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Honors College
Western Kentucky University, Arete@wku.edu

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Former WKU Honors student Jeff and Honors alum Ashley Sorce sit on WKU’s campus with their dog, Cooper.

(Photo by Inge Kathleen Photography)

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Honors Students Step Up in SGA

SARAH KUHL AND AMANDA LOVIZA
Areté staff writer and Areté editor

As the Honors College continues to grow, Honors students are beginning to make a name for themselves in many campus groups—including SGA, the Student Government Association. Kevin Smiley, a senior history and sociology double major, became the first Honors College student to be elected president of SGA when in April of 2009. A few weeks ago, junior broadcasting major Colton Jessie was elected to become the next Honors student SGA president. Smiley and Jessie are two of a growing group of Honors students who have become involved with SGA over the last few years.

The first big push by Honors students to become involved in SGA came in the fall of 2007, when Smiley was a freshman. Smiley and his friends ran a campaign with the slogan “Put the Overnment Back in Government.” Drew Eclov, an Honors senior majoring in broadcasting, came up with the slogan. You have to be fun and funny if you want people to listen, and if you want to get elected, Eclov said. Eclov has since left SGA, but he served as a senator and the director of academic and student affairs.

Eclov, Smiley, and Jessie agree that the SGA has come a long way since the “Overnment” campaign. Smiley said that the SGA sees a lot more comprehensive concern from students, and more people are doing great things in the SGA. Since Smiley became president, the SGA has developed new projects such as the Scholar Development Program, which allows students to apply for funding if they are participating in academic activities; the availability of free Bluebooks and Scantrons for students; and the creation of a university-level food services committee. The organization has also tripled its scholarship funding. SGA is now working to create Off Campus Partners, a website that helps students search off-campus housing options.

“Smiley has done a good job and he’s very student-oriented, and he stood up for what he believed,” Eclov said. “Smiley hasn’t made it perfect yet, but he’s definitely started in the right direction.”

Honors students have contributed a lot to SGAs’s projects.

“They build on each other and pick issues and stick with them,” Smiley said.

Former Honors student Kendrick Bryan, currently a graduate student at WKU, is the current executive vice president of SGA, and he has just been re-elected for the 2010-11 school year. He added that Honors students work well together since they already know each other and live in the dorms together. Jessie, who talked to about 20 campus organizations during his campaign, said that the SGA wants to get people from every existing campus group to participate. Honors students add another perspective to SGA simply because they are one more group involved in the organization, he said.

“They’re intelligent and bring a lot to the table like any other student,” Jessie said.

The SGA has plans to continue improving WKUs’s community. Many of the officers said they don’t think enough students know about SGA or the services it provides, and they want to change that. Jessie and Bryan plan to expand scholarships and teach M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan classes in the future.

“I want [every student] to know about every program and service we have to offer,” Bryan said.
CHO? CHO what?

CAMERON FRANEY AND BETHANY RIGGS
Areté staff writers

What is CHO? CHO stands for the Council of Honors Organizations, and it is a collaborating committee that was founded last semester and consists of one representative from each of the following Honors organizations: Areté, Honors Club, HonorsToppers, and the Honors Development Board. Each of the Honors residence halls also have spokespersons that serve on the council, which is led by the Honors College Coordinator of Special Programs, Nicole Stratten. The group typically meets bi-monthly and functions as an open gateway of communication among the organizations. Members of CHO discuss upcoming events and projects, such as co-sponsoring the End of Year Bash during finals week, and they recently hosted their first event, the Honors College Forum.

“Be Heard: An Honors College Forum,” was held on Monday, April 19. The Honors College Forum was an anonymous forum held for Honors students with a student panel of CHO members. The forum’s goal was for Honors students to share positive and negative comments about the Honors College, and hopefully to make the college better for everyone involved. There was a strong turnout and a good dialogue about ways to improve the Honors College, and also about what the Honors College is doing well. Members of CHO are thankful to all those who came out and supported the organization.

