The Honors Report

From the desk of…

Dr. Vicky Bowden
Director of the Honors Program

One of the four themes of the APU Academic Vision is Transformational Scholarship. This has been defined as follows:

The scholarly process at Azusa Pacific University should be an ongoing endeavor that fosters a culture of inquiry, informed by faith; involves students; contributes to the quality of teaching, research, and scholarship; and has a direct and lasting impact on learning. The products and processes of scholarly activities will be diverse, reflecting the strengths of each discipline as well as individual gifts.

The Honors Program has made a conscious and directed effort to support student activities that will foster a culture of inquiry and help engage students in scholarly activities. The Honors Colloquia course is a clear example of our commitment to expose students to the processes and products of scholarship on the APU campus. Students can select from more than 50 events on and off campus to expand their cultural horizons and engage in critical inquiry in topics they might not have otherwise pursued during their academic course of study at APU.

The Honors Program is also committed to offering opportunities for students to engage in scholarly activities that reflect the work they have completed in a course or under the mentorship of faculty at APU. For example Common Day of Learning (CDL) supports an Honors Paper Competition (see flyer in this newsletter). The three winners of that competition receive a monetary reward, present at the CDL and their papers are published in a special CDL monograph called Gratia Eruditionis.

The Honors Program also encourages students to attend state and national conferences to present their scholarly work. The Honors Program collaborates with Undergraduate Scholarship to provide most of the funding for student presenters to attend these conferences. Last year we had 6 students attend the National Collegiate Honors Council conference. This year students Matthew Atha and Daniel Atwell have attended the conference accompanied by Dr. Alan Oda. In the spring, students will have the opportunity to attend and present at the Western Regional Honors conference in Park City, Utah March 31st- April 2nd, 2011. Dr. Marcia Berry will accompany the students who will be presenting. Last year three Honors students presented at the conference. Many Honors students are also members of Alpha Chi Honors Society. Last year four Honors students accompanied me to the conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. Three of these students won a monetary award for their presentations. This year the conference will be in San Diego on March 31st- April 2nd, 2010. Honors student Margarita Ramirez is the regional student representative for Alpha Chi, and I hope several of you will consider submitting a proposal and joining Margarita and I at this conference.

Lastly, for the past five years the Honors Program has awarded the Gerald Wilson Award to an outstanding senior who demonstrates distinctive and original contributions in one or more of the following areas: 1) scholarship and research (including critical articles, creative writing, research projects, artistic, dramatic, or musical performances); 2) faith integration; and 3) service. The honoree receives a stipend for the purpose of building the student’s library, and a citation explaining who Gerald Wilson was and the purpose of the stipend.

Watch your emails for notices about upcoming Honors Colloquia events, the CDL activities and opportunities to present at conferences. I hope that you will take advantage of the many opportunities to engage in transformational scholarship during your time in the honors Program at APU. We want to support your desires to learn and grow in your discipline.
Welcome to our new
Honors Program Advisory Board!

Juliana Cooper • Victoria Pennell • Michelle Bonja • Matthew Morrison • Meagan Seredinski
(not pictured) Matthew Atha • Andrew Soria • Kendall Paulson • Christy Parrish

Your representatives in both the Office and the Advisory Board hope that you will contact them regarding any and all concerns in the Honors Program!

In the Office

Vicky Bowden, RN, DNSc    Director
Rachel Hastings    Program Coordinator
Heather Murphy    Student Worker
Chelsea Ebersole    Student Worker
Emily Akkerman    Student Worker

Our office is located on East Campus, on the bottom floor of Wynn Academic Center, Suite 1.

Office hours: 8:30 to 4:30pm, Mon-Fri
Phone: 626-857-2408
Fax: 626-815-3895
Email: APUHonors@apu.edu

To left: our lovely student workers!
Interested in graduate school?

If so, you should apply for membership in the Pew College Society at APU, which helps outstanding students gain acceptance into graduate school. The program provides various services to prospective graduate students, including mentoring, grad school selection materials, and some financial assistance. Write to Dr. Joseph Bentz, director of the Pew College Society, at jbentz@apu.edu to request an application.

**PEW College Society Event**

**Writing the Graduate School Essay Workshop**

**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 7 to 9:00 p.m., President's Dining Room

**Description:** One of the crucial steps in applying to graduate school is writing the personal essay that accompanies most applications. This workshop will offer hands-on training in how to write that essay. Attendance will be limited, but those who participate will receive a copy of Donald Asher's book, *Graduate Admissions Essays*. To sign up, please contact Dr. Joseph Bentz at jbentz@apu.edu.

Where are our Honors students studying abroad?

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ellie Hipple</td>
<td>Oxford</td>
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<td>Kelsey Faul</td>
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<td>Margarita Ramirez</td>
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<td>Megan Vanderkamp</td>
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<td>Sarah White</td>
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<td>Andrew Wall</td>
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<td>Aimee Morton</td>
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<td>Katie Stutts</td>
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<td>Tyler Welch</td>
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<td>Marielle Kipps</td>
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<td>Laurel Zheng</td>
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Are YOU interested in studying abroad?

