Summer 1997

UA35/11 The Honorable Mention

WKU Honors Program

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HSS Welcomes Freshmen

The officers of the Honors Student Society are looking forward to another year of activities! For those of you who do not know, the Honors Student Society is an organization open to all honors students that provides various opportunities and activities throughout the year. To find out more about HSS, you can attend the sessions during MasterPlan and come to our first meeting on August 27. We already have several events planned for the fall semester. But, the officers cannot do everything by themselves. I would encourage all honors students to attend the meetings and participate in the activities to make it easier and more fun for everybody. In addition to the meetings and events, we are planning on having fundraising activities and community service opportunities. With improved participation, this year can be both successful and fun. If you have any questions about HSS, please contact me at (765)825-0732. Have a great summer, and I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

--Michael Blair, HSS President

Honors Student Society Officers

The 1997-1998 Honors Student Society officers are

Michael Blair, President
Melissa Willard, Vice President
Katie Leitner, Secretary/Treasurer

Pizza Party!!!

The Honors Student Society will kick off the semester by hosting a pizza party on August 19 at 7:30 p.m. in Rodes-Harlin Rec Room. All honors students are invited to attend. Cost will be only $2.00 per person. This will be a great opportunity to meet new freshmen and other honors students, get acquainted with everyone on your floor, and start finding out the real scoop on Western!

Membership cards for those who have paid their dues to HSS will also be distributed. If you have questions about the Honors Student Society, call Michael Blair at (765) 825-0732, Melissa Willard at (502) 348-2530, or Katie Leitner at (502) 459-7808.

Important Reminders for Honors Freshmen

-- Copies of the honors Student Handbook, 1997-1998 will be handed out in all honors classes this fall. If you miss getting one, be sure to pick one up at the honors office.

-- To stay on schedule toward completing the honors curriculum, take three hours of honors credit per semester.

-- If you are not enrolled for Honors Freshman Year Experience (UC 101) you are strongly encouraged to do so. However, this course is not required.

-- Learn to use e-mail. The honors program uses it often to distribute information, discuss concerns, etc.

Honors E-mail Listserv

Computer network accounts are automatically created for all honors students. Your account name consists of up to the first five letters of your last name followed by your initials @wku.edu. (Kelly Anne Todd’s account is toddka@wku.edu). A one-page instruction sheet on using your account will be distributed to all honors students at the beginning of the fall term.

Messages may be sent to all honors students through the listserv, but only from the honors office. Anyone wanting to send a message to all honors students should send it to sam.mcFarland@wku.edu or lisa.beaty@wku.edu, or bring it to the honors office.

Waiting for Godot

On Tuesday, September 9, the honors program will host our annual picnic and trip to Horse Cave Theater. We will picnic at Covington Woods Park at 5 p.m. and depart at 6:15 p.m. for the 7:30 performance of Samuel Beckett’s Waiting for Godot. Godot presents an existential blending of comedy and tragedy, and is regarded as one of the most important plays of this century. Food and tickets will be provided by the honors program, but cars will be needed to drive to Horse Cave.

This annual outing is great fun, and all honors students are invited. If you can go, notify the honors office by Monday, September 1. Also let us know if you can drive and take others.
Assistant Director Doug McElroy
Welcome (back) to Western, and let me introduce myself as the new Assistant Honors Director. I'm an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology, where I teach evolution, biostatistics, and the honors section of Biological Concepts. One of my main tasks in the honors program will be to help honors students compete for national postgraduate scholarships, but I will also be available to help students with any need. Please come by my honors office in Garrett 107 and introduce yourself, or visit my office/lab in 207 TCNW (especially if you're interested in science research opportunities).

Honors MasterPlan Activities
Honors freshmen attending MasterPlan are invited to participate in the following activities:
August 13, 11:30 a.m. -- Lunch with honors faculty and students
August 14, 11:30 a.m. -- Faculty mentoring and lunch with honors faculty
August 14, 3:00 p.m. -- Informal meeting with returning honors students
Freshmen may still enroll in MasterPlan. For a brochure, call Residence Life, 745-2037.

