Fall 1992

UA35/11 The Honorable Mention

WKU Honors Program

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HONORS PROGRAM GRADUATES Marty Cobb, Anne Elise Clark, David Sparks, Michelle Rogers and Rodney Jones gather for a final group photo. MARTY, an English major, is planning a career with Young Life International an interdenominational Christian ministry. ANNE ELISE, who won a prestigious Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society Scholarship for her graduate work, will study Veterinary medicine at Auburn University beginning this fall. DAVID, a management major, will begin studies toward a law degree at the University of Kentucky. MICHELLE, a Government major, is now working for Warren County Child Support Office. RODNEY, a geography major from Louisville, is now in Florida making maps for the American Automobile Association.

Fall Honors Roundtable To Be Held At Murray State

The Kentucky Honors Roundtable will be held at Murray State University on Friday, September 25 and Saturday, September 26. The program, "Miscommunication in the Global Village," will analyze why we so often misunderstand each other, particularly when relating with those from different cultures. The program will begin with a pasta dinner at 6pm on Friday. Then, at 7:00 pm, we will see The Nerd, a two-act comedy about miscommunication and the problems it creates. Several experts on verbal, non-verbal, and intercultural communication will lead discussions on Saturday.

The Kentucky Honors Roundtable consists of the Honors Programs from all state universities and several private colleges as well. The Fall Roundtable will give students and faculty from these different programs the opportunity to learn something new and to have fun together.

A van will leave at 4:00 pm on Friday and return late Saturday evening. The Murray Honors Program will provide food and housing with their Honors Students at no cost to you. If you would like to go, call the Honors Office (745-2081) by September 18th.
Dear Honor Student:

If you are a new Honors student, WELCOME! We are delighted you are at Western and participating in the Honors Program. I look forward to getting to know you. A special WELCOME BACK to all you "old hands"!

Please remember that every Honors professor is here to help you. We are more than willing to meet with you, listen to your concerns, discuss our courses or other issues, share advice and counsel, or help you plan your career. Don’t be shy about calling on us.

We hope you find every Honors course and colloquium educational and enjoyable. It is trite but true that what you get out of a course depends most of all on how much you put into it. I hope you will enter each course with a deep desire to learn and an intention to do your best work.

We always want your feedback. At the beginning of the semester, every Honors instructor will describe his or her course and requirements in a course syllabus. At the end of the term you will be asked to give us your feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of each course.

Over 360 students are now enrolled in the Honors Program. We are growing, and hopefully, we are getting better all the time. Honors Housing is new this year. We feel it is a good place to live, study, and make friends.

Best wishes for a successful and fun year.

Tom McFarland

Worth Bragging About . . .

Islamsha Amlani, a junior Physics major, will present his research, "Determination of the Sputtering Rate from Sparsely Coated Materials," at the Kentucky Academy of Science this fall.
The Official WKU Quiz by David Sparks

1. The official motto of Western Kentucky University is:
   A. "Our budget has fallen and it can't get up!"
   B. "I do not like green eggs and ham; I will not eat them, Sam I am."
   C. "I don't think so. Homey don't play that!"
   D. "The Spirit Makes the Master."

2. The director of the University Honors Program is:
   A. Convinced Elvis is still alive.
   B. Unsure where he dumped Jimmy Hoffa's body.
   C. Trying to arrange shock probation for evangelist Jim Bakker.
   D. Dr. Sam McFarland.

3. Thompson Complex is:
   A. A psychological problem afflicting primarily freshmen.
   B. Not, contrary to popular opinion, transmitted by dirty toilet seats.
   C. Often fatal to your grade point average.
   D. The buildings housing mathematics, physics, science, and astronomy.

4. The Valley of the Dolls is:
   A. Barbie's summer resort.
   B. The birthplace of the Cabbage Patch Kids.
   C. Like, you know, the home of Valley Girls.
   D. the commons area between women's dorms Gilbert, McCormack, and Rodes-Harlin.

5. If you have to park your car in Egypt:
   A. You will have a great view of the pyramids as you walk to class.
   B. Make sure you get your passport validated at Wetherby.
   C. Take advantage of the complimentary camel shuttle service to campus.
   D. You are in the parking lot near the railroad underpass on the south end of campus.