Students can receive up to 9 Honors credits while studying in Oxford, and up to 8 Honors credits while studying in High Sierra.

Please contact the Center for Global Learning and Engagement for additional information.

Congratualtions to Katherine Hazdovac, an Honors Program December 2010 Graduate!
The air is cool and crisp. The wind swirls along the sidewalk stirring up the amber-colored leaves that litter the pavement. As the sun sets, the neon lights illuminate and the sounds of soulful blues and lively jazz fill the streets as the local venues open up for another night of great music. This quiet city tucked away in America’s heartland is Kansas City, Missouri: the home of jazz great Charlie Parker, the center of the bebop movement, and the host of this year’s National Collegiate Honors Conference.

The annual event draws hundreds of students, staff and faculty from across the country, including junior music major Daniel Atwell, psychology professor Dr. Alan Oda and myself, for four days of student research presentations, networking and sharing ideas with other programs.

This year’s conference was entitled “Rhythm and Currents,” emphasizing the role of jazz in the history and culture of Kansas City and the role improvisation can play in honors programs. Daniel served as a student moderator over two student panels which focused on the history of jazz in the city and how it reflected the cultural movements of the day. Other presentations included “Music in the Honors Classroom,” “Setting a Rhythm for Discussion in Honors,” and a plenary session with ethnomusicologist Paul Berliner.

As an interdisciplinary research conference, students from all fields of study have the opportunity to present their work to other students and faculty through poster sessions and panel discussions. Topics ranged from “Water Quality of a Tropical Watershed” to “Gypsy Identity in Poetry” to “The Burqa and the French Identity.” These presentations not only acknowledge students’ excellence in research but provide them with experience that they can use to build their resumes for graduate school.

For myself, the experience was invaluable in helping me further my own skills in research. I presented a paper on the future of NATO in Europe, that grew out of my international relations tutorial last semester at APU’s Oxford semester. At the conference, I received valuable critiques and suggestions from several faculty and students as to how to move forward with my research, while also challenging me to explain and defend my work. In all, I came away with an even better understanding of my own arguments and how to better depict them in my paper should I continue researching.

One of the most interesting sessions for me was from a public university who was considering how to use students’ experience on short term missions in the classroom and in their honors program. Although not all of the suggestions and programs discussed would work for our honors program, they do provide us with opportunities to evaluate and improve aspects of our program.

Although much of our time was spent in sessions and presentations, the weekend was not without its adventures. Daniel and I took some time to explore the history of jazz in Kansas City ourselves and visited the American Jazz Museum, located in the historic 18th and Vine district of the city. A trip to Kansas City is not complete without some authentic KC BBQ, so the three of us went to a Kansas City legend: Oklahoma Joes, a no-nonsense BBQ joint located in a gas station.

Next year’s conference will be held in Phoenix, Arizona and students interested in submitting a presentation for consideration should connect now with a professor in a relevant field who can coach and guide you through the research project.
Honors Colloquia: 
Throwing out all your expectations

By Alyssa Hetschel (2013)

It’s a Friday night. It’s my first weekend at college. I don’t know anyone. I think back to my cool new dorm room and how I would prefer be there instead. And yet, I find myself on a bus, with no one sitting next to me, to check a box off of my academic “to-do” list. I’m about to watch a two hour performance of Brazilian music called “Rockin’ Rio” at the Hollywood Bowl. The music starts playing and the lights start flashing and I’m immediately thrown into an entirely different culture that is unfamiliar to me. Two hours later, I’m on a bus heading back to APU. However, this time I had someone sitting next to me and we were excitedly chatting about what we had just experienced. I had just completed my very first (of many) honors colloquia events.

The Honors Program at APU was not what I expected at all. Used to being in Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) classes, I was preparing for something similar with rigorous courses and competitive students. However, my very first experience with the Honors Program happened to be an ice cream social with the faculty/staff of the program. Ice cream? With professors? Sweet (no pun intended)! That same night, I went to the Hollywood Bowl with 30 other honors students to fulfill one of our three colloquia event requirements for the semester. After that marvelous night, I threw all of my expectations about the Honors Program out the door. I realized this program exists for students to further their learning outside of the classroom while being challenged not just academically, but emotionally and mentally.

The honors colloquia requirement is a very unique aspect of APU’s Honors Program. My first reaction upon hearing that we even had a requirement like this made me immediately annoyed. I thought the events were going to be a nuisance. However, that assumption (like many others) was crushed to fine dust after my first semester. I was able to attend lectures about science, history, politics, and philosophy given by APU’s incredibly gifted faculty and receive credit towards my colloquia events for going. Furthermore, I was able to see some of the amazing musicals and plays put on by the Theater Department as well as orchestra performances from the School of Music! And while attending those thought-provoking lectures and inspiring musicals I kept thinking, “I am so thankful we have to do this!” I honestly think that if we didn’t have a colloquia requirement, I would never even think about attending the lectures or musical performances. But because of the events, my mind has been opened up to an entirely new world at APU. Even more so, it lets me witness and hear the wonderful things that God is doing through the students and professors.