University Honors Committee:
The Honors Committee, which oversees all aspects of the honors program, consists of eight faculty members and four students. Two faculty members are appointed by each of the deans of the four undergraduate colleges to serve two-year terms; the four students are elected to represent the four undergraduate classes.
For 1997-1998, the eight faculty members are:
Business College:
Catherine Carey, Economics
Brian Sullivan, Management
Potter College:
Larry Snyder, Philosophy and Religion
Elizabeth Oakes, English
Ogden College:
Tom Green, Chemistry
Bettina Richmond, Mathematics
College of Education:
Elizabeth Lemerise, Psychology
Julia Roberts, Teacher Education

Honors Committee Elections
The ballot for the Honors Committee election for returning students is enclosed. To vote, returning students should vote for the member of your class and return the ballot to the honors office by Friday, August 22.
Freshmen, if you would like to serve on the University Honors Committee, please send a 100-word statement to the Honors Program by August 13. Your statement will introduce you to your fellow honors students and give them some basis for voting. You may describe your high school achievements, your college plans and long-term goals, or why you would like to serve on the Honors Committee. Candidates' statements will be printed on an election ballot and distributed at fall classes.

Election of the freshman representative will be held the first week of classes. Candidates will be introduced during Honors Freshman Year Experience and allowed to make additional comments. Student input on this Committee is vital, so don't hesitate to run if you would like to make an important contribution to the honors program.

Senior Theses Completed
The following students recently completed their senior theses.

Erica Arvin, a major in public relations, wrote "Local Web, Niche Publications and Their Entrance into The Bowling Green Market," directed by Dr. Cliff Shaluta.

Biology major Michelle Browning wrote "Making a Positive Change in the Lives of Families: Using Grant Writing to Establish Two Parenting-Education Programs," directed by Dr. Dawn Bolton and Dr. Brian Sullivan.

Joseph Ellis, a history major, wrote "Through the Eyes of Warriors Vietnam vs. Desert Storm: The Veteran's Perspective," directed by Dr. Jack Thacker.

Biology major Lori Haycraft's thesis on "A Review of the History, Legal Challenges, Biochemistry, and Effects of Halcion" was directed by Dr. Robert Hoyt.

Honors graduates who attended a reception in their honor were Erica Arvin, Nicole Hodson, Amanda Moore, Lori Haycraft, Michelle Browning, Larisa Keith, Diana Werkman, Lisa Simmons, Joe Ellis, Pam Howell, Krista Knaul, Joey Oakes, Lee Hunt, Josh Swetnam, Luke Wingfield, Johnathan Whetstone, and Marcus Vanover. Honors Director Sam McFarland is pictured at back left.
Creative writing major Nicole Hodson’s senior thesis was a collection of short stories and poems entitled “Outside My Bedroom Window,” directed by Drs. Pat Carr and Pat Taylor.


Lee Hunt, majoring in history, wrote “The Dissent and Its Change,” directed by Dr. Patricia Minter.

Geography major Larisa Keith wrote on “The Relationship Between Selected Meteorological/Pollution Parameters and the Number of Hospital Admissions for Asthma Attacks in the Bowling Green, Kentucky Area for 1994,” directed by Dr. Michael Trapasso.

Krista Knaul, a government major, wrote a thesis entitled “Nationalism in the Post-Cold War World,” directed by Dr. Steven Boilard.


Government major Amanda Moore wrote “Using Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to Combat Environmental Injustice,” directed by Drs. Carol Graham and Brian Sullivan.

Joseph Oakes, a government major, wrote “A World Federal State: A Study of the Progression of Civilization and a Recommendation for the Future,” directed by Dr. Steve Boilard.

History major Shannon Peterson’s thesis was on “Under the Cover of Apathy: The Struggle for Equality in Bowling Green, Kentucky,” and was directed by Dr. Patricia Minter.

Kelly Prince, majoring in government, wrote on “Internet Politics and Cyberparties: Revolutionizing America Democracy,” directed by Dr. Steve Boilard.


Lisa Simmons, an accounting major, wrote “Giving Credits Where Credits Are Due: Revising the Scripts on Hollywood’s Books,” directed by Dr. Nace Magner.

Joshua Swetnam, a psychology major, wrote “Gangs and Gang Activity in a Non-Metropolitan Area: The Perceptions of Students, Teachers, and Police Officers” was directed by Dr. Jacqueline Pope-Torrence.

