

Honors Program

Spring 2011

Newsletter

MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
<http://academics.mwsu.edu/honors/>

Then and Now

EDITION

A Word from the Director



Mark Farris

The biggest news from the last year is the generous endowment provided by the Bruce and Graciela Redwine estate. You can read a more complete report on page 3. In addition to some current news about the program and its participants, this edition has a survey of the program's history going all the way back to its beginnings in 1964. I'm sure many of you will enjoy the memoir from Jimmy and Wynell Hosch, two of the original HP students. We look forward to sharing more stories from the past in future editions.

As a cost-saving measure, this second issue of the HP Newsletter is electronic. Notification of publication is a first test of our database of e-mail addresses for former HP students and friends of the program. If you come across this newsletter and wish to be added to our distribution list, please let us know. You can give us a call at 940-397-4534, or e-mail us at honors@mwsu.edu.

Featured Alumni

Wynell and Jimmy Hosch

Wynell recounts her Honors Program journey, as well as that of her husband Jimmy, in a letter written in response to our Spring 2010 Newsletter.

"I received a phone call midsummer late in the day, possibly on a Saturday, from Dr. Jan Kytte Lyons telling me that I had been awarded the Honors Program scholarship and would receive more information in the mail," writes Wynell Hosch, an Honors Program freshman in the fall of 1964. "What a thrill that was." Wynell recalls that both she and her husband Jimmy were both the first of their families to graduate from a university, and when they first enrolled they were serious about "going to college" and determined to "make something of themselves."

Both Wynell and her husband have fond memories of MSU, and Wynell specifically remembers certain skills she acquired while in the Honors Program. "One early memory I have is of a pre-enrollment study skills seminar that lasted over perhaps three days," recalls Wynell. "That was my first look at fellow members of the program. I took very seriously all the information presented by upperclass students. Indeed, that was where I learned to take notes." Wynell later taught notetaking in courses to her own international students at Texas A&M University. She also managed a business called College Bound in College Station, Texas, where she helped to prepare high school graduates for future academic work, and she remembers that some of the content for that business sprang from her early experience in the Honors Program.

Wynell remembers the Honors Program placing an emphasis on being a well-rounded citizen. She and her husband both "got the message from the Honors Program that the educated person enjoyed the arts and social concerns of the day." They attended every Artist-Lecture event they could (Wynell points out that they may have missed three Artist-Lecture events throughout their four years at the university), and Wynell remarks that the receptions following those events are where she started to drink coffee.

Jimmy and Wynell went their separate ways after leaving MSU. Wynell eventually earned a master's degree in English from MSU, and Jimmy earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. They became reacquainted when Jimmy found Wynell's e-mail address on the MSU Internet Guest Book in 1999. They married in 2000.

Wynell writes, "Speaking for both of us, I can easily say that the small class size we enjoyed along with the attention of the best professors in any department gave Honors Program students the quality education that later experience in academia revealed to be the selling points of more well-known and far more expensive schools. That experience of learning...settled in both of us a more sophisticated way of looking at studying and the world than we could have gotten any other way. We are grateful to Midwestern for those opportunities."

"In short, because of the Honors Program, we both received an excellent education at Midwestern University even before it became so recognized for quality," remarks Wynell at the end of her letter. "The Honors Program has had a powerful impact on our lives. And we are grateful." 

History of the MSU Honors Program

The Honors Program at Midwestern State University has changed a lot over the years. This article summarizes much of the information we have about the history of the program and traces our roots back to their beginnings. Our records are incomplete, but we hope many of you will remember the program as it was when you were a part of it, and we would love to hear your stories!

On April 14, 1959, a program for the "Academically Talented Student" was proposed during an Academic Council meeting at Midwestern State University. In 1960, a committee was formed and charged with the task of creating the Honors Program.

