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Summer 9-9-2008

UA35/11 Arête September 2008

Honors College

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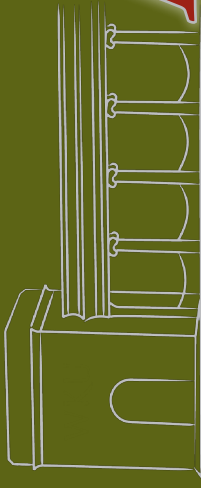
Recommended Citation

College, Honors, "UA35/11 Arête September 2008" (2008). *Arête: Honors College at WKU Newsletter*. Paper 16.

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ARETÉ



THE SPIRIT OF ENGAGED EXCELLENCE – A PUBLICATION OF THE WKU HONORS COLLEGE

SEPT. 2008

VOL.4 ISSUE 1



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Greetings from Dr. Motley

DR. CLAY MOTLEY

Assistant Director of the Honors College

Hello Honors College students! I am very excited to begin my duties as Assistant Director of Academics for the Honors College, and I am looking forward to meeting you and working with you this fall. In the near future, I will have more opportunities to introduce myself and relate my academic and personal background, so for now I want to let you know about some developments taking place with the Honors College, particularly those related to my new position.

As most of you know, the Honors College is in a period of rapid growth, both in the sense of the program's size and in the academic and social offerings available to Honors students. As Assistant Director of Academics, I work to give Honors students a total academic experience unrivaled by any honors college in America. This is a lofty goal, easier said than done, but it is a goal that I and the staff of the Honors College are committed to.

One of my primary responsibilities is to work with faculty to offer more Honors courses, particularly upper division courses. We want to be very responsive to all students' program of study and ensure the right Honors courses are offered for your major. Additionally, I am recruiting faculty to develop new and exciting interdisciplinary Honors Colloquia every semester, and I personally will be teaching one in the spring semester.

Apart from promoting and developing Honors Colloquia and sections, an important priority of mine is supporting Honors students' academic endeavors through Honors Development Grants (HDGs), where students may receive up to \$500 per semester to conduct research, buy



SAM MICALLEF

Dr. Clay Motley

materials, or travel in connection with an Honors academic activity. I understand that students want clear criteria on how their HDGs will be evaluated and need a quick decision on the status of their grant. I will be working closely with the Honors Development Board to ensure that our grant decisions will be clear and timely.

One of the most exciting benefits of the Honors College is the opportunity to study at Harlaxton College in England for a full semester. Now, if you travel to Harlaxton, there is a good chance that one of your professors will be a WKU professor! Through a new agreement with Harlaxton College and the University of Evansville, one WKU professor will teach at Harlaxton each semester as a Visiting Professor. I will be recruiting from

the exciting and innovative faculty at WKU to teach at Harlaxton, making an already amazing academic opportunity even better.

In addition to these and other duties, I will be teaching one Honors section for the English Department per semester; for example, this fall I will teach an Honors ENG 200. Although I am an administrator with the Honors College, I am also a WKU faculty member and a teacher. I work with Honors students because I love teaching and believe strongly in the value of an Honors education.

Feel free to drop by my office in the Honors Center and say "hi" or introduce yourself. There couldn't be a better place to be than WKU and the Honors College, and I am looking forward to having a great year with you!

Management class travels to Chicago

KELLY LAFERTY

Areté staff writer

Nine Chicago-bound students piled in a van for a six-hour drive to the city last April.

Students of the Honors 210, Organization and Management, class were offered the opportunity to learn more about the capital market during a three-day trip to Chicago.

"Economic education is important in understanding the Federal Reserve and capital market," said Professor J. Krist Schell, teacher of the course and Director of Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Schell thought Chicago was the perfect opportunity and a great resource for students.

"It's [Chicago] is very accessible and easy to do," he said.

One of the nine students, Trent Wilson, junior, was able to go on the trip. By being in a large city like Chicago, Wilson was able to get a better view of how business really functioned. According to Schell, a lot of the students were interested in capital market. "I hope Chicago will be a regular trip," he said. "This was the first time I took WKU students. I like to do something

special with Honors folks."

Another student, Chris Hodgkins, junior, enjoyed actually getting the personal view of how things worked from someone who understood it, rather than just learning about it in the classroom.