Sociology major Marcus Vanover wrote on “Child Poverty in Central Appalachia: The Battle for a Better McCreary County,” directed by Dr. Craig Taylor.

Environmental science major Chris Wedding’s thesis “An Analysis of Two Tests for Diesel Contamination in the Environment When Considering the Impact of Hydrocarbon-Degrading Bacteria” was directed by Dr. Larry Elliott.

Diana Werkman, a history major, wrote “One Lone Voice: John Marshall Harlan and the Constitutional Rights of African Americans,” directed by Dr. Patricia Minter.

Chemistry major Johnathan Whetstine wrote on “The Resolution of Chiral Dialkylsulfonium Ions by HNMR Spectroscopy,” directed by Dr. Tom Green.

Luke Wingfield’s senior thesis “Kentucky’s Crumbling Constitutional Foundation: A Look at the Problems Inherent in Kentucky’s Constitution and How to Correct Them” was directed by Dr. Carl Chelf.

Summer Sizzlers!

Stephanie Cosby is attending the MCAT DAT Undergraduate Training Conference at the University of Louisville.

Amy Easley is lifeguarding at Tates Creek swimming pool in Lexington.

Sandy Haile is taking classes at Western and beginning her senior thesis.

Heather Hardesty is a research assistant to Dr. Joe Bilotta in Western’s Neuroscience Lab, employed by a grant from Kentucky NSF-EPSCOR.

Kelly Mayfield is working in the dean’s office in Potter College.

Scott Myers is doing research in molecular virology as part of Baylor University’s summer internship program.

Brad Pearson is working with gifted students at a summer camp on campus.

Sarah Sutherland is a summer intern at the University of Louisville Medical School, learning histological techniques and studying environmental effects on the development of zebrafish retinas.

Helen Yeoman is dancing in Oklahoma and The Young Abe Lincoln at Lincoln Amphitheater at Lincoln State Park in Indiana.

Honors Housing

Honors housing for women is overflowing, and unfortunately not all incoming freshmen honors women who requested honors housing have received it. Priority was determined by the application date. Those not assigned to Rodes-Harlin are on a waiting list and will be assigned if and when spaces become available.

As of July 11, a few spaces were still available for males wanting honors housing. If you are interested, please notify the honors office.
Kentucky Honors Roundtable (KHR)
The fall meeting of KHR will be held Friday and Saturday, October 3 and 4, at Murray State University. As in recent Roundtables, about 120 honors students from across Kentucky are expected to attend and present their academic papers and creative works. Entertainment and a student party will be held on Friday evening, and the presentations will be given on Saturday. The WKU participants will travel by university van, leaving campus at noon on Friday; returning on Saturday evening.

Returning students: If you would like to submit a presentation for the fall Roundtable, please deliver a title and a 100-word abstract to the honors office no later than Friday, September 12. Thirteen Western honors students participated in the spring Roundtable at the University of Louisville, and we hope as many will take part at the fall meeting.

Incoming freshmen: Roundtables are great fun, and if you would like to attend the fall Roundtable, please notify the honors office by Friday, September 12.

All expenses are covered by the honors program.

Fall Break Trip
The annual fall break trip, October 8 - 11, will be to Atlanta this year. Vans will depart at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, October 9 and return on Saturday evening, October 11. Atlanta features the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, the Science and Technology Museum of Atlanta (ranked as one of the top ten science centers in the U.S.), Stone Mountain, and the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change -- not to mention the World of Coca-Cola, the world's largest collection of Coke memorabilia. Details and costs for the trip will be known early in the fall term.

Fall Honors Activities
(Details inside or forthcoming)
August 14. Honors activities for freshmen attending MASTER Plan week.
August 19. Honors Student Society pizza party, 7:30 p.m., Rodes-Harlin recreation room.
August 27. The first meeting of the Honors Student Society.
September 5. Honors Student Society picnic.
September 9. The traditional honors trip to Horse Cave Theater.
October 8-11. Fall break trip to Atlanta.
November 8. Honors Student Society semi-formal dance.

University Honors Program
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Bowling Green, KY 42101