Ob cognito tui

News and announcements

May 2010

Areté

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Colloquium Students Clean Up in Challenge

“Some of the most alive people you’ll ever meet are on the edge,” said Andy Wolfendon, who wrote the play *Empties*, which was recently performed on campus. While here, Wolfendon was also a guest speaker in several different classes, including the Honors colloquium “Endings: Exploring the Space Between Life and Death.” Taught by Dr. Dana Bradley, the Clifford Todd Distinguished Professor of Gerontology and an associate professor of public health, this class deals with the topic of death and dying.

“[The class] provided an opportunity for students to really talk about the space between life and death,” Dr. Bradley said.

As part of the class, Bradley required each student to complete a project for the WKU Alive Center for Community Partnerships’ annual Engage and Exchange Challenge. The challenge works to engage students and have them exchange ideas in order to have an impact on, and make a difference in, the community. On Tuesday March 30, Dr. Bradley got the news that her students took first place in all three categories: writing, multimedia, and still photography. The winner of the multimedia category won $1,000, the winner of photography won $500, and the winner of writing won $250.

Honors senior and acting/directing major Kaitlen Osburn won the writing category with a piece on her work for the Center for Courageous Kids. The Center for Courageous Kids is a summer camp for kids with chronic and/or life-threatening diseases. Osburn connected with the center through the hospice training that was also required by the colloquium.

“I hope [my project] inspired [people] to take a few hours to volunteer somewhere,” Osburn said.

Honors sophomore Tyler Jury, a biology and chemistry double major, used his experience with Fiji’s Across America in his project. Jury helped start the group after his grandfather’s death of Alzheimer’s disease in July 2005. He and the other five cyclists participating in their upcoming bike ride across the country made a promotional video to help raise awareness and funds for the fight against Alzheimer’s.

Another Honors sophomore biology and chemistry double major, Chad Willis, took a similar approach in his photography project. While volunteering at the Hildreth Adoption Center in mid-March, he took pictures of the animals and other volunteers in order to “bring some attention to the humane society.”

Dr. Bradley said she hoped the contest encouraged her students to “explore their commitment to the community and inspire others to commit in extending their education outside the walls of the university.”

“Some of the most alive people you’ll ever meet are on the edge.”

-Andy Wolfenden

Natalie Davis (foreground) and Katie Moats (background) volunteer at the Humane Society, where they take out the dogs for some much needed playtime.

Photos by Chad Willis

Nunti communalis
Honors community involvement and events

KALI O’ROURKE
Areté staff writer
**Clash of the Titans: An Honors Review**

**MEMBERS OF THE CREATION AS RE-CREATION COLLOQUIUM**

*Are té guest writers*

Over the past semester, our “Creation as Re-Creation” colloquium has been studying adaptation as a process of “repetition without replication,” in which the adaptation reinterprets the original work before recreating it anew. We began our study with Tracy Chevalier’s *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, a novel inspired by Johannes Vermeer’s 17th-century painting of the same name, and Peter Weber’s 2004 film adaptation of the novel, to address the question of how the adapted source can be reproduced in different media. We then looked at Shakespeare’s *Richard III* as an adaptation of history alongside Richard Loncraine’s 1995 film version that retains Shakespeare’s language while transposing the historical setting to a fictional 1930s fascist England, and continued with Dante’s *Inferno*, which allowed us to explore the differences between adaptation, allusion, translation, and expansion. Finally, we read selections from and adaptations of Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*, themselves adaptations of other texts, interrogating along the way notions of originality and creativity.

Recently, with the assistance of an Honors Faculty Engagement grant, we gathered together to watch the original 1981 film *Clash of the Titans* and the new remake just released in theaters at the beginning of April 2010. As we debated the merits of each and the success of the 2010 version as an adaptation, we initially found ourselves divided between those with a strong preference for the new *Clash* and those who were more ambivalent.