The program began in 1964, and there were approximately 20 students chosen for the pilot group. Qualified students were chosen and automatically enrolled in the program, and they were each given a scholarship of \$125. In those days, that amount was a full scholarship to MSU. Incoming students were placed in groups according to the year in which they entered the university. If a student left the program, someone with the same classification was found to replace that student. Eventually, each group became smaller and smaller as they progressed through school.

In a 1968 article from the *Times Record News*, members from the Independent Insurance Agents Association of Wichita Falls are pictured giving a check to Midwestern University, as MSU was once named. MU President Dr. Travis White and associate professor of English and program director Henry W. Barton received

the check from two of the insurance agents. The association donated \$5,000 a year over a four-year period. Twenty students received \$250 annually during that time.

In 1972, Honors Program Committee members became worried about the introduction of CLEP to the university and how this new program would affect recruiting. Over the years, it became less of an issue, as the Honors Program continued to attract students.

The Honors Program continued to be funded by the group of independent insurance agents from Wichita Falls, at least through 1979. Students were required to take a minimum of 15 hours per semester, and they had to maintain a certain GPA: freshmen had to have at least a 3.0, and the requirement increased all the way to a 3.4 for seniors. The Honors Program scholarship increased to \$150 per semester by 1977.

In the late '80s, the program was run by Professor James Hoggard. There were about 40 students participating, and the program was restructured in 1988 to accept only juniors and seniors, mostly due to the depletion of scholarship funds. The students had to maintain a 3.5 GPA, provide three letters of recommendation from faculty, and schedule an interview with the Honors Program Committee in order to be admitted into the program. Most of the honors coursework during this time was completed by tutorials, and the scholarship increased to \$500 per semester. The program continued until the students enrolled under this system finally graduated. There was one student

remaining in the program in the fall of 1990, and after this student completed coursework, the program was abandoned.

In 1993, the Honors Program was reinstated. In the late '90s, Dr. Martha "Tuck" Harvey directed the program. Students were required to take eight core Honors courses, and they were not eligible to receive a scholarship until four courses had been completed. The scholarship was \$300-\$400 per semester, depending on the number of students in the program. Then in the fall of 2000, a committee was formed to revamp the program. The outcome of this re-organization was the decision to "designate" certain classes for the Honors Program. Any student could take the courses, but Honors Program students were required to complete "extra work" in order to earn Honors credit. The scholarship was increased to \$500 per semester, and the addition of the co-curricular requirements described in the Spring 2010 Newsletter was initiated. There was also one special Honors Program course created: the Honors Intro Seminar.

Finally, in fall of 2003, the idea of having designated honors courses was abandoned, and actual, separate honors courses were restored specifically for honors students. The Honors Program works in this same fashion today, along with scholarship support of \$1,000 per semester for students in good standing. Funding from the Bruce and Graciela Redwine Endowment has made it possible for the program to expand and to offer more benefits and increased scholarship support to Honors Program students. 



Do you have a story to share? Send us an e-mail!

We received responses from about a dozen former Honors Program students after the publication of our Spring 2010 Newsletter, and we were thrilled to have heard back from some of you who were once a part of the program. We hope many of you will continue to keep in touch with us, and we look forward to sharing your stories in the future.

Bruce and Graciela Redwine Endowment

THE HONORS PROGRAM became the recipient of an endowment in 2010, thanks to the generosity of a long-time donor and friend to MSU. Bruce Redwine left a \$10.2 million endowment to the university, and Dr. Jesse Rogers and the MSU Board of Regents voted to designate those funds to the Honors Program. Being familiar with the history of the Honors Program, including the years when funding was unavailable and the program disappeared from MSU, Dr. Rogers sees this endowment as an opportunity to keep the Honors Program running long after his time at MSU. Dr. Rogers taught Honors Program courses for a number of years, and he recognizes the value of the program not only for Honors Program students, but for the university as a whole. Designating the Redwine Endowment to the Honors Program will ensure that funding is not depleted any time soon and the Honors Program will continue to be a part of MSU in the future.

