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Meet your new HDB reps

Jeff Source – Senior representative
Jeff was the Junior representative on the Honors Development Board last year.

“I am very committed to Honors and have a strong connection and bond to the individuals of the Honors community. Along with understanding and empathizing with the students, I have also been able to form substantial bonds with the members of the Honors faculty. This can help you, because I know how to get the concerns across to the faculty members in a tactful and poignant way.”

Reagan Gilley – Junior representative

“Even though I’m involved with numerous organizations on campus, I’m an accessible person. If you have any ideas, concerns, angry rants (though I’m going to assume you’ll never need to rant about Honors), etc., you should let me know and I’ll help as best I can to reach a solution. I live in McLean Hall (#209), and everyone should feel free to stop by whenever they like (or come find me in the Community Room if it’s later in the evening).”

Kevin Smiley – Sophomore representative
Kevin was the Freshman representative on the Board last year.

“The work that is done is yours. I have greatly enjoyed sharing the classroom, valley, basketball games, interesting discussions, baking pan, youtube videos, dance and future with you. And this is only the beginning, because as we now become upperclassmen, the responsibility lies more with us and we will undoubtedly become leaders within our university. We gained a reputation last year for being the best--we were good students, great Honors citizens and the greatest class in Honors to date.”

Lindsey Filiatreau – Freshman representative

“In high school, I was a little apprehensive about choosing to attend Western. In fact, I had definitively decided against it by March of my senior year... until I was introduced to the Honors College. While visiting campus a few weeks before the May enrolment deadline, a drop in at the Honors College opened my eyes to a world of opportunities. In a single visit, my heart was set on becoming involved, set on improving the program to even greater lengths, and spreading the word of such an amazing opportunity at Western Kentucky University.”

Questions? Comments? Story idea?
Email us at arete@wk.edu
Get published! Areté is not just for students, it’s also by students – including you! Send us letters, commentaries, cartoons, whatever. If you want to share your work with the Honors community, we’re here for you.

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Honorable opportunities abound

Here are a few ways to get involved with Honors activities on the Hill

KENDRICK BRYAN
Areté staff writer

The Honors College heavily promotes its perks and benefits such as Honors housing, priority registration, and additional funding for study-abroad and research endeavors. However, additional opportunities are available that advocate personal growth and campus involvement. These organizations and programs encourage Honors students to get engaged with their surroundings. The Honors College strives for the Spirit of Engaged Excellence, and the following opportunities are examples of how students can participate:

- **Honors Club** – The Honors Club was founded by Honors students in Fall 2005. The club’s mission is to provide opportunities for Honors students to build a sense of community and cohesiveness, both among themselves and within the community at large. It organizes and sponsors service, academic and social events such as Honors Field Day. Last semester, Honors Club members met their $1,000 fund-raising goal to contribute to the budget of the library at Dishman-McGinnis Elementary School. Because they met this goal, Honors College Director Dr. Craig Cobane allowed club members to shave his head. Honors Club President Dave Vickery, a sophomore from Taylor Mill, can be contacted at David.Vickery726@wku.edu.

- **HonorsToppers** – The HonorsToppers was founded in April 2006 by Lindsey Thurman, an alumna of the Spirit Master program from Russell Springs. Thurman is presently the Honors College Admissions Counselor and an advisor of the HonorsToppers organization. The HonorsToppers are volunteers who serve the Honors College community through recruiting and orientating prospective and incoming Honors students. HonorsToppers also serve WKU by working events such as Focus on Western and Academic Transitions Programs. Interested students can apply to be an HonorsTopper for 2008-09 towards the end of the Spring 2008 semester.

- **Dynamic Leadership Institute (DLI)** – The Honors College offers two sections of Dynamic Leadership Institute seminars facilitated by Emily Turner and Nashville junior Elizabeth Thornton. The seminars are held weekly and cover a wide array of leadership topics. For further information, email Turner at Emily.Turner@wku.edu and Thornton at Elizabeth.Thorton@wku.edu. Interested students can also visit the Leadership & Volunteerism offices located in the Downing University Center in room 326.

- **Student Government Association (SGA)** – The SGA is open to all WKU students, but Honors students are notably involved in the organization. They are involved in all three branches and hold remarkable leadership positions. Danville sophomore Kevin Smiley, Lexington sophomore Drew Eclov and Frankfort sophomore Jessica VanWinkle lead three of the five Senate committees. Pineville junior Reagan Gilley serves as Director of Academic and Student Affairs, while Tompkinsville sophomore Cory Gearlds serves as Associate Justice for the judicial branch. The following Honors students serve as Student Senators: Louisville senior Sarah Collins; Smiley; Eclov; VanWinkle; Mexico, Mo., freshman Matt Vaughan; Elizabethtown freshman Blaine Routt; Morganfield freshman Charlie Harris; freshman Zack Rockrohr; freshman Brandon Logan; Louisville freshman Joey Coe; Independence freshman Stuart Kenderes; Gallatin, Tenn., freshman Doug Tate; Louisville freshman Julia Bright; Rockfield junior Mannie Webb; Louisville sophomore Brittany-Ann Wick; Irvington freshman Jacob Miers; and Lexington junior Michelle Reynolds. Senate meetings are open to all students and are held every Tuesday at 5 p.m. in DUC 305.

- **Honors Newsletter (Areté)** – Areté was founded by Honors students in Spring 2006 to inform others within the Honors community of past and upcoming events as well as accomplishments and accolades awarded to Honors collegians. Staff writers strive to cover Honors events and happenings, and the advisor is Dr. Angela Jones, an Assistant Professor of English. Students interested in submitting articles, commentaries, artwork and other pieces can do so by emailing Arete@wku.edu.

