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WKU Honors Program

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The Honorable Mention

University Honors Program

Students Serve On Honors Committee

One student from each class is elected each year to serve with the eight faculty members on the Honors Program Committee. This year's representatives are freshman April Hicks, sophomore Eddie Goggans, junior Michelle Nye, and senior Kelli Smith. Let your representatives know your views on Honors Program issues. The Honors Committee meets the first Monday of each month at 4 p.m. in the Garrett Conference Center Memorial Room. Meetings are open.

Representatives Kelli Smith and Michelle Nye

LauraLee Wilson Elected To NCHC Executive Committee

LauraLee Wilson, a junior pre-med honors student, was one of three students elected in December to the Executive Committee of the National Collegiate Honors Council. NCHC is comprised of Honors Programs from over 500 Universities and Colleges across America. As a member of the Executive Committee, LauraLee will help govern NCHC for the next two years.

LauraLee plans on a career in pediatric medicine in a rural area. After three years of college work, LauraLee still maintains a 4.0 g.p.a. LauraLee, a "non-traditional" student, is married to Jeff Wilson; their son, Christopher, is eleven.

Thesis Seminar Planned

Beginning a senior thesis is the hardest part! How do you find a topic? How do you get started? How do you get yourself organized? How do you work with your thesis director? How do you know if you are making good progress? On Wednesday, February 12th, at 3:30 P.M., in the Garrett Memorial Room, Dr. Rutledge, two of our senior thesis students, and Dr. McFarland will talk with all sophomore honor students about writing senior theses. Junior honors students are strongly urged to attend, and all other interested students are invited.
**Honors Roundtable: The Varieties of Kentucky Music**

WKU Honors Program will host the Kentucky Honors Roundtable program on January 31-February 1. The program will present many forms of music which have developed in Kentucky. The program will include lectures and live performances, as well as records and tapes of Kentucky music from earlier periods. The program schedule is as follows:

**Friday, January 31, 1992**

- **5:00 p.m.** Sign-in for students, room assignments.
- **6:00 p.m.** Pizza dinner for all participating students.
- **7:00 p.m.** Kentucky Shaker Music
  - The South Union Shaker Quartet.
- **8:15 p.m.** Traditional Kentucky Bluegrass
  - The Wittinghill Family Band.
- **9:30 p.m.** Student "jam" session for all who play.

**Saturday, February 1, 1992**

- **8:30 a.m.** Continental Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m.** A History of Appalachian Music
  - Dr. Erika Brady, WKU Professor of Folk Studies.
- **10:15 a.m.** Kentucky Gospel Music
  - Dr. Lynwood Montell, author of *Singing the Glory Down*, Head of WKU Department of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies.
- **11:15 a.m.** The Kentucky Music Exhibit
  - Kentucky Museum
  - Ms. Connie Mills, Librarian.
- **12:15 p.m.** Lunch.

1:00 p.m. Honors Student Meeting.

2:00 p.m. Arnold Shultz and the Roots of Kentucky Blues

3:15 p.m. Jugbands and Commercial Music
- Dr. Charles Wolfe, author of *Kentucky Country: Folk and Country Music of Kentucky*, Professor of folk studies at Middle Tennessee State.

4:15 p.m. Wrap-up.

Several Honors students, chaired by Kelli Smith, have worked hard on the program. The program should be fun and informative, and we hope you will plan on attending. We also need your help in hosting the Honors students who will be here from across Kentucky and sharing the Western spirit. In particular, we need places for visiting students to sleep on the night of Friday, January 31. If you have a bed or floorspace in your room (they will bring sleeping bags) and are willing to help, please call the honors office (745-2081).
Honors Parents Association Initiated

The Honors Parents Association was begun in the Fall. Parents and spouses of Honors students may join the association with any contribution to the Honors Program. Contributions are tax deductible. Service contributions also qualify one for membership. Members receive the Student Honors Research Bulletin, The Honorable Mention, and invitations to Honors Forums and events. All funds contributed to the Honors Parents Association are used to fund student research and activities. The following parents are now members: Mr. & Mrs. David Flynn, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Heidbrink, Mr. & Mrs. James Hollon, Mr. & Mrs. Danny Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Goggans, Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Mabrey, Mr. & Mrs. Gibson, Mr. & Mrs. Ted Brann, Mrs. Marilyn Mason, Mr. Lee Thomas Sparks. The Honors Program is indebted to these parents for their support.

Honors Forums Planned For Spring

Evening discussions with faculty researchers and others are being planned about once every three weeks for the spring semester. Each forum will be held in Garrett Conference Center 100 at 7:00 p.m. The following programs are now scheduled:

January 28: Coping With Stress as a High-Achieving Student by Dr. Richard Miller, Department of Psychology. Dr. Miller has lectured widely on issues coping with stress.
February 11: Vision and the Elderly: Implications for Living and Driving by Dr. Karlene Ball, Department of Psychology. Dr. Ball is one of America's leading researchers on the loss and retention of vision among the elderly. Her research was recently cited by the Senate Appropriations Committee for work on solving the problem of driving accidents among the elderly.
March 3: Damage to the Ozone Layer: The Latest Research and Prospects by Dr. Tom Coohill, Department of Physics. The Head of Western's Physics and Astronomy Department, Dr. Coohill is recognized internationally as an expert on ozone depletion.

