

Western Kentucky University

TopSCHOLAR®

Arête: Honors College at WKU Newsletter

Mahurin Honors College

3-10-2006

UA35/11 Arête March 2006

Honors College

Western Kentucky University, Arete@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/stu_hon_news



Part of the [Arts and Humanities Commons](#), [Education Commons](#), and the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

College, Honors, "UA35/11 Arête March 2006" (2006). *Arête: Honors College at WKU Newsletter*. Paper 13.

https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/stu_hon_news/13

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Arête: Honors College at WKU Newsletter by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

Witty title here

Western Kentucky University Honors

Spring 2006

Takin' it outside in the Smoky Mtns.

By Mannie Webb

When it comes to campfires, hiking, smores, and spending time in the great outdoors, you've been there and done that, right? But have you ever joined other Honors students on the trail or around a campfire making smores? Sound like something you'd like to do? The Honors hiking trip was a great way to meet and get to know other Honors students like yourself and a few great members of Western's faculty. Honors trips are also a great way to get to know Honors director Dr. Cobane.

The group arrived Friday afternoon at Tremont in the heart of the Smoky Mountains to a family-style dinner shared with the Tremont staff. After dinner everybody gathered around a roaring fire to listen to the park director tell captivating stories and sing amazing songs

about the Smoky Mountains. After the fire died down and treats were served, the group settled down to rest up for a full day of hiking fun.

After breakfast on Saturday, students and staff were offered a variety of choices for the day. Several students enjoyed the full-day seven-mile hike into the woods to help clean up a campsite. Others chose to enjoy either a morning hike or a salamander study in one of the small streams. The salamander group spent several hours splashing around in a small stream and capturing and learning about the diversity of salamanders in the Smokies.

Choices for the evening included a evening hike and stream ecology. Even those who weren't science majors enjoyed walking through small streams and rivers, learning about the different creatures



Photo by Kat Wilson

Anderson County freshman Emily Chrissman goes eye-to-eye with a dusky salamander in a creek near Tremont.

that lived in the water. After spending some time in the larger stream, students and staff found themselves swimming and splashing around in some of the clearest water. Students and staff ended the night with

a final campfire and several rounds of smore making. The last day was wrapped up in the friendship circle sharing their favorite parts of the trip. Everybody had a great time, and "that ain't all."

Newsletter staff:

Dr. Angela Jones – advisor
Kat Wilson – co-editor
Ria Wallace – co-editor
Dana Adams
Christina Billings
Renee Davidson
Bobby Deignan
Reagan Gilley
Tedde Harden
Sam Micallef
Jeni Nethers
Mannie Webb

Questions? Comments?
Want to join the staff?
Thought of a witty title?

Email one of the editors:
kathryn.wilson@wku.edu
maria.wallace@wku.edu

Grillin' and chillin' with honors students

By Tedde Harden

The students involved with the honors-sponsored trip to Poland and Israel held a BBQ fundraiser on the honors building's front lawn on Monday, April 17. The event garnered attention from both students and faculty; many lined the sidewalk to get their share of the food.

Real burgers and veggie burgers alike were sold to the hungry masses, along with chips, cold drinks and even delectable desserts. For six dollars people got a full lunch and a place to sit down and enjoy the

warm afternoon sun and good conversation with friends.

The event began with the delivery of a massive trailer-style grill. It seemed large enough to cook for an army, but its capacity was soon challenged by the throngs of eager eaters waiting for their sandwiches.

The burgers that came off that grill had a special quality and excellent taste which can only be explained by the fact that Professor Schaffer, a faculty leader of the Poland and Israel trip, was grilling the burgers. There was also the unsung work of Dr. Cobane, the second faculty leader of the trip, who

made sure that the fundraiser was continually stocked with food and energy. The efforts of the student workers must also be considered as part of the reason for the success of the BBQ.

Many came and enjoyed the great food and good hospitality of the honors program; this helped to make the fundraiser a resounding triumph for the students going on the Poland and Israel trip. The students would like to thank both Dr. Schaffer and Dr. Cobane and all the other honors students and faculty who came out in support of their fundraising efforts.

Director's column

Honors: the spirit of engaged excellence

*By Craig Cobane*

This inaugural issue of the Honors newsletter in many ways exemplifies this year for the WKU Honors program. It is both a transition and a new beginning. The student Honors newsletter is new and like the evolving Honors program it draws upon the strengths and successes of the Western Experience, pointing students in novel and challenging directions.

The University Honors Program (UHP) defines itself as "The Spirit of Engaged Excellence." From this five-

word phrase emanates our five pillars of emphasis - Excellence in: Scholarship, Research/Creative Endeavors, Leadership, Public Service and International Experience.