The previously mentioned programs and organizations are only a fraction of the opportunities available through the WKU Honors College. For any remaining questions regarding personal growth and professional training through the Honors College, email Honors@wku.edu.
One professor, two cool classes

English course delves into odd topics; summer class heads to Japan

Freaks, geeks, and things that go bump in the night will not be the only subjects covered in this English course.

The Japan trip will include visits to Tokyo and Hiroshima and traditional cultural experiences such as Japanese calligraphy and tea ceremony.

With the advent of Spring 2008 registration, many Honors students have begun the daunting task of class scheduling. It is a complicated process with requirements, prerequisites and timetables to accommodate, but when it all comes down to it, registration is all about signing up for something—anything—that will motivate students to get out of bed in the seemingly-wee-hours of the mid-morning.

For Honors students who are looking for something out of the ordinary, mundane General Education requirements, there is Honors English 399, Transatlantic Gothic Literature, taught by Dr. Sandra Hughes.

As the title states, this course will cover both British and American Gothic short stories, novels and poetry from a variety of different authors. Horace Walpole, Mary Shelley, Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Emily Dickinson, Robert Browning, Flannery O’Connor and Henry James are just a few of the famous names covered in this course, along with a few other, more modern authors. Students in this course will also extensively study *Geek Love* by Katherine Dunn. According to Professor Hughes, *Geek Love* “is a story about a family of circus freaks who, of course, want to make more circus freaks.” This involves everything from swallowing radio-isotopes to experimental drug testing.

However, freaks, geeks, and things that go bump in the night will not be the only subjects covered in this course. Dr. Hughes also hopes to take students to Harriet Beecher Stowe’s house as part of a study of Toni Morrison’s *Beloved,* show the movie *Saw* to demonstrate current Gothic themes in today’s media, and orchestrate a class collaboration of Gothic-style short stories to be published in Western’s student literary publication, *Zephyrus.*

As an added bonus, Honors students who take this course will not even have to set their alarms. Honors English 399 is on Monday nights from 5:30 to 8:15, the perfect time to discuss the macabre subject of Gothic literature.

For the Honors students who are more interested in international travel than international Gothic literature, Dr. Hughes will also teach a course during a study abroad trip to Japan in the summer of 2008.

The trip is part of the Kentucky Institute for International Studies program (KIIS) and occurs over five weeks from June 1 until July 5. It will begin in Tenri City, move on to home stays in the city of Nara, and then go through Kyoto. It will also include visits to Tokyo and Hiroshima and traditional cultural experiences such as Japanese calligraphy and tea ceremony. Along with all of these options, students also have many different course offerings to choose from. Dr. Hughes will be teaching English 330, Japanese Literature in Translation, and Japanese 105, Introduction to Japanese Culture. There will be other courses offered as well such as Modern Japanese History; War in Asia, 1931-1945; and Basic and Intermediate Conversational Japanese.

The application deadline is February 15, and the cost is approximately $2,900 without airfare. This covers all excursions and field trips, commuting fees, up to six credit hours, room, and partial board.

Dr. Hughes plans on organizing a pizza party interest session sometime in the near future, so any students who are interested should be on the lookout for announcements concerning this trip.

*For more information on both the Transatlantic Gothic Literature course and the KIIS study-abroad trip to Japan, contact Dr. Sandra Hughes at (270) 745-2533, or at Cherry Hall office 132.*
Honors students present research

KENDRICK BRYAN
Areté staff writer

On September 28 and 29, Honors students ventured to Kentucky State University in Frankfort to discuss research and other issues concerning the Western Kentucky University Honors College and Honors programs from across the state. Students presented information on a variety of topics from minimizing the electrocardiograph for wireless applications to understanding the culture of exotic dancers.

Kentucky Honors Roundtable (KHRT) is an event hosted each semester by a university with an Honors program or Honors college. WKU hosted the conference last spring, and the next conference will be hosted by Eastern Kentucky University.

Lawrenceburg senior Leah Craig, Illinois senior Jeff Sorce, senior Jessica Bonneau, Elizabethtown junior Kendrick Bryan, Caneyville junior Rebekkah Lively, Clarkson junior Joshua Peerce, Shelbyville junior Ginny Prather, Pineville sophomore Jerabeth Lucas and Hanson freshman Jessica Hawkins all presented at the fall conference, while Dr. Gary Villereal of the Social Work department assisted with a presentation regarding ethical responses among different age groups.

The most viewed presentation by a WKU student was “Tops Off to Dancing: An Exotic Form of Nightlife” by Bonneau. To conduct her research, she interviewed two informants regarding the culture of exotic dancing. In the presentation, Bonneau enlightened her audience with stories of her informants and themes such as “dancer’s etiquette.” She also spoke about folk terms.

Lucas was the only WKU student whose presentation directly related to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Her work examines the living conditions in Bowling Green during the Civil War. “The experience was a great one for me,” she said. “I was able to give my first presentation without the fear of having questions asked that were above my expertise.”

“Everyone should attend KHRT next year,” Lucas concluded. “They won’t regret it!”

Interested students can attend and present at next semester’s conference. For further information, contact Honors special assistant Jeremy Phillips at Jeremy.Phillips@wku.edu.

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Opera trip ‘more than an assignment’

LINDSEY HOCHIN
Areté staff writer

While most of us were dining at Fresh Food Company, working on projects due Monday, or socializing with friends in front of the television at 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 13, a select few Honors students were doing something many of us may never get the chance to do: watch the French opera Samson and Delilah.