These Honors Forums are great opportunities to hear about interesting research by Western faculty and to discuss important issues with other guests. Honors Students are encouraged to attend. Friends who are not in the Honors Program are also welcomed.

Graduate Scholarship Help Available

The Honors Program wants to help honors students in applying for Graduate fellowships and scholarships. The Honors Program office has a copy of The Graduate Scholarship Book, Second Edition, which lists thousands of scholarship opportunities. Honors students may browse through it at the Honors office any afternoon. Students may also become familiar with the prestigious fellowships for which they might compete, such as the Truman Fellowships, Fulbright Scholarships, or scholarships offered by Phi Kappa Phi and by the Golden Key National Honor Society.
On October 31, 1991, Western’s Board of Regents gave final approval to our new Honors Program curriculum. This new curriculum, which will go into effect in the Fall, 1992, will be more demanding than the current general Honors curriculum, but more flexible than the University Scholars curriculum we have now. We sincerely thank all the faculty and students who worked so hard in developing the new program. Elisa Leibering and Eddie Goggins deserve particular thanks; they attended almost every committee meeting and contributed so much in thinking through our options, throwing out weak ideas and suggesting good ones.

Specifically, the program will require:

-- A minimum of 21 hours of Honors credits, including:

  -- At least 12 hours of honors general education courses. At least six of these hours must be from new courses offered in the new Category G of general education which will be entitled Honors Studies. Courses in this category will be open only to Honors Program students and to others who qualify for Honors.

  -- At least two 1.5 hour honors colloquia (freshman or sophomore level) and/or special topic seminars (junior level). Each colloquia or seminar will offer credit in Category G, Honors Studies.

  -- A 6-hour senior thesis, usually written in one’s major. Some majors may require a 3-hour thesis instead.

-- Honors students may take three fewer hours than other students in each of the general education categories A, B, C, D, and F and substitute an equal number of hours in Category G, Honors Studies.

-- General education courses in categories A through F which are offered once each year for Honors Credit will be starred in every printing of General Education Requirements so that Honors students can effectively plan their Honors program.

-- A new freshman must have a high school GPA of at least 3.5 and a composite ACT of at least 25. A college GPA of 3.2 will qualify a student to begin or continue in the Honors Program. These qualifications are higher than the ACT of 23 or college GPA of 3.0 which are required now.

-- All students who begin the Honors Program in the Fall, 1992 or later must follow the new curriculum and admission standards. Currently enrolled Honors students may either follow the present 12-hour curriculum and admission standards or transfer to the new program.

We believe that the new curriculum offers the framework for a truly great Honors Program. We are still developing and selecting the courses for Category G, but we will let you know about particular courses as soon as they are passed by the Academic Council.
Fall Semester Proves Successful

By Scott Sively

This fall the Honors Program gave its members several opportunities to meet each other, meet with faculty, and to experience the finer cultural activities around the area. The semester was kicked off with an orientation and picnic. This took place on the first day of classes. It familiarized everyone with upcoming events. There was also a chance for people new to the program to meet others.

On September 26 some honors students attended Shakespeare's A Midsummer's Night Dream at Horse Cave Theatre. Before leaving for the performance, they were treated to lasagna, a tossed salad and cookies at Covington Woods Park.

The first annual Honors Faculty Tea was held on October 16. The tea honored certain members of Western's faculty. This was an excellent opportunity for honors students to meet various professors.

A fun and exciting Christmas party wrapped up the fall semester. This was a good time for Honors students to socialize and mingle, as well as test their knowledge in a game of Trivial Pursuit. A good time was had by all who attended.

There are many more things to look forward to in the near future. Everyone is encouraged to take part in upcoming spring activities to help make this semester successful.

Students Want Honors Housing

The results of the Honors Housing Poll found that many honor students are interested in an all-honors dorm floor. The results are as follows:

1. Does the idea of an honors dorm or floor sound like something you would want to be a part of?
   - YES: 86%
   - NO: 14%

2. Would location be a factor in your decision?
   - YES: 70%
   - NO: 26%

3. Would you prefer co-ed?
   - YES: 78%
   - NO: 18%

4. Which location would be most convenient?
   - Barnes-Campbell & Bemis-Lawrence 14%
   - North & West (or East) 6%
   - One co-ed floor in Schneider Hall 74%

5. Is air conditioning a vital part in your decision?
   - YES: 64%
   - NO: 32%

The Honors Program is currently negotiating a plan with the Housing Department. Although Schneider Hall is not available due to a long waiting list, several other possibilities do exist.