Fellow classmate, Ashley Black, agreed. Black liked that the activities the group did in Chicago synthesized topics learned in the class and other classes.

Once in Chicago, the MGMT 210 class toured the Federal Reserve, took an evening class of their choice at the Kellogg Graduate School of Business, and went to the top of the John Hancock Center. And that was just the first day. There were also other tours—including a choice of a trip to the Art Institute of Chicago, the Shedd Aquarium, or the Field Museum—and a viewing of the show *Wicked*.

In addition to the class-related activities, Hodgkins enjoyed the food. To him, the food gave off a sense of wealth, from chocolate fudge on a cake tasting expensive (not to mention, delicious) to even the pizza having a different taste about it.

"There was something for everybody,"

said Schell. "The purpose was to make Chicago an accessible destination for post-graduate life and introduce people to a large city." Schell, who formerly lived in Chicago, thinks the city is a viable choice and location for a career.

"Everybody figured out living in a big city is not as hard or scary as they thought," Schell said. "You're able to live there, have a good time, and prosper."

"The best part of the trip was that it helped me set goals for myself," stated Wilson. "From what I saw in Chicago, I was able to look beyond college and begin to make a plan for myself afterwards."

Black thought the trip was amazing and hopes that it's offered in the future. She enjoyed walking through the city with her classmates and teacher. "They were such a great group to go with," she said.

According to Hodgkins, the group grew much closer after the trip. "It essentially made an already awesome class much better. "My actual thought at the end of the semester was, 'I don't care what grade I get in this class; the experience was the most important thing gained,'" he said.

Harlaxton: Experience Great Britain

KENDRICK BRYAN

Areté staff writer

Dr. Craig T. Cobane has been there three times. President Gary Ransdell, Dr. Barbara Burch and Dr. Cornell Menking have also been there.

Harlaxton College has been the British campus of the University of Evansville since 1971. In 2006, the WKU Honors College and the University of Evansville formed a partnership that sends students and professors to Great Britain for semesters during the fall, spring, or summer.

The Harlaxton experience is a semester study-abroad program, and classes are not held on Fridays because Harlaxton officials encourage sightseeing on the weekends. The

school promotes a number of trips including ventures to London, Cambridge, Edinburgh, York, Ireland, North Wales, Oxford, Bath, Stonehenge, Paris, Rome, Florence and Venice.

"Harlaxton officials have been very impressed with our Honors College students, and we are working on another special partnership," Cobane said.

Over 40 WKU students have been to the study-abroad location, and the Honors College will soon send three professors. "Dr. Beth Plummer, Dr. Jerry Daday and Dr. Jim Flynn will teach at Harlaxton," Cobane added.

Plummer is an assistant professor of history and will teach during the Fall 2009 semester, and Daday is an assistant professor of sociology and will teach during the Spring 2010 semester.

Flynn's English course is scheduled to meet in the summer of 2009 and will cover literature by C.S. Lewis, Philip Pullman, J.K. Rowling, J.R.R. Tolkien and others.

Honors students can attend Harlaxton College for virtually the same price as receiving that semester's education on the Hill. Prospective students can also apply for financial aid through a Travel Abroad Grant (TAG) and the WorldTopper Scholarship. The Student Government Association also sponsors study-abroad scholarships for which Honors students are encouraged to apply.

If interested in studying at Harlaxton, contact Jessica Orlofske at the Honors Center at jessica.orlofske@wku.edu or (270) 745-6147.



136 freshmen get introduced to Honors at H4 retreat

BRITTANY KITTLEMAN

Arété guest writer

You remember what it felt like, as if it was all happening at once—moving into your new home at WKU, making new friends, experiencing new adventures. You were off to college, and the next stage in your life had arrived.

Yet another freshman class has done it again, with even more energy, flair, and style than ever before. The annual Honors Freshman Orientation Retreat, or H4, was an easing first step into the coming years of their lives, as 136 honors

freshman came together to share in this new beginning. In a surprise ceremony, President Ransdell helped to jump start the weekend, with a warm welcome to WKU and the Honors College.