The opera, written by Saint-Saens, was performed at TPAC in Nashville, Tenn. Honors students made up more than half of the 56 participants, which also included music students and some faculty. All Honors students were invited to attend, and tickets were available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Each student enrolled in Dr. Mary Wolinski’s Honors Music Appreciation class was required to attend the opera and write a report about the performance. Wolinski incorporates the trip into her curriculum because real-life experience is an incredible supplement to standard instruction. “Students get as close as possible to experiencing the music the way a 19th-century audience would have, without the benefit of electronic media,” said Wolinski. “It is important to remember that back then, electronic amplification did not exist. Singers filled a theatre and sang over the orchestra with their bare voices. Even today, most opera houses do not amplify the singers’ voices. Such singing requires a learned vocal technique, which takes a while to get used to.”

According to Wolinski, the trip was many students’ first time to see an opera performed live. “Nothing can substitute for that communal and immediate experience,” she said. “It gives students a chance to see for themselves what an opera is really like.”

Wolinski hopes that such trips might be more than just an assignment for some. “They have had a chance to hear an opera performed by a professional company with superb singers,” she said. “Some of the students may go on to become fans of an art form that will enrich their lives.”

Disappointed that you missed the trip? Keep your eyes open for the next opportunity: Wolinski’s next trip will be on February 2 to see H.M.S. Pinafore, the operetta by Gilbert and Sullivan.
Home sweet home, on South Lawn

DANA ADAMS
Areté staff writer

On October 10, 2007, WKU’s Honors students joined other Hilltoppers in raising awareness for the homeless through Shantytown. Shantytown, an annual event sponsored by the Resident Hall Association, is an advocating tool for poverty housing issues worldwide. The event began a few weeks prior to October 10, when residence halls fundraised for Habitat for Humanity.

On the night of the event, residents assembled at their lots on South Lawn. Ready with piles of cardboard and rolls of duct tape, students assembled cardboard houses from 7 p.m. until midnight. While working, students listened as members of WKU’s Habitat for Humanity spoke about some homeless issues Bowling Green faces.

As builders enjoyed constructing their Shanties, they talked about real-life housing problems. “Having been homeless myself,” said a young man who wished to remain anonymous, “It’s great to see the campus community participating in this event.”

Residents of McLean Hall decided to replicate their dorm. The design included cardboard columns, similar to the ones at McLean’s entrance. Spray-paint additions spelled out “McLean Hall” and “Show your ID!” Finally, the Shanty contained a portrait inside, depicting Mrs. McLean.

If you missed out on this year’s activities, then be on the lookout for Shantytown 2008 next fall.

Multimedia play shows Holocaust horrors

SARAH HOOD
Areté staff writer

Many people recognize the famous poem by Martin Niemöller, “And Then They Came for Me,” which sheds light on the fact that, when the Nazis began to capture and detain certain “undesirables” before World War II, many German citizens were too afraid to speak out against the injustices occurring around them. However, this recognizable piece of literature is not just a poem anymore.

Recently, fifty members of the Honors College went to Horse Cave to see the play, And Then They Came for Me, by James Still, which borrows its title and theme from Niemöller’s poem. This production was part of the Kentucky Repertory Theater’s thirty-first season, and is described in the playbill as “a unique theatrical experience: a multimedia play that weaves videotaped interviews with Holocaust survivors and live actors recreating scenes from their lives during World War II. It is part oral history, part dramatic action, part direct address, and part remembrance.” It is a very poignant piece that follows two young Jewish teenagers as they experience the horrors and hardships of the Holocaust.

Many of the Honors students who attended were very impressed and moved by the performance.

“It was a very emotional and thought-provoking play, reminding us that the past affects our current lives. The play shows us the courage and the will of people to survive through hardships,” said Jonathan Williams, a freshman in the Honors College.

Gretchen Bies, another Honors freshman, added, “The play portrayed the hardship of leaving the loving, fun, free lives they had lived. They were people just like us and they made it through. I think it showed that love was the truly powerful force. Love is what held them together, kept them going, saved their lives and now impacts ours. They taught us to squash the flame of hatred and light our candle of love and share that light with others.”

Undoubtedly, many of the students who attended this event will remember their experience for years to come, and will recall the love and courage that allowed many Holocaust survivors to persevere.
Honors students challenge the rapids

AMANDA LOVIZA  
Areté staff writer

From the minute it began, the 2007 Western Kentucky Honors College white-water rafting trip promised to be full of adventure. A group of 25 Honors students and 4 faculty members signed up to spend Fall Break in the beautiful scenery of West Virginia—zip lining, camping, eating s’mores around a campfire, and rafting the Upper and Lower Gauley River. We were all ready for a fun time spent enjoying the great outdoors, bonding with our fellow Honors students, and trying to push Dr. Cobane out of the raft.

After getting off to a slightly late start and temporarily losing our third van before we even left campus, the Honors caravan finally got on the interstate, and our seven-hour road trip to West Virginia began. The road trip consisted of listening to lectures on tape, sleeping in uncomfortable positions, or rocking out to terrible rap music, depending on which van you rode in. After what seemed like an interminably long time, we reached our destination of Hico, W. Va., and the fun began.

Thursday consisted of zip lining, sand volleyball, sing-a-longs and s’mores. I’m not sure if we displayed more talent in our clumsy attempts to spike the volleyball or our heartfelt renditions of “A Whole New World” and “I’ll Make a Man Out of You.” Despite the fact that most of us had never met before, we were completely at ease with each other by the end of the first night.

“I had so much fun getting to know people the first day that I couldn’t wait to spend the next day rafting with them,” said freshman Stephanie Bryant.