Bruce Redwine grew up in Wichita Falls, and he graduated from MSU in 1954 with a degree in history. He then left Wichita Falls and became a success in the oil industry. He developed three well-known oil companies in addition to purchasing a large ranch. Mr. Redwine first began donating funds to MSU through the criminal justice department due to his friendship with retired Criminal Justice professor Dr. Robert Grant. Several years later, he arrived on campus to donate funds to rebuild the carillon in the Hardin building in honor of his parents, Esta and John Redwine. After completion of the project, the dedication was made

to Mr. Redwine's parents in 2001. The next project Mr. Redwine decided to take on was the creation of the large entrance signs to MSU's main campus. Dr. Rogers remembers Mr. Redwine showing up to campus, unsolicited, asking what he could do to support the university. Dr. Rogers asked him what he had in mind, and Mr. Redwine remarked how difficult it was to find the main entrance to the campus. He requested for Dr. Rogers to research the cost of constructing entrance signs, and he agreed to fund the \$400,000 project.

Dr. Rogers developed a friendship with Bruce Redwine through his dedication to supporting MSU. He remembers asking Mr. Redwine why he made the decision to support MSU in so many ways, and Mr. Redwine replied, "I wouldn't have had the opportunity to be successful in life without MSU." One of the clearest memories Dr. Rogers has of Bruce Redwine is the fact that anytime he arrived in Wichita Falls, Dr. Rogers would offer to take him to lunch at the Country Club. And Mr. Redwine always refused, requesting instead to go to Gene's Tasty Burger. Dr. Rogers remarks, "Bruce was the most down-to-earth person. He gave his money away to help others. He was a donor to many charities in addition to his contributions to MSU."

When Bruce Redwine made the decision to leave his estate to MSU, he gave Dr. Rogers two conditions. The first condition was that it would honor his wife Graciela, and the second was that the money be used to help students for as long as possible. Mr. Redwine never specified where the money

should go, as long as it was for the benefit of students.

MSU and certainly the Honors Program will forever be grateful to the generous contributions of Bruce Redwine, and the university has shown appreciation in various ways, including the dedication of the Bruce and Graciela Redwine Student Wellness Center in their honor. Dr. Rogers recalls that when they asked Mr. Redwine's permission to name the Wellness Center in their honor, Mr. Redwine replied that he didn't care whether his name was on it or not, but that he would certainly like for Graciela's name to be honored. Mr. Redwine refused to participate in public dedications in his honor; he never wanted attention drawn from his donations.

Because of income from the Redwine Endowment fund, the Honors Program scholarship has increased to \$1,000 per semester. In addition, the program is now able to offer additional scholarships to Honors Program students who participate in MSU Study Abroad Programs. Students receive a scholarship that matches what they receive from the International Education Office, as well as their regular Honors Program scholarship as long as they are in good standing in the program. Honors Program students who live in on-campus Honors Housing also receive a small subsidy from the program each semester, and funding is available to pay for more student travel to conferences and to offer more Honors Program courses. 



Research Highlights from Current Students and Alumni



KAYSI OVERBY, a May 2010 Honors Program Graduate, presented her paper *The Empire that Disney Built: A Look into Significant Milestones in Early Animation History* at the Honors Program Symposium as well as at the Great Plains Honors Conference in spring of 2010. Kaysi says about her research, “Most people see Walt Disney as an outrageously successful businessman—and he was. But his legacy is really much more than that... I hope to promote Walt Disney as an exceptional pioneer in the art of animation and to emphasize his contributions to animation’s prominence in the entertainment industry today.”



JAE CHO, 2011 Hardin Scholar and a senior in the Honors Program, presented research about developing an efficient system to convert food waste into methane gas that can be used as an energy source at MSU’s annual UGROW (Undergraduate Research Opportunities and Summer Workshop) presentations in 2010. Jae describes part of his research process by explaining, “Conversion of food waste into methane gas involves many steps, and this year’s project concentrated on the last step: converting acetate into methane using methanogens. More specifically, it focused on enrichment and isolation of methanogens from local sources.” Some of those “local sources” include mud from Lake Wichita and cow fecal matters. Jae sums up his research, saying, “If significant improvement is observed when the research is continued, biogas from waste material can be another great source of energy in the future.”