Surprisingly, for most of us the vastly improved graphics were not a substantial factor in our assessment... (though we certainly appreciated them). Far more important were the more believable motivations for all the characters, but especially for Perseus himself, who is transformed from 1981’s pampered daddy’s boy mooning after a woman to whom he’s never even spoken into the 2010 man who fights to avenge his family and to prove his worth as an individual. We also appreciated the new version’s emphasis on equality, particularly as it was manifested in stronger female characters and a band of comrades whose sacrifices enable Perseus to complete his quest. We also heartily preferred the new Pegasus, who not only appears far more believable as a winged horse thanks to innovations in special effects, but also chooses of his own will to join with Perseus as a partner, uncompelled by force or divine command.

One of the challenges any adaptor faces is creating a satisfying story for those who are new to it, while also appeasing fans of the original. Amelia, Corie, and Dr. Ganze, who grew up watching the 1981 version, were both disappointed at the new *Clash*’s dismissive head-nod to Bubo, the mechanical owl Athena sends to assist Perseus. As Kayla and Mitch pointed out, in the new version Io seems to take the place of Bubo, and so one way to accommodate those of us who miss the owl might be to give her character a live owl companion—a counterpart of sorts to Perseus’ Pegasus.

The new film reflected and paid homage to characteristics of the older version, but it also delivered some interesting thematic changes. For instance, Thetis did not have a son of her own to defend--Calibos ended up being the king (Perseus’ mother’s husband). In this way, the “clash of the Titans” was between Zeus and Hades more so than Thetis and Zeus. Jill found that the 1981 version’s clearer distinction between the forces of good and evil and gave the audience a definite side to be on. It was easy to root for Zeus because he represented everything good and light. Even though he needed human prayers to stay alive, he was willing to sacrifice that if it meant giving his earthly children a better life. Hades, on the other hand, was the typical mental-case of a younger brother who didn’t get to be king. As the audience, we wanted him to lose because he was not looking out for the best interests of mankind. The 1981 version was a little more ambiguous. We didn’t want Thetis to lose her son, but we wanted to see Perseus win, too.

--Becca Brock, TJ Cataldo, Abbey Fein, Katie Ferrielli, Corie Fitch, Ameliah Givens, Alison Ganze, David Leonhardt, Joseph Leonhardt, Mitch Miller, Jill Owen, Kayla Puckett, Caitlín Reyes, and Bailey Squires.
Honors Graduates and Scholarship Winners

**Honors College Graduates**

These students have completed a minimum of 33 credit hours of Honors coursework, including a six-credit-hour Capstone Experience/Thesis.

- Courtney Aldrich - Social Work
- Amanda J. Brown - Accounting
- Gregory Capillo - Mass Communication & Philosophy
- Tyler Clark - Mathematics
- Erica Dumeyer - Biochemistry
- Geneva Ged - Performing Arts
- Jacob Glover - History
- Evan Gribbins - English
- Jason Hall - Biology
- Brandy Hill - Design, Merchandising, and Textiles
- Brittany Kittlemen - Marketing
- Kerry Markham - Sociology & Religious Studies
- Joseph Marquardt - Recombinant Genetics
- Ashley Mefford - Biology & Chemistry
- Justin Mobley - Chemistry
- Seth Peckham - Political Science & History
- Leah Pritchett - History
- Candace Read - Biology
- Rachel Reetzke - Communication Disorders
- Maggie Roe - Exercise Science
- Nathan Salazar - Mathematics
- Kevin Smiley - History & Sociology
- Chelsey Smith - Communication Disorders
- Patrick Stewart - Biology
- Bethany Truax - Broadcasting
- Hanh Vu - Economics

**Honors Program Graduates**

These students have completed a minimum of 24 credit hours of Honors coursework, including a six-credit-hour Capstone Experience/Thesis.