Friday morning, the real adventure began. Each person was fitted with a wetsuit, then given lifejackets, helmets and paddles—there has never before been such an attractive group of Honors kids. A bumpy bus ride delivered us to the Upper Gauley, where we divided into groups of seven and met our guides. With mixed feelings of terror and excitement, we hauled our rafts onto the river and prepared to face the Class IV and Class V rapids.

“The anxiety built while our guide Mike walked us through his commands. By the time we got to our first rapid, I wondered what I had gotten myself into. Before I even realized it, I was alternately laughing and screaming my way through the first rapid, Insignificant. By the second rapid I was trying to figure out when I could come rafting again,” said sophomore Jessica Wilson.

Although several people spent some time swimming in the Gauley when they did not hold on tight enough, we all survived. Even Dr. Cobane, whom I am proud to say I was responsible for making fall out of the raft. It was a complete accident, but Dr. Cobane very conveniently broke my fall when I almost fell out of our raft. In the end, we were all pretty proud of ourselves for surviving those rapids.

After the rafting, we settled into our campsite by the river. Despite only having tents to sleep in, we were fed salmon, baked potatoes and carrot cake—Honors students have classy camping trips. After massaging our sore muscles, we were ready to hit the river again on Saturday.

Everyone was sad when our last day of rafting came to an end. It had certainly been a trip to remember, and no one was looking forward to returning to schoolwork. We enjoyed our last volleyball game, sat around our last campfire, and moaned about our painful muscles before we collapsed into bed—some of us on mattresses outside under the stars. Our incredible outdoors adventure had ended, and we left West Virginia with new friends, great memories and some excruciating bruises.
When our three vanloads of WKU students and gear crossed the Kentucky River into West "By God" Virginia, the old tree-covered mountains closed in around us, the sunshine lit our path, and we could feel the pressures of school lift from our bodies as we anticipated the weekend of white-water rafting on the Gauley River—one of the world’s premier rafting rivers during 20 days in October when water gushes from the big dam at Summersville.

The precious cargo—30 WKU Honors students—arrived safely in Hico, W. Va., shuttled there by the masterful driving of Dr. Wes “The Load” Berry (English Department), Dr. Craig “Pug Daddy” Cobane (Honors College and Political Science), and the Honorable Kevin “Smiley” O’Smiley, who, despite his van’s raucous rocking and rapping, maneuvered the snakey mountain curves, past the famous Mystery Hole (where we barely escaped being sucked into the vortex), to touch down unscathed at North American River Runners: our base camp for the weekend.

We packed our gear through stands of tall leafy trees and, after settling into our backwoods bunk houses, let the fun begin. We took turns flying through the air on the zipline: strapping on a hip harness, climbing 30-40 feet up the trunk of an old hardwood, snapping a rope to our harness and a cable that stretched 50-75 yards between two trees, then scooting our rumps (individually, of course) off the high-air platform—a quick drop (often followed by screaming) then—ZOOM!—zipping through space from tree to tree, green foliage blurring by—shouts of thrillseeking jubilation filling the air—until momentum slowed and we could float—gently—to earth. We also got up a mean volleyball match on the sand courts, and two clowns—Drew Eclov and the aforementioned Smiley—allowed their bodies to be mummified in the sand. Later that evening, after a dinner of pizza and salad, we gathered by a bonfire, toasted marshmallows for s’mores, and finally crept through the dark woods to the bunkhouses. The chilly mountain air made for a cozy night in sleeping bags.

Friday: big breakfast, and then we suited up in wet suits. The black material stretched over our skin like a second skin. After a group photo (several goofy students striking calendar-boy poses), we loaded the bus for Summersville Dam. The cold river water felt good, and the sun baked down on our arms and faces, and our rafts crashed through such rapids as Pillow Rock, the massive water surge roaring in our ears. Some folks—including Dr. Cobane—were ejected from their rafts and ending up swimming the rapids. We ran a series of Class V rapids and “surfed” (positioning the raft on the CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Photos by Amanda Loviza

(Left) While camping by the river on the second night of the trip, everyone enjoyed the breathtaking scenery of the Gauley River. (Above) Dr. Wes Berry.
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

top of a rapid and dipping it, dipping it, until someone falls out) lesser rapids, and several of us earned rafting nicknames (Meg “The Shaft” Tunks; Zack “Thunder” Rockrohr, aka “Bambi”; David “Cyclone” Dahl; and Gary “Primadonna” Weeks). After a full day on the river, we ate a late lunch of sandwiches and pasta salad at riverside, and then loaded the bus for our campsites.

The mountain farms bathed in gorgeous afternoon light, cattle grazing on green hillsides, warm fall air circulating through the bus windows—sporting sunburnt faces, shoulders, and necks—we bumped along the rough roads for an hour to reach our evening destination. After settling into our riverside tents, we gathered for a feast of flank steak, salmon, roasted taters, mixed vegetables, and later entertained ourselves by the riverside campfire: late night chatting, and a round of stuffing marshmallows into mouths and trying to utter the words “chubby bunny.”

Saturday: great breakfast in the open air, and then suiting up again and rafting the lower Gauley. Another sunny day, a leisurely pace, swimming the river, learning some natural history of the mountains, including tree identification, and also hitting some big waves on the way downriver. Around noon, we banked our rafts, loaded the bus and traveled the narrow roads back to base camp. The one-hour ride allowed plenty of time for stimulating intellectual conversation and story sharing. My ears will never be the same.

That afternoon, we wandered around base camp. Many students made a bee line for the hot showers—a hygienic bunch, these Honors students—and later relaxed at the café, snarfing down lunch burritos, with dinner soon after. Another bonfire brought everyone together, and people talked into the night. Some slept outside the bunkhouses, preferring the open ground.