The retreat was held at Camp Loucon, where the campers were able to enjoy the outdoors through activities such as climbing, rappelling, canoeing, hiking, high ropes, kickball, ultimate frisbee, and arts and crafts. Sessions were held throughout each morning, briefing the students on survival in the Honors College, programs they can become involved in, and opportunities to study

abroad, along with other meetings covering basic WKU information. By the end of the weekend, every student was well initiated into campus life.

The retreat was also graced with several guest speakers, including some of the newest members of the Honors College staff. Dr. Cobane shared his enthusiasm for studying abroad. Shane Bradley welcomed all the students to the brand new Honors online community, Hon-Com, and Amy Eckhardt shared her knowledge of prestigious and nationally competitive

Continued on next page



PHOTOS SUBMITTED



(Top Left) Charli Fant and Cheryl Onwu help each other get across one of the low elements. (Top Right): Two students, Marcus Bagwell (left) and Kyle Mattingly (right) Amanda Pursell help get up the wall. (Middle) (l to r) Christy Beyke, Amanda Huff, and Jennifer Phillips show off their artistic skills while designing their direction sign. (Bottom) (l to r) John Jennings, Kevin Smiley, Matt Vaughan, and Charlie Harris pose after receiving a make-over from the counselor scavenger hunt.

continued from previous page
scholarships. One of the retreat's highlights was a special presentation from Dr. Clay Motley entitled "What You Need to Know about College (But No Guidebook Tells You)." This session informed students of college advice from first-hand experiences.

As a growing tradition of the Honors College, H4 is quickly becoming a great way to strengthen the building of the Honors community. Over a span of merely four days, incoming freshman are given the chance to establish themselves among their peers, and to come together in the newest and most exciting adventure of their lives. Welcome to WKU.



Five Honors students intern at Ft. Knox

EILEEN RYAN

Areté guest writer

This summer, I'm living in an EconoLodge in Radcliff, Ky., which is not exactly glamorous, but it's free. At work I get to rappel off a 50-foot tower, race boats around a lake, complete high ropes obstacle courses and bump elbows with Army colonels and Silver Star recipients.

I'm interning at the public affairs office for the Army Cadet Command at Fort Knox. For eight weeks, fifteen interns report on, photograph and videotape approximately 1,400 new ROTC Cadets as they complete the Leader's Training Course. We then compile that information into a weekly newspaper, the *Leader*, and a website.

We spend a lot of time in the field at training exercises like stream crossing, basic rifle marksmanship and combat water survival training. The internship pays \$39 per day along with providing free lodging. It's a pretty good gig that gives us a chance to build up our

résumés, and the opportunities to participate in training exercises and hang out with other interns offsets the Wal-Mart-centered city life in Radcliff.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

(Top Left): Lindsey Greer, a junior from Franklin, Ky., was one of several WKU interns at *The Leader* newspaper in Fort Knox, Ky., this summer. (Top Right) Eileen Ryan transfers her cables in the Where Eagles Dare high-ropes course in Fort Knox, Ky. (Bottom Left) Marianne Hale, a sophomore from Greenup, Ky., bowls with her fellow interns in Fort Knox, Ky. (Bottom Right) Tanner Curtis, a sophomore from Lexington, Ky., poses in front of a license plate. According to ROTC cadets at the Leader's Training Course in Fort Knox, Ky., "Hooah!" means, "everything but no."



Student studies in China for six months

BRANDON JOHNSON

Areté guest writer

4:30 a.m. comes early in Lijiang, China, a city that sits 2400 meters (7800 feet) above sea level in the Himalayan foothills. After a short taxi ride, a fellow classmate and I began our hike to the top of a hill located inside of Black Dragon Pond Park. Waiting for us at the top of the hill is a Chinese Pavilion, which is the ideal viewing spot for Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. It is said that if one watches the sunrise hit upon the mountain, then he or she will have good fortune.

The hike was filled with the scent of pine trees and the dampness of early morning dew. As we made our way up the trail, we passed and were passed by many of the locals, people who made the trek every weekend morning. Giving us the thumbs-up sign and clapping and singing, the local people made the breath-panting hike a little easier.

