shakespeare was born, where his house once stood. We once even saw where his body is buried! After that, we attended two plays performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC). The talent of the RSC actors and actresses is unbelievable. And my class and I were lucky enough to see a performance of one of Shakespeare's comedies, *As You Like It*. While studying in London, I had opportunities to actually see history, and there really was no greater feeling.

-What is the most valuable thing you learned/gained from this experience?

Before London, I was somewhat afraid to travel to foreign places alone, and I was convinced that making friends would be difficult for me. However, I made friends in London by simply being myself, and I am certain that learning that people who had never known me could learn about me and still want to be friends with me helped me come more out of my shell and make even more friends when the fall semester started. The travelling issue is, of course, no longer an issue for me. I made a point to go around London by myself a few times. I made myself become an expert on the Tube, and I learned to not be ashamed of asking for help or using a map. I also learned that getting a little lost in London is not a bad thing, for it helped me become more familiar with the city and made me feel as if I somehow belonged there. Since London, I have not been afraid of going places alone; in fact, the thought excites me a bit. I cannot wait to have even more travel experiences in new places later this summer!



HONORS COURSES OFFERED SPRING 2014:

ART 1413 Art Appreciation, taught by Professor Catherine Prose

HUMN 2043/4043 Mid 19th-20th Centuries, taught by Dr. Kirsten Lodge

POLS 1433 American Government, taught by Dr. Steve Garrison

SPCH 2423 Interpersonal Communication, taught by Professor Sandra Grant

WGST 2503 *NEW!* International Women's and Gender Studies, taught by Dr. Linda Veazey. This course was offered as an Honors section first, to have a trial run before being implemented as part of the new core beginning in Fall 2014. The goal of the course is to provide an introduction to the study of gender in society. It examines issues of women, gender, and sex, from an interdisciplinary perspective. This course combines interdisciplinary scholarship, court cases, film, lecture, and class discussion in order to help students develop a critical eye for examining the social, political, and cultural constructions of gender.

HONORS COURSES OFFERED FALL 2014:

ENGL 1103/SPCH 1103 *NEW!* Intro to Communication, team-taught by Dr. Kristen Garrison in the English Department and Dr. Elizabeth Lewandowski in Theatre. This is a new, hybrid course that satisfies part of the communication component of the new core curriculum. We are excited about the interdisciplinary nature of this course. Students will engage in critical thinking about personal experiences and current issues, use written and oral expression to convey their ideas regarding personal experiences and current issues, apply instruction on rhetorical awareness to make decisions about how best to convey their messages to the intended audience(s), and demonstrate proficient use of standard English in both oral and written communication.

HIST 1133 Survey of American History to 1865, taught by Dr. Everett Kindig

HUMN 2023/4023 Medieval Cultures, taught by Dr. Kirsten Lodge

POLS 1333 American Government, taught by Dr. Jeremy Duff

PSYC 1103 General Psychology, taught by Dr. Michael Vandehey

MWSU 1333 Leadership MSU, one section taught by Dr. Betty Stewart and one section taught by Honors Program Coordinator Juliana Felts. This course is required for all new Honors Program students in their first fall semester in the program, and was implemented as part of the new Redwine guidelines in Fall 2013.

MWSU 4451/4452 *NEW!* Honors Senior Seminar, taught by Dr. Betty Stewart. This course is the new senior seminar where Honors students will present their research that they completed as part of the Redwine Honors requirements. The course is an interdisciplinary seminar designed for honors students who have completed a research topic and/or methods course. Students will present their completed projects formally and engage in intensive discussions.

SENIOR HONORS STUDENTS HOST BROWN BAG SESSION

Several soon-to-be graduating seniors hosted a Brown Bag session called “How to Succeed in the Honors Program (Without Really Trying)” in Spring 2014. This session is an opportunity for senior students to share advice on completing the program requirements with younger Honors Program students, as well as an opportunity for students to ask the seniors for advice on particular issues. This year, the panel was comprised of seniors from all different majors.



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT:

- Kalynn Smith**, English major, Spring 2014 Honors Program Graduate
- Kylie Parker**, Theatre major, Spring 2014 Honors Program Graduate
- Amy Brister**, Political Science and History double major, Spring 2014 Honors Program Graduate
- Sammi Nichols**, Art major, August 2014 Honors Program Graduate
- Keba Frederick**, Finance major, Spring 2014 Honors Program Graduate
- Lance Auguste**, Environmental Science major, Spring 2014 Honors Program Graduate
- Yvonne Michaud**, Environmental Science major, Spring 2014 Honors Program Graduate

MSU Alumni Association Outstanding Honors Program Students

<i>Cody Cole</i>1994	<i>Jennifer Veitenheimer</i> ...2000	<i>Jonathan Abel</i>2008
<i>Chandra Rodgers</i>1994	<i>Jeffrey (Mark) Fleming</i> 2001	<i>Chelsea Humphrey</i>2009
<i>Melissa Miller</i>1995	<i>Nyian Farrell</i>2002	<i>Liam Guthrie</i>2010
<i>Paul (Andrew) Fleming</i> 1995	<i>Shonna Diggs</i>2003	<i>Ashley Gravelle</i>2011
<i>Jamie Benefield</i>1996	<i>Adam McMahan</i>2004	<i>Kyle Christian</i>2012
<i>Jason Lawrence</i>1997	<i>Marie Ibarra</i>2005	<i>Kistel Hazel</i>2013
<i>Paul Mussachio</i>1998	<i>Laura Rachael Kair</i>2006	<i>Emily Baudot</i>2014
<i>Danielle Roney</i>1999	<i>Erin Kathleen Short</i>2007	