Sunday: early rise, breakfast, and then loading up the vans and heading into the morning fog, slithering along the roads through mountain villages, past the Mystery Hole and into the clouds at Hawks Nest and on, through the valley village with a series of dammed waterfalls, past massive piles of coal and the golden-domed West Virginia capitol building, the oil refinery at Ashland, and into the rolling hills of the Bluegrass, where a magical hand guided us to A & W for a bit of Sunday afternoon bliss: root beer floats. We coasted back to Bowling Green, tired but refreshed.

When you grow weary of work and school, allow your mind to dwell a while on the awesome force of the river and the ancient Appalachians (millions of years old). It can help put our small, brief human lives in perspective. And know that those lovely old mountains are being destroyed by coal companies and the practice of mountaintop removal mining. This awful mining method is relatively new and can be stopped, if enough people oppose it. Educate yourself. Appreciate what the mountains have given you. And if you missed your chance to raft the Gauley River this year, keep your eye out for opportunities down the road.
Reporting back from coal country

LAUREL WILSON
Areté staff writer

For most Western students, Fall Break was a time to return home, sleep in, and relax. Or at least not to have to think about classes and assignments.

But for the 12 Honors students in Honors Journalism 202, taught by Prof. Sara Shipley Hiles, it meant traveling to Eastern Kentucky to visit coal mines.

The class, which is an introductory course in news writing and reporting, used the trip to hone their reporting skills. Each student was assigned to write two stories that related to the coal industry or the region and had to interview appropriate people to find out the information they needed.

Highlights of the trip included visiting a mountaintop removal site; visiting an underground mine; riding a trolley around the town of Hazard; and attending the Kingdom Come Swappin’ Meetin’, a mountain festival. The group also met with prominent people in the region, including activists opposed to mountaintop removal, a local filmmaker, workers in the coal mining industry, the mayor of Hazard, and the president of the Kentucky Coal Association.

Michelle Day, a student in the class, said that she found it hard to come up with an opinion about mountaintop removal after the trip.

“I don’t think any way you go on the issue is the right way,” she said.

Both sides made positive points, Day said. Activists against mountaintop removal talked about how the process destroyed the environment and ruined the landscape. But proponents of it said that flattening the land makes it easier to develop and also allows elk to repopulate the area.

The group got to see elk roaming around a mountaintop removal site, and also went to an elk tagging station, where dead elk were being brought in by hunters.

For Day, this was the most vivid experience of the trip.

“It was really surreal,” she said, to “see something that had been alive an hour ago be completely mutilated.”

The group plans to make a website showcasing their stories, photos, and videos.
Falling in love with the Windy City

DUNJA ZDERO
Areté staff writer

I have been to Chicago many times. I have seen plenty of clubs and concert halls. I can tell you exactly where all the European hot spots are. However, a recent visit to the greatest city in Midwest introduced me to a whole new side of the Windy City that made me fall in love with it even more.

Usually when I take the seven-hour drive, I am going to see my family in Milwaukee. My two cousins, like most people up there, live for the party life. By the time I get there, I barely have time to unpack before getting ready for another crazy night at the Chicago club scene.

This time, things were different. This time there would be no clubs or house parties to attend. I was going on a school trip with my fellow Hemingway and Faulkner classmates and Prof. Walker Rutledge. As interesting as the class was, my previous experiences with school trips did not foreshadow a very interesting fall break. So, on October 4, I packed my bags and headed to the Louisville airport for my 9 a.m. flight. Instead of sitting in the car all day staring at the never-ending farm plains of Indiana and Wisconsin, I sat on an airplane for an hour with my classmates.

Once we got off the plane, we rushed through the airport and bought a two-day Chicago subway pass. For some reason I’ve always had a fascination with city subways, so I was pretty excited about the fact that I was riding one. After a 30-minute ride, we reached Oak Park, birthplace of Ernest Hemingway.

We checked into a newly remodeled 1920s hotel called The Write Inn, located right across the street from the Hemingway museum. After literally dropping our bags, we started our journey thought Hemingway’s life with a tour of First United Church of Oak Park, where he and his family attended service. This was one of the most beautiful American churches I have ever been to. After a short visit there, we walked through Oak Park and headed to lunch at a local Italian restaurant. It was a good thing that we had to walk to our next destination because all of us ate way too much for our own good.

Next stop was Frank Lloyd Wright’s house and studio. Walking through the house was simply amazing. Our bubbly tour guide knew so much about the architect and his family that he might as well have been a part of it. After visiting the Hemingway museum and receiving a tour of his birth home, every one of us was dead tired; needless to say, it was time for a short nap.

Around seven that night, the whole class gathered once again to go back into Chicago. On the way there, we even managed to get involved in a protest, talk to a crazy man on the subway and enjoy the music that filled Chicago streets.

The next day was not any different. We took an early stroll around Oak Park and visited Hemingway’s elementary and high school, his childhood home and some more Wright houses. After a short breakfast at a local bakery, we made our way back to Chicago to spend a day with Dalí, Picasso, Monet and many others at The Art Institute of Chicago.

Following a long day, we were seated at the Midway airport waiting to board our airplane for Louisville, which was an hour delayed. We didn’t mind, though. The trip brought the whole class together so much that we just sat around talking about our Chicago experience and another upcoming trip to Oxford, Miss., to get a glimpse of William Faulkner’s life. I could not believe that I enjoyed this whole experience for less than $200. Next time I really want to visit Chicago, I’m sure I will skip out on my cousins for a day and call up one of my classmates.

This Honors class trip was funded in part by the Honors College.
Students stand up against poverty

KACY ALBANY
Areté staff writer

Stand Up Speak Out was held Tuesday October 16, 2007, at the Colonnades. The program was put together by Americans for Informed Democracy, the local chapter of which was formed by a group of freshmen Honors students who wanted to change the world.