6. Henry Hardin Cherry was the:
   A. Founder (and client) of Hair Club for Men.
   B. Guide for the lost battalion in World War I.
   C. Network programming genius responsible for drivel like My Two Dads and Charles in Charge.
   D. First president of Western Kentucky University.

7. The abbreviation "DUC" stands for:
   A. Don't Understand Calculus.
   B. Drop Useless Classes.
   C. Destroy Ugly Cars.
   D. Downing University Center.

8. Dr. Thomas C. Meredith is:
   A. The real name of pro wrestler Randy "Macho Man" Savage.
   B. The actor who played Skipper on Gilligan's Island.
   C. Going to be tempted to cut the Honors budget when he finds out he's on this quiz.
   D. The current president of Western Kentucky University.
Common Questions About the Honors Curriculum

Q: How many hours of Honors must I take to complete the Honors Program?
A: The new Honors curriculum, which applies to all new students, requires at least four Honors courses, with one in Category G; two colloquia or special topic seminars; and a 6-hour senior thesis, usually in your major. Everything but your senior thesis counts in general education. Different requirements apply to returning students. If you complete these requirements and graduate with a 3.4 GPA, you will be an official graduate of the University Honors Program. That will be recorded on your transcript and you will receive a frameable certificate from the Honors Program.

Q: What is Category G?
A: Category G, Honors Studies, is a new category of general education. All future descriptions of Western’s General Education requirements will include Category G. Our Honors Colloquia and Seminars will be listed there, as well a number of courses that are offered only for Honors students. Honors students may take courses in Category G and substitute them for requirements in other categories. One Category G course, Hemingway and Faulkner, is being taught this fall. We will eventually have about ten Category G courses, and one or two will be offered every semester.

Q: How many honors courses are offered each semester?
A: About 15 to 18 courses and about three or four colloquia should be available each semester. Beginning next summer, we hope to offer one or two honors courses each summer term.

Q: Am I limited to 21 hours in Honors?
A: You may take as many honors courses and colloquia as you wish. Some students take more than 30 hours; the classes are smaller, more innovative, and more personal. Remember that you need to keep a 3.2 college GPA to be eligible for Honors.

Q: If I don't complete the full program, is there any record that I have taken Honors Courses?
A: Every Honors course you take is recorded on your transcript. Employers and graduate schools like seeing those.

Q: What is the senior thesis? Why is it a required part of the Honors Program?
A: A senior thesis is your opportunity to learn to do original and creative scholarship in your major, directed by a faculty member in your department. Ordinarily, it is a year-long project, with three hours of credit each semester. We require the thesis because we know you can learn more about doing research, thinking, and writing about issues in your major with the senior thesis than any other way. Further, it is great help in preparing for similar work in graduate or professional schools. Students who have completed them are very proud of their theses and have gained tremendous self-confidence. The thesis is often scary to freshmen and sophomores, but we know you will be able to write a good one. Your faculty director will offer lots of help and direction. The Honors Program holds a seminar for sophomores and juniors every spring on the thesis: How to select a topic, how to get started, how to keep yourself on schedule, etc.
Shakespeare, Not Elvis, Seen at Horse Cave

On September 15th, interested Honors Students will go as a group to Horse Cave Theater to see Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. We will picnic together at 5pm and carpool to Horse Cave for the 8pm show. If you would like to go, phone the Honors Office at 745-2081 by September 4th.

Parents Day Luncheon

October 17th is Western's Parents Day, and we will have a luncheon together in the auxiliary dining room at 11:30 -- just before the football game against the Russian National Team! The Battle of the Big Reds! Invite your parents, and lets have lunch together. Everyone should buy their own food and then join us for the luncheon. We are going to invite President Meredith to join us.

Christmas Party

Mark December 10th on your calender for the Honors Program Christmas Party. Time and place will be announced later.

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Michelle Nye, a senior Pre-Med student, and Elona Sabo, our Honors secretary, slave over the letter you received before school started.