-Holly Coffman
Emily Shrider

Worth Bragging About

David Sparks, a senior pre-law and business major, won first place in the Business Principles competition at Phi Beta Lambda’s national convention in Washington D.C., in July of 1990. At the 1991 convention in Anaheim, California, David Sparks, Michelle Birdwhistle, and Eugene Cline placed second in the nation in the Business Decision Making Competition. Phi Beta Lambda is a professional business fraternity for students.
Three Complete Senior Theses

In December, three Honors students completed their requirements for the Honors Program when they successfully defended their Honors Theses. The students and their theses were:

Arthur Penn, A Review and Examination of the Causes of the Mexican American War, 1846-1848.

Michelle Clark Rogers, The Pepper Commission: Judgments from Various Parties.

Mark Crosslin, The Emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

We congratulate each of these students for their excellent work.

Research Grants Awarded For Honors Theses

At its November meeting, the Honors Committee awarded research grants for Senior Honors Theses to:

Anne Elise Clark, The Effects of Dietary Linseed Oil on the Immune Responses of Young Pigs to Pasteurella Multocida Type A and Sheep Red Blood Cells.

Mark Crosslin, The Emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.


STAMPEDE OF SWANS

Watching her crying,
and her tears fall like a
kaleidoscope.
A multitude of color
and her eyelids lower in shame.
I hear the stampede of swans in
her heart,
and I weep.
For her sadness is
absolution.
Listen for her hurting,
watch it,
know it,
for it will ultimately be yours.

-- Stacey Sergeant

FINAL CRY

Give me one good reason
and I just might change my mind
Show me there is an answer
that I just can't find

Nothing outweighs this emptiness
nor the hollow within my soul
and nothing can compare
to the hope that I had stole

This withered petal is falling
from its rooted flower
Bit by bit it is tearing
just give it one more hour

My eyes are growing weary
and darkness is closing in
shadows dance around me
Please forgive this sin

-- April Hicks
Governor’s Scholars Advisor Jobs Available

Kentucky’s Governor’s Scholars Program is looking for good college students to work as resident advisors next summer. Priority is given to upper division students, students with resident advisor experience, and probably to former Governor’s Scholars and honors students. Pay is $1,600 plus room and board for the six weeks. Interested students should come by the Honors Office immediately. Application deadline is January 27th.

Honors Studies Overseas Planned

The two overseas study opportunities described below are designed especially for honors students. Any interested honors student should contact the Honors office for further details.

Czechoslovakia 1991: A Living Laboratory in European Economic, Politics and Culture. Sponsored by the National Collegiate Honors Council. September 9 - December 18, 1992. Offers 16 hours credit in Czech literature, history and economics as well as European history and economics. Study and live in Prague and Olomouc. Total cost is $3600, but some scholarship help is available.

Study at Oxford University, Oxford, England. August 15-29, 1992. Excursions to London, Stratford-on-Avon, Stonehenge and other historic sites. Choose either History of the English Language or English Literature and Life II and earn 3 hours credit. Cost is $1,750. Reading list must be completed before departure for England to provide time for on-site activities.

Scholars Take Chicago By Storm

By Julie Grundy

For five university scholars, a trip to Chicago was a matter of life or death.

The students presented a mock trial dealing with euthanasia at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference from October 31 to November 3, 1991.

Juniors Michelle Nye, Laura Lee Wilson, and Elisa Leibering did all of the research on the subject which is printed in the Student Honors Research Bulletin.

Wilson, Nye and Leibering, all pre-med students, said that all of their work has paid off. "This was a topic of interest to us all, and through our research we have helped others as well as ourselves learn more about euthanasia," Wilson said.

The group began their research as a project for their sophomore colloquium. Wilson said it grew from there and that "We got so excited about it that we just kept working harder and harder at it."

Sophomore Eddie Goggans, freshman Julie Grundy and Dr. Sam McFarland also attended the conference. Everyone had a part to play in the mock trial concerning a mercy killing. The jury was picked from people who attended the sessions.

"It went well," Wilson said. "The exchange of opinions and values was incredible."

While at the conference, the group attended other sessions presented by fellow honor students and professors. They also enjoyed a few of the sites and sounds of Chicago.

Trivia Tidbit

Q. What do St. Edwards University, West Liberty State College, and Western Kentucky University have in common?
A. They are all known as "Hilltoppers."
Upcoming Events:
Details Inside

January 28  Coping With Stress
Dr. Richard Miller

January 31  Kentucky Music

February 11  Vision and Aging
Dr. Karlene Ball

February 12  Thesis Seminar

March 3  Damage to the Ozone
Dr. Tom Coohill

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If interested in being on the staff of The Honorable Mention, or if you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Lori Spear at 745-3430 or Dr. Sam McFarland at 745-2081.

University Honors Program
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