The Stand Up movement was actually brought about by the ONE campaign, which is a global project to help end world poverty. People are dying every day from treatable diseases, and Stand Up became a great way to symbolically show the desire to change that.

At the Stand Up event, Kim Smith spoke on behalf of the ONE campaign along with representatives from Habitat for Humanity and Amnesty International. The crowd was entertained by the WKU Chorale’s performance of a Kenyan spiritual.

Participants at Stand Up received candles that they were instructed to light in commemoration of their promise to fight this epidemic. The moment was a somber one as 250 students patiently waited to light their candles from a sole candle in the Colonnades courtyard.

At the end of the ceremony, all participants stood together and pledged themselves to make a difference in the fight against poverty. If college students from all walks of life can come together amidst all the hatred, love, drama, and sleepless nights and stand together as ONE body toward this issue, it gives hope that someday our world leaders can do the same.
Colloquia visits Florida towns

KENDRICK BRYAN
Areté staff writer

The Sunshine State had some unbri-dled spirit in it during WKU’s Fall Break as Professor Travis Wilson’s colloquia class visited Seaside and nearby Rose-mary Beach.

Wilson’s class is titled “Creation of New Societies,” and it emphasizes the impact of New Urbanism and other urban design movements on urban planning and real estate development.

While in Seaside, Honors students toured the streets of the town and studied the work of Melanie Taylor and Robert Orr, the architects who designed the buildings and houses. Students also saw the home of the fictional Truman Burbank as seen in the film, The Truman Show (1998), starring Jim Carrey. Students viewed the movie earlier in the semester and chose to visit the filming location.

Rosemary Beach was founded in 1995 and was inspired by other classic beach towns like Seaside. The town comprises 107 acres and includes amenities such as tennis courts and pools for residents. Rosemary Beach has an urban code, which encourages pedestrian traffic by restricting parking to alleyways located behind residences. The town center of Rosemary Beach includes shops, the town hall, the post office, and restaurants such as Starbucks.

Ten students visited the towns with Wilson, an Assistant Professor of Consumer & Family Sciences. Wilson also teaches classes in interior design and the history of architecture. While not visiting the towns, Wilson and the students spent free time on the beach or participating in an exclusive Skee Ball tournament at a local arcade.

Jeff Sorce, a senior from Rolling Meadows, Ill., was a member of the trip and spoke highly of the experience.

“The trip to Florida was a great time to look at some different styles of architecture, meet some new people, and get to form strong bonds with new friends,” Sorce said. “I created memories that will last a lifetime and I recommend this class to any Honors student who wants to have a great time while learning a lot of interesting information. You might even be as lucky as we were to go to Fudpucker’s” (a restaurant in Destin).

To graduate from the Honors College, a student must take two colloquia in addition to other required credit hours. Colloquia are discussion-based classes which consider and debate controversial issues usually without tests and other ex-ams. For further information regarding colloquia courses, contact the Honors Center by phone at (270) 745-2801 or via email at Honors@wku.edu.

“I created memories that will last a lifetime and I recommend this class to any Honors student that wants to have a great time while learning a lot of interesting information.”

– Jeff Sorce
Rolling Meadows, Ill., senior

This Honors class trip was funded in part by the Honors College.
Experiencing cultural immersion

MATT VAUGHAN
Areté staff writer

The exotic sounds of the tunga play in harmony with the beating of the kora. The energy and excitement of the evening can be felt from even those farthest from the stage as the audience members clap out a beat of their own.

This was the scene at the Mamadou Diabate concert in early October. The event featured Mamadou, an internationally acclaimed musician and master of the kora (a string harp played in West Africa) and three other performers in an effort to spread cultural awareness to students at WKU.

Honors Freshman Trey Just was one of many students who attended the evening’s featured presentation. “I was curious to see what it was going to sound like,” he said. “It was really good. Mamadou and the other three performers had incredible energy and the drummer was hilarious.”

The event was the first in line for this year’s WKU Cultural Enhancement Series. The purpose of the annual series is to promote cultural diversity across WKU’s campus with four planned events, including two concerts and two lectures. The series began in October with Mamadou’s performance and will conclude in early April with a performance by the ensemble Cantus.

While many students look ahead to October 30, when Animal Planet host Jeff Corwin will make his way to WKU for the next chapter of the Cultural Enhancement Series, Just continues to reminisce about the series’ kick-off event.

“My favorite moment was probably during the very first song when it was just Mamadou and the drummer,” Just said. “I had no idea how it would sound but he was amazing at playing the kora.”

To get more students interested in attending the Cultural Enhancement events, a point system has been designed that rewards students for attending by giving them electronic raffle tickets based on the number of events that they attend. The final drawing will be held in mid-April when two lucky students will win $500 book awards.

Just believes that the series is a great thing for Honors students to attend because it satisfies their curiosity.

“I think that they should have more than four shows per year,” he said. “They should also definitely get Mamadou to come back again.”

All of the Cultural Enhancement Events are free and open to all students, faculty, staff, and community members. For more information about this year’s Cultural Enhancement Series, contact the Potter College Dean’s Office at 270-745-5204.

Meet your staff: Amy Chester

DANA ADAMS
Areté staff writer

- Advice for Honors Students: “Plan ahead and make a long term plan.” and “Don’t be intimidated by the CE/T.”
- What she wants to see happen in the Honors College. “It would be great to have a computer lab for advising and for students to use [at the Honors Center].”
- Why she came to WKU: “I wanted to stay in Honors and I knew that this program was developing and I wanted to be a part of that.”
- Favorite Honors Activity: “There are many great things to come, but my favorite so far would have to be H4. The community that was developed was awesome and everyone had a great time.”