HALIMA SANI is an Honors Program sophomore, and she also presented research at the annual UGROW presentations in 2010. Halima’s research involved the investigation of two Mn(II) tetrapyrroldiopyrazine complexes, 2,3- and 3,4-Mn-PyD. They were synthesized and characterized as to their electrochemical and UV-Visible spectroscopic properties. Halima explains, “This project describes the synthesis and characterization of two metallo-porphyrine complexes having Mn(II) as the central metal ion, with a long-term goal to find effective catalysts for the degradation of DDT, a common chlorine-containing pesticide.”



Staff Update



JULIANA FELTS, originally from Paducah, Texas, became the Honors Program Coordinator in June of 2010. She graduated from the MSU Honors Program in December 2006 with a B.A. in English. She began graduate school at MSU in the spring of 2007, working toward her master’s degree in English. In March of the same year, she received the Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship to study Comparative Literature in Nantes, France, for the 2008-2009 academic year. Before leaving for France, she married Mark Felts, also an MSU graduate, and he was able to travel to France with her for the year. After returning to Wichita Falls in June of 2009, Juliana graduated from MSU with her master’s degree in English in May of 2010. She hopes to pursue her doctoral degree in Translation Studies someday, but right now she is happy to be back at home in the MSU Honors Program!



Faculty Highlight



DR. MICHAEL VANDEHEY earned his B.A. in Psychology/German from the University of Oregon, his M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy from Indiana State University, and his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Indiana State University. Dr. Vandehey is a licensed psychologist in the State of Texas, and he is in his twelfth year at Midwestern State University. He regularly teaches Honors Psychology, and thoroughly enjoys interacting with Honors students. Dr. Vandehey was the keynote speaker for the Fifth Annual Honors Program Symposium, and he gave a compelling talk titled “Propaganda.” His advice to students at the end of his talk was to not be afraid to ask questions and research the answers for themselves.

Facilities



McCullough Trigg Hall

HONORS HOUSING UPDATE:

Beginning in Fall 2011, all Honors Program housing will be on campus! The Honors Program will have an Honors Floor in the McCullough-Trigg residence hall, one of the most popular dormitories on campus. The floor will accommodate as many as 24 Honors Program students, as well as an Honors Resident Assistant. As a result of the exciting addition of the Honors Floor, the Honors House will no longer be a housing option for Honors Program students. ↪

HP Grads Spring 2010 and Fall 2010

Spring 2010:

Liam Guthrie, Jon Horry, John Jerkins,
Kaysi Overby, Rosalie Saenz

Fall 2010:

Lenny Benton, Madlen Gohlke, Steven Taylor

HONORS FUN FACTS FROM FALL 2010

- 146 total students in the Honors Program
- 54 new Honors Program students accepted
- 83 students from Texas
- 5 students from other states:
 - 1 from Oklahoma
 - 2 from Illinois
 - 1 from California
 - 1 from Hawaii
- 58 international students:
 - 4 from Europe: Serbia, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands
 - 32 from the Caribbean: Dominica 10, Grenada 10, St. Kitts 3, St. Lucia 3, Antigua 5, Jamaica 1
 - 3 from Asia: Vietnam, Japan, Korea
 - 19 from Africa: Nigeria 13, Ghana 2, Cameroon 4