Excellence is not a passive quality; it can only be achieved through active engagement.

My goal for the UHP is to provide opportunities for your engaged excellence. This is accomplished by working with our university's outstanding faculty in developing enriched Honors courses, supporting various opportunities for

leadership development or assisting every UHP student to study abroad at least once during their time at WKU.

In short, my goal is to engage you in the Honors experience.

The newsletter is one of these new and challenging avenues where Honors students can engage their education, enrich their experience and express their excellence. I salute those who invested your time, efforts and creativity to produce this inaugural issue of the Honors newsletter.

I hope you enjoy it.

Alumni updates

Coming soon to a newsletter near you

By Tedde Harden

Have you ever wondered what awaits you after college? What special chances the Honors program might award you as a professional or graduate student?

Well here is your chance to find out how Honors program graduates have fared after they left the comfort and safety of Western Kentucky University and its Honors program.

An installment of Honors Alumni News will come with each new issue of the Honors newsletter as a way for current Honors students to learn about what they can expect after finishing their undergraduate education.

It will cover diverse issues such as graduate school admissions, resume building, professional experience and even personal Honors stories and pearls of wisdom. The object of the Honors Alumni News will be to offer the unique perspective of recent graduates on subjects that undergraduates can connect to and use to find

their place in the world.

The Honors Alumni News will be an Honors advice column, made specifically for honors students from the experience of past Honors students.

As with most interview and question-oriented articles and advice columns, the Honors Alumni News is only as good as the questions it asks. It will only be relevant to us Honors students if it contains information that we find useful.

That is why it is important for you, the Honors student, to send in ideas and suggestions for questions to the Honors newsletter staff.

Armed with the thought-provoking and insightful questions of fellow Honors students, the Honors Alumni News hopes to bring back former students' ideas and experiences and begin to create a far reaching honors community, one which extends beyond the walls of the Honors building and even outside the hallowed halls of Western Kentucky University.

Potter College and Sigma Xi

Campus conferences celebrate scholarship

By Reagan Gilley

The weekend of April 7-8, 2006 was the time for the annual student conferences at WKU.

The Potter College Undergraduate Conference was held on Friday, and had an array of presentations. These were over history, philosophy, religion, literature, film, culture, politics, and the arts (performing, painting, sculpture, etc.).

The presentations were broken down into three sessions, with two areas being covered per session. The topics in each area were quite diverse, ranging from Whitney Saffel's "Lost in Realism" (a presentation on film theory and criticism) to Denis Rochefort's "Punk was Punk before it was Punk: Delineating Punk Rock in Post-modern America in the 1970s" (a presentation on American cultural history).

The next morning, Sigma Xi began. Sigma Xi is the Ogden College presentation for undergraduates and graduate students. These presentations include (but are not limited to): Biology, Physics and As-

tronomy, Chemistry, Engineering, Psychology, Anthropology, Sociology, Mathematics, and Computer Science. As with Potter, a wide variety of topics were covered (though perhaps some of these were a bit more technical than Potter's). Such topics range from the Joseph Chavarria's "PhK Coordinate Gene Subunit Expression Using PhK Deficient Mice" (a biology presentation) to Andrew Lindsey's "The Collapse of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge" (a mathematics presentation). In addition to these various presentations, there were posters from all the disciplines set up in the lobby. These posters also range in topics and the aforementioned fields.

Overall, the "2006 Western Kentucky University Celebration of Student Scholarship" was quite the success. Both conferences were quite interesting, and both held a plethora of information. I highly recommend both, and I hope to see more of you there next year (more Honors presenters are needed if anyone is interested).