- Devin Bell - Biology
- Monique Braun - Political Science & Communication Studies
- Daniel Brown - Biology
- Matthew Cooke - Biology
- Ellie Cundiff - Psychology
- David Dahl - Chemistry & Biology
- Jennifer Dooper - English & Spanish
- Christopher Drury - Corporate and Organization Communication
- Christopher Hodgkins - Management
- Amy Jewell - Biology
- Amanda Loviza - News/Editorial Journalism & Spanish
- Clint McRay - Finance
- Mitchell Miller - History & English
- Bradley Morgan - Broadcasting
- Christopher Obermeyer - Biology & Religious Studies
- Hannah Pennington - Biochemistry
- Mary Petty - Accounting
- Helen Fay Pruitt - Biology
- Dawn Reinhardt - English & German
- Jason Russell - Chemistry
- Eileen Ryan - News/Editorial Journalism & English
- Jacob Turner - Mathematics
- Ryan Tyler - Accounting
- Nicole Whittington - Finance & Accounting
- Morgan Wickline - Corporate and Organization Communication
- Jessica Wilson - Chemistry & Biology

**Honors December 2009 Graduates**

We would also like to recognize the students who graduated from the Honors College in December 2009. These students will also be celebrated at our Annual Honors Graduation Luncheon on May 13, 2010.

**Honors College Graduates:**
- Joshua Coleman - Marketing
- Rachel McCubbins - Honors Area Studies & Dance

**Honors Program Graduates:**
- Katie Brandenburg - News/Editorial Journalism
- Kristen Clark - Biology

**Honors Program Graduates:**
- Samantha Harrison - Political Science
- Rachealle Sanford - History
- Emily Wilcox - Visual Studies

**Congratulations to these Award-winning Honors students:**
- Amanda Beers, received an Honorable Mention for the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship
- Joey Coe, received Udall Scholarship
- Leslye Davis, alternate for the Freeman Indonesia Internship
- Rachel Reetzke, received the Critical Language Scholarship in Chinese
- Robert (Michael) Sivley, received an Honorable Mention for the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship

**Other Congratulations:**
- Dr. Clay Motley’s article was published in *Studies in American Jewish Literature*
Race to End Homelessness

RAMONA SUDBECK
Areté staff writer

One hundred million people in the world are homeless, and two billion live in slum housing. It has become the goal of Habitat for Humanity to eliminate this growing problem. Since 1976, this nonprofit organization has built 300,000 homes in over 3,000 countries. And WKU is helping. On Saturday, April 10, Habitat hosted a run called Habidash in Preston Miller Park. Honors students participated in both the 3K and 5K runs, raising money for the cause.

Habidash was not a regular race. Before the race participants started, Honors junior Colton Jessie, dressed as a construction worker, took off down the course. Racers were sent off to run the course and catch Jessie. The first male, female, and child who caught Jessie were each given one of his tools. At the end of the race, they redeemed the tool for a special prize.

Inga Steenbergen, an Honors freshman, was one of the racers who caught the construction worker. Steenbergen has run several 5Ks before, and she has been active with Habitat. She said catching Jessie was her favorite part of Habidash.

“I won a special bag and a little visor!” she said.

Honors involvement did not stop there. Aaron Daley, also an Honors freshman, ran and finished second place in the men’s division. He said the best part was “passing the guy who was in second.” Daley said he felt accomplished to receive the second place wooden plaque. All the plaques awarded were crafted by the WKU Architectural and Manufacturing Sciences department.

Habitat for Humanity’s different events throughout the year often encourage Honors involvement. The students who find joy and fun in helping out are what make WKU’s Habitat for Humanity such a success.

Theatre Students Sell Out Empties Show

BETHANY RIGGS
Areté staff writer

“I think I cried like three times. It was really intense,” Honors sophomore Megan Tan, from Columbus, Ohio, said of the theatrical performance Empties. “But I liked it a lot.”

The play, by Andy Wolfendon, ran from April 15-20 and sold out almost every night. Honors student Stephen Tabor was the assistant director to professor Scott Stroot, and he played a vital role in the production. Other Honors students involved included costume designer Geneva Ged, publicity head Jay Thomas, and Lusie Cuskey, who starred in the cast alongside two other theatre majors and a retired WKU English instructor.

Cuskey, a sophomore from Louisville, Ky., played the role of Ethel, a homeless, former psychiatric patient.