I am truly grateful for this opportunity to attend the honors colloquia events; it keeps me aware of what is happening around campus as well as allowing me to reflect and process my thoughts about the events. Honors students at APU are in a tight community that are truly loved and cared for by all of the faculty. They encourage us and nurture us through providing amazing opportunities that should not be ignored. And besides, what gets better than a Friday night at the spectacular Hollywood Bowl? ☀️
Western Regional Honors Conference

By Tim Greene (2013)

My heart beats out of my chest. Expecting a small crowd, my eyes bulge as about 50 eager people flood into the presentation room. I have a controversial topic; I am going to present that part of the long-standing evolutionary theory is incorrect. Professors, graduates, seniors, science majors, and even parents are ready and waiting to hear me attack what the secular scientific community has upheld as absolute truth. I imagine a bald professor angrily interrupting my presentation and destroying my ideas. Fortunately, the panic moment passes. I quickly collect myself and accept the challenge in front of me.

Despite my fears, I had an amazing time at the Western Regional Honors Conference. This conference is simply a time of sharing; it’s not a competition. There are no judges, no tight formats, no required meetings, no rules beyond those of common sense, and, last and definitely most, no grades! I love this kind of liberty. I could choose to enjoy a huge variety of presentations. From business scenarios to science affecting golf, I could choose whatever seemed worthwhile. I could sit at the back of a presentation and quietly leave half-way into it. The choices and combinations were seemingly infinite!

I highly recommend those loving this kind of academic liberty to attend the Western Regional Honors Conference! The possibilities are endless!

Honors Program Paper Competition

The Common Day of Learning at Azusa Pacific University is a campus-wide event dedicated to the advancement of scholarship and learning. The event gives students and faculty members an opportunity to share their recent academic discoveries.

The Honors Paper Competition allows honors students to participate in CDL by submitting recent academic research and writing. A faculty review committee will select the top three essays, which will be given a cash stipend, published in a journal, Gratia Eruditionis, and presented at Common Day of Learning.

Entries for the Honors Program Paper Competition for Common Day of Learning 2011 are due December 17, 2010. For more information, visit: http://www.apu.edu/honors/papercompetition
Honors Faculty Accomplishments

Publications

A book, written by Dr. Joseph Bentz, was published.


A book written by Dr. Vicki Bowden, School of Nursing, and two colleagues (2002) was recently translated and published in Indonesian.


An article written by Dr. Heather Ann Ackley Clements, Department of Theology and Philosophy, was published in a journal.


A phone application developed for music students was created for iPhone by Dr. Joel Cliff, School of Music.

Cliff, J. (2010, September). *Music Theory Pro*, iPhone application developed for music students or anyone who wants to learn music that includes exercises for use in music theory and ear training. This application is scheduled for iPhone release in early September.

An article written by Dr. James Daichendt, Department of Art, was published in a journal.


Four articles written by Dr. James Daichendt, Department of Art, were published in three magazines.


Daichendt, G.J. (2010, September). Three founts by Lynn Aldrich at the Armory Center for the Arts [art review]. *ArtScene, 30*(1), 22.


A new version of a book written by Dr. Steve Wilkens, Department of Theology and Philosophy, and colleague Dr. Alan G. Padgett was published in paperback.


A book written by Dr. Steve Wilkens, Department of Theology and Philosophy, and Dr. Don Thorsen, Division of Graduate Theology, was published.

Presentations

A paper written by Dr. Joseph Bentz, Department of English, was presented at a national conference.

Bentz, J. (May 2010). Has the world grown too crazy for Thomas Wolfe or is there hope? Paper presented at the annual national Thomas Wolfe Society Conference, Greenville, SC. Dr. Bentz also played the role of “Narrator” in the Readers Theater Production of Thomas Wolfe’s play Mannerhouse, performed at the annual conference.

A workshop by Dr. Joseph Bentz, Department of English, was presented at a national conference.


A paper written by Dr. Vicky Bowden, School of Nursing, was presented at a regional conference.


A paper, written by Professor Heather Clements, School of Theology, Undergraduate Division, and Ms. Cassandra Shea Esquivel, Undergraduate Senior, was presented at a national conference.


A paper written by Dr. Gary James Daichendt, Department of Art, was presented at an international conference.


Two invited lectures were delivered by Dr. Diana Glyer, Department of English, at special events at other universities.

Glyer, D. P. (2010, October). The fingerprints of C. S. Lewis on the M.A.P. of Middle-earth. Lecture delivered at the Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL.


Awards

Two awards were granted to Dr. Vicky R. Bowden, Director of the Honors Program, School of Nursing, at a national and a regional conference.

Bowden, V. R. (2010, April). The Margaret Miles Distinguished Service Award, Society of Pediatric Nurses. Awarded at the annual conference in Orlando, FL.

Bowden, V. R. (2010, February). The Excellence in Service Award, Orange County Society of Pediatric Nurses. Awarded at the regional conference in Orange, CA.

Many thanks to Heather Murphy for serving as editor of this newsletter.