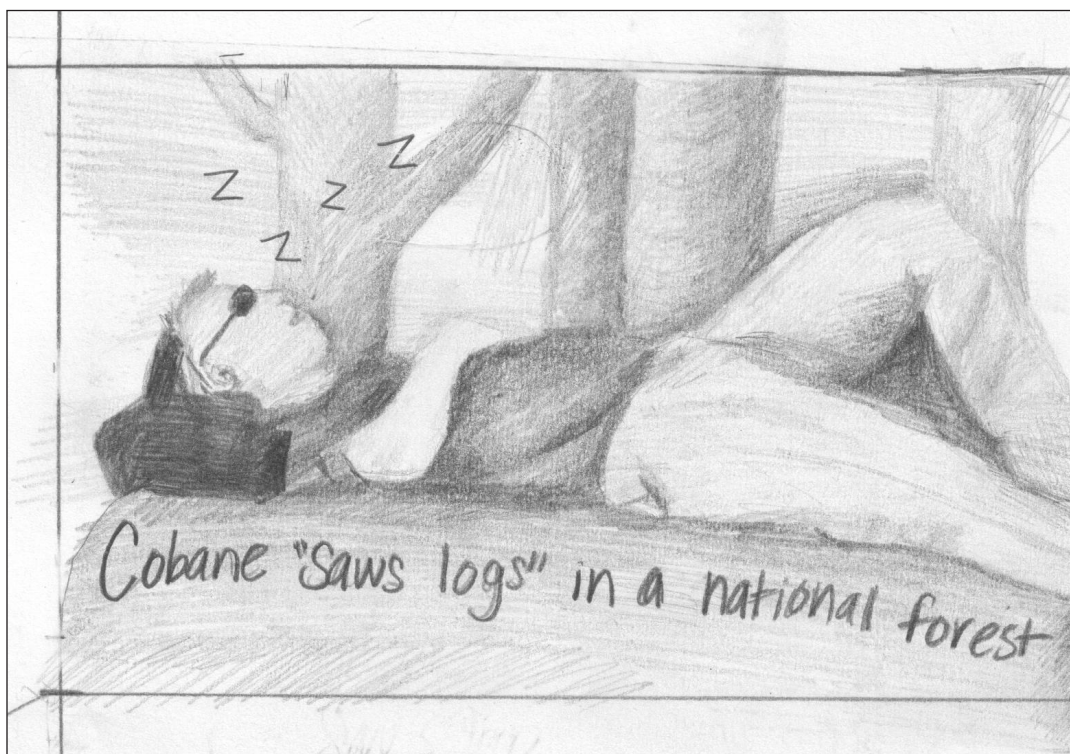


Illustration by Dana Adams

Students give feedback on Honors

By Kat Wilson

Honors courses are different. But according to a survey conducted among Honors students this semester, they should be more so.

The Honors program asked students to describe what they liked and disliked about Honors classes, as well as what they would like to see in future Honors courses.

The result?

"It was exactly what I ex-

pected," said honors director Craig Cobane.

About 18 students responded to the questionnaire, according to Russell Springs junior Lindsey Thurman, who compiled the results.

Many people said they wanted Honors courses to be more challenge-oriented and less work-oriented, she said.

To that effect, a new program has been created in which Honors faculty can apply for

"Honors Enrichment Grants" to supplement class lectures with more creative teaching methods. The Honors program has \$30,000 set aside for the grants, which professors can use for field trips, among other things.

"The professors really got into this," Cobane said. He attended a series of luncheons with department heads, deans and faculty from across campus to discuss the survey results and Honors courses in general.

Survey says....

What would you like to see in Honors?

- ◆ More upper-level courses
- ◆ Morning colloquia
- ◆ More in-depth class summaries on Web site

What makes Honors courses different?

- ◆ Closer-knit student-teacher bonding
- ◆ "Expansive learning"
- ◆ Meeting with professors outside class
- ◆ Establishing thoughts on your own

How should Honors courses be changed?

- ◆ More variety in teaching structure
- ◆ Clear course expectations
- ◆ Less intense workload
- ◆ Quality over quantity
- ◆ Open-minded professors
- ◆ More interesting colloquia topics
- ◆ Interconnection of disciplines
- ◆ New teaching techniques (movies/trips/etc)
- ◆ Understanding concepts over dates/names

Source: the Honors program

Professor Phobias and Pet Peeves

Mary Ellen Miller
(English)

Phobias: None. Some fears, but no real phobias.

Pet Peeves: Students who come in late to class or students who have more than 3 unexcused absences who think they're still going to pass. "Most of my pet peeves have to do with students. But a lot of my pet loves do, too."

Shannon Schaffer (Phi-
losophy and Religion)

Phobias: "I can't watch scenes in movies where human skin is cut into." (aichmophobia - fear of things that can't actually hurt you) "I also have a fear of vomiting (emetophobia)."

Pet Peeves: Commercials where they feel the need to scream at you (local car dealerships and carpet stores) "Come on down for closeout prices!!!!!" or commercials advertising a new prescription drug and describe interesting and uncomfortable "side effects" like vomiting, bleeding, erections that last longer than 4 hours! and of course the rare but possible side effect "death."

Dr. Robert Pulsinelli
(Economics)

Phobia and Pet Peeve: Liberals. He also said that he respects them because they are so dedicated.

Dr. Craig Cobane (Political
Science; honors director)

Phobia: Loss of control
Pet Peeve: People who don't try