“I’ve never really gotten to play an adult character or a character with any sort of disability, so I really enjoyed having the opportunity to try that,” Cuskey said.

The play was held in the Gordon Wilson Hall Lab Theatre, which is not the typical setting used for a main stage production. Cuskey said that the script was selected for a smaller stage, and that if the stage had been larger a lot of the intimacy with the audience would have been lost. The thrust stage in the theater allowed the audience to surround the four characters on three sides, and almost experience what the characters were going through.

Although the tickets to the show were $8 for students, the Honors College bought a block of them in advance and gave Honors students a discount. However, the discounted tickets sold out in just a matter of days.

Cuskey said she had a fantastic time working with everyone, and she considered the play to be a huge success.
As all WKU students know, Western Kentucky University sits on the side of a hill, overlooking the city of Bowling Green. This basic fact influences many daily decisions of students on campus.

Honors freshman Kelsey Mattingly said that she schedules her classes so that she only has to walk up the full extent of the hill once a day. She has her first classes of the day on the top of the hill, then the next couple farther and farther down.

“I feel like it’s so steep,” Mattingly said, laughing. “On par with mountain climbing.”

Honors freshman Taylor Sang said that she doesn’t mind climbing the hill to her 8 a.m. Cherry Hall class.

“I run eight miles every day,” she said. Sang does, however, fondly remember her first trek up the hill when she was touring the campus.

“I made the mistake of wearing high heels,” she said. “I didn’t fall, but everyone thought I was going to. People still call me ‘high heels girl.’”

This constant struggle to climb the hill has become embedded into the culture of life at WKU, and it has resulted in the nickname, “Hilltoppers.”

Before the campus was actually located on a hill, climbing became part of WKU culture with the newsletter The Elevator: Going up? published from 1909 to 1916. WKU moved to the 125-foot landmass on Feb. 4, 1911.

Senior Brian Ochs said that his best memory of the hill was the first time he walked up it.

“It felt awesome to be in college,” he said. “I’m going to miss it a lot just knowing I can walk up that hill everyday because I go to this college. It’s a great feeling.”

The university is not only constructed on the hill, it is defined by it. WKU students and faculty change over the years, but they all walk the same hill.
One Day Without Shoes

Many students saw the signs posted in campus food establishments one early April day that read, “Due to health regulations, all customers are required to wear shoes.” But not everyone knew why. April 8 was One Day Without Shoes, an event to raise awareness for those around the world who cannot afford to buy shoes. John Bennett Alexander, a sophomore in the Honors College, was one of the leaders of WKU’s involvement in the awareness project.

“Shoes are something that many of us take for granted ‘til we know what it is like to go without them,” Alexander said.

The countrywide event was hosted by TOMS Shoes Company. The TOMS company promise is that for every pair of its shoes that is bought, it will give away pair of shoes to someone in need. Before the event occurred, Alexander was confident that many students would participate by not wearing shoes for a day. He said he felt it was a simple awareness project that anyone could participate in, or they could buy TOMS in order to support the program in a different way. Alexander chose to show support by not wearing shoes for a week prior to the actual event. He said the personal experience has made him more grateful for the availability of shoes in the United States. Unfortunately, due to the poor weather, fewer people came out than expected. Nevertheless, Alexander said he will participate every year from now on.
Honors Royale: Spring Formal

Above: Freshmen Anna Vied and Bo Armstrong slow dance on April 24 at the Honors Formal.
Below: Freshmen Dustin Auxier and Meghan Kennedy play roulette
The theme of the formal was “Honors Royale.”
Right: Kalu Njoku, Honors College IT Consultant, deals out cards for a game of poker.

Above: Freshman Justin Cave dips back freshman Emily Evanko.
Below: Drew Eclov, senior, and Kaylee Acres, junior, raise the roof. The event took place at the Corvette Museum.
One potential benefit the Honors College doesn’t advertise in their pamphlets is marriage. But that’s exactly what Jeff Sorce and Ashley Belcher got.