Brains and Brawn

ATHLETES IN THE HONORS PROGRAM

Keri Damjanovic- Volleyball

Jared Dopp- Football

Mallory Goon- Volleyball

Cara Mack- Cross Country

Emily Saville- Soccer

Claire Webster- Volleyball

Hillary White- Volleyball

MSU Alumni Association Outstanding Honors Program Students

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	YEAR	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	YEAR
Cody	Cole	1994	Nyian	Farrell	2002
Chandra	Rodgers	1994	Shonna	Diggs	2003
Melissa	Miller	1995	Adam	McMahon	2004
Paul (Andrew)	Fleming	1995	Marie	Ibarra	2005
Jamie	Benefield	1996	Laura Rachael	Kair	2006
Jason	Lawrence	1997	Erin Kathleen	Short	2007
Paul	Mussachio	1998	Jonathan	Abel	2008
Danielle	Roney	1999	Chelsea	Humphrey	2009
Jennifer	Veitenheimer	2000	Liam	Guthrie	2010
Jeffrey (Mark)	Fleming	2001	Ashley	Gravelle	2011

Honors Courses



Then

FALL 1968 HONORS COURSES:

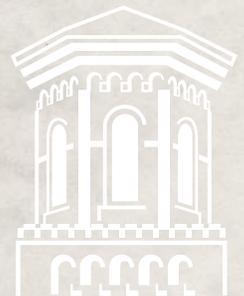
American Government- Dr. John Moon/Dr. Isabelle Hunt
Computer Colloquium- Dr. John Meux
Rhetoric and Composition- Professor Henry Barton
American History- Professor Forrest Monahan
Humanities- Dr. Joseph Satin
Science- Dr. Joe Rose and Dr. Arthur Beyer



Now

FALL 2010 HONORS COURSES:

Honors Introductory Seminar- Dr. Mark Farris and other faculty
General Psychology- Dr. Michael Vandehey
Survey of American History to 1865- Dr. Kenneth Hendrickson
Web Design- Dr. Ranette Halverson
American Government- Dr. Jeremy Duff
Medieval Cultures- Dr. Lynn Hoggard
The Consumer Society- Dr. Beverly Stiles



Honors Program Student Committee Officers Spring 2011

Sharon Obami, Chair
Emily Suhr, Vice Chair
Kyle Christian, Senator
Amaka Oguchi, Secretary
Kamila Bell, Treasurer
Cassie Hermann, Honors House
Resident Assistant



Community Service



HONORS PROGRAM STUDENT COMMITTEE SENATOR KYLE CHRISTIAN organized the first Honors Program Alternative Spring Break project in the spring of 2011. A group of Honors Program students committed the first day of their Spring Break week to volunteering at the Wichita Falls Area Food Bank in order to help give back to the community. Kyle hopes to expand the project for next spring by participating in a larger project outside of Wichita Falls that will last most of the week. The idea is to use Spring Break week not only to get out of town for awhile, but also to use the time off from classes as an opportunity to help others.

Annual Honors Program Symposium



Fifth Annual Honors Program Symposium “Abstract Thinking in a Concrete World”

THE FIFTH ANNUAL HONORS PROGRAM SYMPOSIUM was held in March of 2011. Eight Honors Program students gave presentations, and Dr. Michael Vandehey gave a keynote address titled “Propaganda.” The Symposium is a great opportunity for Honors students to share their own research with each other. In addition, students gain valuable public speaking skills and are able to practice presenting their research before an audience. This experience helps them to be better prepared to present at conferences and other academic gatherings. The student presentations from March 2011 are as follows:

- Tiffany Barthelmy - *Foreign Policy: Application through Definition*
- Kamila Bell - *Role of Fidel Castro in the Deterioration of U.S.-Cuban Relations in the 1960s*
- Kyle Christian - *Odysseus- The Ancient James Bond*
- Precious Goje - *Embryological Development and Causes of Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia and Possible Treatment*
- Nikita Jack and Linda Watkins - *Aztec Mythology and Astronomy*
- Arrey-Njock Takang Orook - *The Reunification of Cameroon*
- Rachel Terrell - *Gargoyles: Friend, Foe, or Something Else Entirely?*
- Shelby Willeby - *The Evolution of the Olympics*