- Education: Bachelor’s in Math from Missouri State University, Master’s in College Student Personnel Administration from University of Central Missouri
- Favorite song: “Bubbly” by Colby Callat
- Favorite Movie: Clueless
- Favorite Food: Mexican
- Pet Peeves: When people lie and being late
- Position in the Honors College: Academic Advisor and Program Coordinator

COURTESY OF THE HONORS COLLEGE

Amy Chester
Veni vidi vici
News about Honors students going out into the world to see and conquer

Junior Dirk Gaboriault, an Honors student studying the performing arts, is overseas this semester in Vietnam. He chose to study abroad in Vietnam because he believed that it would be an awesome experience since the country is very different from the United States. As expected, he was right. Gaboriault is learning a lot, but loving it all at the same time. He has been in Vietnam since September 18, and will come home on December 29. He frequently blogs about his experiences on Facebook, and agreed to share one of his stories with Areté.

The Amazingness of Dirk (by Dirk Gaboriault): Before coming to Vietnam, I had not prepared myself for the culture at all. I wanted to just experience it in a genuine sense rather than trying to gather a cumulative idea from a book. It has worked in both good and bad ways, but nothing that I cannot handle. I’m still amazed. I have only seen three other Vietnamese people that have been taller than me. I like exploring the city and by city, I mean District 1. It’s weird having people vie for your attention non-stop to either sell something to you or get you on a motorbike. I have gotten ripped off before (one of the few things I had prepared myself to accept) and that is mainly from taxi drivers.

As far as the language: muy difficult. There are days when I just rock at it and can understand everything, but others I just fall into a pit of despair and kind of just want to quit. I like talking to the natives, but it’s very limited because I do not know many words and the short cuts they use.

One amusing story that happened to me was when Rachelle and I tried to ride a bike together. We see this seemingly simple activity executed every day, but when we tried it... it was very American. I was going to sit on the back and she was going to pedal (i.e. do all the work) but as we cycled along to the road, we must have done SOMETHING wrong because I remember the

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SAM MICALLEF
Areté staff writer

The amazingness of Vietnam

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bike flying up in the air and me falling backwards and Rachelle going sideways.

It was in the middle of the road. I was kind of embarrassed but we laughed so hard. I didn't look to see if the Vietnamese people were laughing, but I was. I think accidents along those lines happen a lot and it was just another daily occurrence. That is most amusing thing that has happened.

I just returned from Vung Tau this morning. I went there with Mr. Adorable 2 (read: Quang). He is a waiter/delivery boy at Pizza and Chick. I go there nearly every night because it's relatively cheap and I like the quiet atmosphere. The workers now talk to me since I told them that I'm studying Vietnamese. Eventually, the boss asked if I could go with Mr. Adorable 2 (since I hadn't traveled yet) and... that's what happened! It was great experience because it was outside of Sai-gon, but very awkward at times. I don't usually feel awkward in social settings, but there was such a large language barrier. I can't fluently speak or hear properly (reading and writing is fine) so I couldn't communicate a lot. There were about 10 of them: brothers, sisters, friends, random family members. Eventually I just figured they were all family. We went swimming in the sea and stayed up late and slept for about 14 hours and ate things I wasn't familiar with and I was adopted by the father.

Essentially, I love Vietnam. I encourage everyone to study abroad somewhere where they would not be in a comfort zone (like English for me). This is only the iceberg of my experience thus far and I have not been happier. I miss some American food, but there are about 82,000 different things I have at my disposal. I love the people here and do not want to leave. I am asked by Mr. Adorable 2 and company if I plan on coming back and I give them a resounding yes. I want Mr. Adorable 2 to come to America and chill with me for a summer or something. He's my Vietnamese Cilantro. Check my pictures and notes on Facebook for more detail!
Q: What has been your best trip so far?

A: The best trip so far has definitely been Edinburgh, Scotland. It was so amazing because the town was really laid back and not so “touristy” like a lot of other places we’ve been. Plus our entire “family” of friends was there and we met a couple really sweet bartenders who took us to some local places that we would have never found by ourselves.

Candace Read, Hodgenville sophomore, biology

A: The best trip I’ve had so far was to Edinburgh, Scotland. I saw the queen of castles, a hoard of sheep, lots of funny alleys, and men in kilts. You just can’t beat that.

Jennifer Dooper, Owensboro sophomore, Spanish and English

A: My favorite trip has been Ireland, without a doubt! It was just absolutely beautiful! There were mountains, coasts, friends, and cute little towns. It was fun meeting Irish people and hearing them talk. I have gotten so used to British accents that it was nice hearing a different accent. As much as I loved Ireland, it will not be my most memorable trip. That would have to be my journey to Spain. I really like Spain, but I got to see more of it than I had intended, including the U.S. embassy. The short version is that my passport was stolen and I had to stay in the country for an extra day to get a new one. It was really stressful, especially since my Spanish is pretty rusty, but we made it through. I think that may be my favorite part: I now know that I can handle pretty much anything thrown at me. Just a note to everyone: guard your passport with your life!

Amanda Brown, Gamaliel sophomore, accounting
Experience firsthand what you learn and discuss in class when you take Honors Political Communication Seminar, COMM 488. I took this class, taught by Dr. Jennifer Lewis, last semester and loved it! It has been my favorite class while attending Western. Everything I learned was relevant to today and was important information about how political communication works today in the twenty-first century.