Jeff, a social studies and history major, and Ashley, a news/editorial and Spanish major, met through their participation in the Honors College. Serving on the Honors Development Board, as the junior and sophomore representatives, Jeff and Ashley worked on the Honors housing point system together.

“It was a big project,” Jeff said. “We spent time outside of meetings working on it.”

At the end of that school year, the two became “official.”

“We started dating two weeks before school ended, the night of the Honors formal,” Ashley said.

But then Jeff spent the summer in Williamsburg, Va., at a teachers’ institute internship, and then Ashley spent that fall semester studying in Madrid, Spain.

Three weeks after Ashley returned from Spain, Jeff proposed to her.

“I took her to my hometown,” Jeff said, originally a resident of Chicago.

He took her to a park, and on a bridge over a pond, got down on one knee. They married the following May.

Although they had only been together during their relationship for five weeks, they already had a long friendship.

“We were really good friends for the whole year before that,” Ashley said.

While students at WKU, the pair were both highly involved in Honors, both when it was a program and as a college. Jeff was an Honors Development Board representative, an HonorsTopper, and a resident assistant in the Gatton Academy, while Ashley was a student worker for the Honors College, and also an HonorsTopper and Honors Development Board representative.

Currently, they reside in Owensboro, Ashley’s hometown. Ashley works at WKU’s Owensboro campus and Jeff manages a Kmart, but they are both looking for teaching jobs.

According to Ashley, her favorite part about WKU was the Honors College itself, and Jeff agrees.

“We were able to get involved,” said Ashley about what the Honors College allowed her to do.

For Jeff, the community of the Honors College is what stuck out to him the most.

“All of our friends were in the Honors College,” Jeff said.

The two each learned valuable life lessons through the college.

According to Ashley, the most important thing she learned was leadership, which she gained through “creating and establishing a lot of programs.”

Similarly, because Jeff was so involved with new programs, he gained critical thinking and planning skills.

“It really made us think…We were actually doing things that were going to affect the college for a long time,” said Jeff, who helped plan the first Honors formal and H4 retreat.

The advice of Jeff and Ashley Sorce adequately represent their most treasured memories at Western and in the Honors College:

“Get as involved as you can,” Ashley said. “That’s what I remember most.”

Jeff agrees, stressing the importance of treasuring your time at Western.

“You will miss it the second you’re not there,” he said.
The Times, They are A’Changing

CRISTEN FRIDDELL
Areté staff writer

The Honors College at WKU is moving toward a new step: core curriculum Honors classes.

“What I would like to stress, is that this is just a proposed plan,” said Dr. Clay Motley, the assistant director of academics at the Honors College. “It’s not yet in place. It has to be approved.

Dr. Motley said that the proposed core classes would line up with the university’s core curriculum, and they would make up approximately 16 hours of requirements.

“We are not adding extra hours for Honors students,” he said.

As a move toward this proposed plan, the Honors College has recently hired two faculty members to help with the program: Nathan Phelps and Dr. Paul Markham.

“We have big hopes,” said Dr. Markham, assistant professor of Honors interdisciplinary studies.

Dr. Motley hopes that these changes will give “unique character to the Honors College.”

Lindsey Westerfield, the coordinator of scholar recruitment at the Honors College, began her Honors career as a student in 2003, when it was just the Honors Program.

“It provides the opportunity for a senior to walk up to a freshman and say ‘have you taken this class yet? This is what I learned from it,’” he said.

The format of the classes will also be different for traditional classes, alternating between a lecture from various professors and a small group meeting and discussion.

If all goes as planned, Dr. Markham will teach one of the classes, currently titled Citizen and Self, which is designed to give students a better understanding of what they can do to give back to their community.

“Teaching at a public institution, we all have a responsibility to teach students how their planning matters,” Dr. Markham said. “Honors students have a lot of opportunities.”

The program is expected to be introduced gradually over the course of the next couple years, giving time for problems to be worked out and the system to be perfected, Dr. Motley said.

“The students are doing wonderful things,” Dr. Cobane said. “I believe in them.”