Finally arriving at the viewing pavilion

about an hour after we started the hike, we were able to watch the sunrise bounce off of the snow-covered peaks of Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. The view made us feel as if the modern world had ceased to exist and there were no more power plants, automobiles, or coffee shops. Although the view was breathtaking, what was far more valuable and precious was sharing the experience of making a centuries-old hike alongside a benevolent and encouraging people.

China was an amazing experience that has changed my life for the better. Studying and living in China allowed me to experience another culture in a way that is entirely different from what the news tells. The Chinese are some of the most thoughtful and considerate people I have been around. While on campus in Beijing, I joined a Tai Chi student group and made great friends who were honored that I wanted to learn about their culture, quite a remarkable thing to experience when I think about how we in America treat most foreigners. My

friends treated me and my classmate to a going-away dinner at their apartment, where they cooked authentic Chinese food for us and gave us an extraordinary evening with their thoughtfulness and hospitality.

This once-in-a-lifetime experience would not have been possible without assistance from several people. With help from several of my professors in the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department, Dr. Craig T. Cobane of the Honors Program, WKU's International Office, and The Benjamin Gilman International Scholarship, I was able to study and travel in China for six months.

I encourage anyone reading this article to study abroad and, specifically, to apply for the Benjamin Gilman Scholarship. If it were not for that program, I would not have been able to finance the trip and would have missed this opportunity. All students interested in studying abroad will find numerous people at WKU who will go out of their way to help them. Until we see each other in China...Zai Jian!

Honors Gothic Literature Class



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Honors Transatlantic Gothic Literature class, taught by Dr. Sandy Hughes, poses normally and in what they call their "Nosferatu" pose. The class focused on early Gothic Literature writers and their influence on the more modern writers. The class met in Spring 2008

New Staff: Meet Jessica Orlofske

SAM MICALLEF

Areté Co-Editor

Title: Coordinator of Undergraduate Research
Job Description: Help facilitate CE/T projects, help students with undergraduate research within and outside of Honors, and help with publishing research. She is also the go-to person for Harlaxton and a few other study-abroad locations.

Education: Bachelor of Science from University of Wisconsin in Biology and Wildlife Ecology. Master's Degree from Iowa State in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Where she studied abroad: Participated in a summer program where she visited Iceland, Poland, Germany, the Czech Republic, France, Austria, Slovakia, Lichtenstein, and Switzerland. "I went back to Iceland two years later because I liked it so much."

Fun Facts: Has an identical twin sister, Sarah; enjoys other projects outside of science, especially artistic ones; and loves bugs. "I do love bugs. But I study the friendlier types. My specialty is Dragonflies."

Pets: A miniature horse named Lt. Starbuck, Hissing Cockroaches, Giant Caribbean Cockroaches, and a Tarantula.

Favorite Song: Currently, "Apathetic Way to Be" by Relient K

Favorite Movie: *A Bug's Life*

Favorite Book: *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold

What she likes to do in her free time: Anything outside: hiking, biking, fishing, camping, and taking pictures and studying bugs. She also enjoys going to the movies and playing guitar and piano.

Why Honors students should meet with Jessica Orlofske: For help with their CE/T, Harlaxton, and undergraduate research including travel for research.



SAM MICALLEF

Jessica Orlofske

Honors Fall Event Calendar

September 4: BBQ with the Profs

9: Honors Club Ice Cream Social

13-14: Demystifying the Personal Statement (a Two-Day Writing Workshop) 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. (each day) Academic Advising & Retention Center (DUC A330)

19: Mix and Mingle in the Lost River Cave

26-27: Kentucky Honors Roundtable at University of Louisville, Louisville, KY

October 2-4: White Water Rafting with NARR

22-26: NCHC in San Antonio

November 1: WKU Homecoming and Honors College tailgating

13: Kentucky Repertory Theatre trip to see *To Kill a Mockingbird*



Published monthly by students in the Honors College.

Newsletter Staff:

Kacy Albany
 Dana Adams
 Kendrick Bryan
 Tanner Curtis^c
 Bobby Deignan^a
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 Matt Jenkins^{*}
 Kelly Lafferty
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 Sam Micallef^{*}
 Ria Wallace
 Laurel Wilson

Advisor:

Dr. Angela Jones

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Dr. Craig T. Cobane

^{*}editors

^cphoto editor

^acopy editor

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Email us at
arete@wku.edu

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