I learned a lot about how communication works in the political arena. I am a corporate communication major and I am interested in politics, so I thoroughly enjoyed this class. I also liked how the class is discussion-based and every student has a chance to voice his or her opinion. Many of the class discussions were centered on the current presidential campaign season. I enjoyed learning how politicians communicate and how communication plays a vital role in politics. I loved doing the end-of-the-semester term paper. I liked learning about the past and present studies on political communication. In addition, I liked researching how political communication applied to political campaign advertisements, which was the topic of focus for my paper.

One of my favorite parts of this course was getting to experience first-hand what I had been learning in class. I went with my classmates to Washington, D.C. for five days! It was a fabulous trip for a number of reasons. One thing I liked was meeting with people who worked at the National Communication Association and getting to speak with Jill Bader, who is the Press Secretary for Senator Lamar Alexander. We met many amazing people who worked in government, and it would take me a while to name them all. It was a great experience seeing political communication at work. Another wonderful part of the trip for me was touring our nation's capital! It is a beautiful city! I went to many of the museums, walked around the monuments, and toured the city. One of my favorite monuments is the WWII Memorial. It is beautiful!

I recommend this class to everyone, especially communication majors and those interested in politics. The information one learns is important and relevant to today's politics. The class is enjoyable, and students get to have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get an inside look at political communication in Washington, D.C. Whoever said learning cannot be fun never took Honors Political Communication Seminar! Everything I learned in the class I will be able to apply in life.
Housing for J-term, anyone?

REAGAN GILLEY
Areté guest writer

If you live in McLean Hall and hope to live on campus for J-Term 2008, I have some disheartening news: McLean Hall is closed for January Term 2008. This means that if you wanted to stay on campus for class, work, research, etc., then you will have to move to another hall (or find an off-campus location to live).

What, you ask, was HRL’s logic behind this move? There were too few people signed up for classes last year (11 in total, according to TopNet) to justify keeping the hall open. The interesting thing with this number is that it was only for people who were taking a course—not anyone else, who had moved into the hall for any other reason. Additionally, this information is outdated, as the makeup of McLean has changed. Many of the people in the hall are new, and a number of those people came from Rodes-Harlin, which was also open during J-Term last year. This is poor logic on HRL’s part, it is unfair to use last year’s information to make decisions for this year—particularly when the situation is different than the information that is being used. This logic cannot be justified.

There is some hope, though; we are trying to change the situation this year. A petition has been circulating around that asks if you have any desire to be in McLean for J-Term, and your reason(s) for doing so. We have collected 22 signatures, from 22 individuals with intent to live in McLean for J-Term, which will hopefully be enough folks to get McLean Hall opened. If nothing is done, a precedent would be set for future J-Terms, and this could, and would, severely limit Honors students’ options for courses. For the many of us who do not live within a viable commuting distance of campus, housing is needed for these classes, and we are attempting our best to achieve that end.

If anyone wants to more information on the situation, please feel free to contact either Joshua Peerce at joshua.peerce@wku.edu or myself, Reagan Gilley, at ronald.gilley@wku.edu or by phone at 606.269.8074.

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McLean Hall will not stay open during the January term, so if you want to remain on campus you will have to move to another dorm. A petition has been circulating to try to change this situation.

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Have your say

Do you have an opinion, experience, or achievement you want to share with the Honors community? Submit your articles (no longer than 600 words, please), photos or artwork to us at arete@wku.edu

Please remember to include your name, hometown, year, and contact information.

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In our next issue

- A column from Dr. Craig T. Cobane, Director of the Honors College
- A column from your HDB student representatives
- A story about the National Collegiate Honors Conference
- A story and photos of the Honors Homecoming tailgating event
- A story about Honors students meeting Jeff Corwin
- A story and photos of the Honors Harry Potter Halloween party
- A story about Dr. Cobane and President Ransdell’s trip to Harlaxton
- *Special topic* The Honors Capstone Experience/Thesis
  - Getting started
  - A profile of Jeremy Phillips
  - Timeline of important thesis steps
**November calendar of events**

- **Oct. 31-Nov. 4** National Collegiate Honors Council conference in Denver
- **4** Daylight Savings Time – turn your clocks back an hour
- **8** Charlie Daniels concert in Van Meter at 7 p.m. Tickets are $10 for students in advance from the CAB office.
- **9** Big Red's Roar in Diddle Arena at 8:30 p.m.
- **10** Honors tailgating before the Homecoming football game. Meet behind McLean Hall starting at 1:30. The game begins at 4 p.m.
- **11** Veteran’s Day
- **21-25** Thanksgiving Break

Visit www.wku.edu/Dept/Special/Honors/calendar.html for Honors events. Visit www.wku.edu/Info/Events/ for more WKU campus events and activities.

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**Q:** How well do you know the Honors College staff? Match the people with their job titles and pet pooch(es), as listed on the Honors Web site. *Extra credit: Which staff members have a degree from Western?*

1. Dr. Craig T. Cobane, A. Admissions counselor
2. Amy Casebolt, B. Special assistant
3. Amy Chester, C. IT consultant
4. Shane Bradley, D. Honors director
5. Lindsey Thurman, E. Office associate
6. Jeremy Phillips, F. Advisor/Program co-ordinator

I. Miss Gabby
II. Max and Millie
III. no pup here!
IV. Xerxes and Xenophon
V. Marley
VI. Neeko and Lilly

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**Q:** Grey Matters. Can you solve these logic and reasoning problems from www.mensa.org?

1. Following the pattern in the sequence below, what is the missing number?
   
   1 8 27 ___ 125 216

2. Only one other word can be made using all the letters of the word INSATIABLE. What is it?

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**Sudoku**

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 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
S 7 4 9 1
U 8 6 2
D 2 8 7 4
O 4 7 6 1 2
K 9 7 8 4
U 1 3 2 4
 4 7 9 3
 9 5 4 8
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