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Quote Corner

Each age, like every individual, has its own characteristic intoxication; we must seek in each decade the joys natural to our years. If play is the effervescence of childhood, and love is the wine of youth, the solace of age is understanding. If you would be content in age, be wise with Solon and learn something every day. Education is not a task, it is a lifelong happiness, an ennobling intimacy with great persons, an unhurried excursion into all realms of loveliness and wisdom. If in love we fell in love with beauty, in maturity we can make friends with genius.

-- Will Durant
Summer Sizzlers

Many of Western’s honor students and faculty spent their summers working, traveling and preparing for the fall semester. Here are the results of a random survey of interesting things that took place over the summer:

JAMIE ESTILL, a sophomore from Augusta, KY, worked at a power plant and describes his job as "doing what nobody else wants to do." Jamie also found time for some recreational activities, including white water rafting, hiking, rock climbing and backpacking.

MELODY COX, a sophomore from Gallatin, TN, worked for the Tennessean running errands and delivering newspapers as well as writing a few stories.

DESIREE DYE, a junior from Goodlettsville, TN, has been serving up the gourmet cuisine at the China Cafe. In her spare time, Desiree relaxes by reading magazines and watching the Olympics on television.

CINDY UNDERWOOD, a sophomore from Hodgenville, KY, has been taking classes most of the summer as well as working at Western’s library.

MARK MILLER, a junior from Elizabethtown, worked at Rafferty’s and as a residential counselor for two summer camps.

MEGGAN WALL, a sophomore from Whitehouse, TN, has been getting good experience in the field of law by working for a lawyer in Springfield, TN, and she also found time for a trip to New York to visit some friends.

CATHERINE HARRISON, a freshman from Scottsville, took a Western Civilizations course and helped with her sister’s wedding. She also vacationed in Florida and the Smoky Mountains and has been water skiing at Barren River Lake.

DR. SAM McFARLAND, director of the University Honors Program, traveled to the Grand Canyon where he rode a mule down into the canyon. He also visited a Hopi Indian reservation, Yosemite, Yellowstone and Mt. Rushmore.

AMY WALTERS, a sophomore from Louisville, KY, worked as a summer intern at Capitol Holdings where she did research on a special project and also taught aerobics in her spare time.

BRANDON KERNEY, a freshman from Glasgow, played American Legion baseball and umpired for the Glasgow Little League.

MICHELLE NYE, a senior from Bowling Green, has been teaching aerobics and working for the Community Greeters.

DR. JIM BAKER, a history professor at Western, traveled to Ireland and Scotland and also found time to finish writing a book.
PHILLIP MASTERSO, a freshman from Elizabethtown, found his first job this summer at Burger King. He also made time for hanging out with his friends at the movies and the bowling alley.

ELONA SABO, secretary to the University Honors Program, toured England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland for sixteen days. While traveling, she learned why the River Thames is so proudly mispronounced -- because of an ancient king who had a speech impediment and could not pronounce it properly.

PETER KORSGAARD, a freshman from Winchester, KY, worked on a horse farm this summer helping a veterinarian and also took in CATS, acted in the King and I and danced the lead role in a play at Winchester’s community theatre.

Honors Faculty Reception
The Honors Program will host a reception for your favorite professors at 3:30pm on Tuesday, October 13th in Room 100 of Garrett Conference Center. The reception gives you and the faculty a chance to get acquainted outside of class. If you would like to invite one or more of your best teachers, just complete this form and return it to the Honors Office by October 2nd or call the Office (745-2081) by that date. Our last reception was lots of fun! Please be sure to attend if we invite a professor for you.

Please invite Professor __________________ from the __________________ department to the reception.

YOUR NAME: ____________________________
A group of Western students take time out from last spring's Roundtable to smile for the camera -- don't miss out on the fun this fall! Be sure to attend the Fall Roundtable at Murray State on September 25-26.

UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU!

"Uncle Sam," otherwise known as Dr. Sam McFarland, Director of the Honors Program, would love your help on The Honorable Mention. If you are interested, please call the Honors Office at 745-2081 or contact the editor, Lori Spear.