This fall, both president Dr. Jon Wallace and provost Dr. Mark Stanton shared their vision for the future of APU with staff, faculty and students. Advancing the academic reputation of the university is a central theme in their messages. Dr. Wallace presented the following goal:

**We will have a reputation of academic excellence.**

- We will be experts in faith integration, across every program and discipline.
- We will affirm, celebrate, and reward strong and effective teaching and instruction while we continue to build a culture of scholarship.
- We will actively engage the world in exploring God’s Truth through research and scholarship.
- We will advance God-honoring diversity and internationalization in teaching and scholarship.
- We will be a preferred destination for gifted faculty and students.

As I consider the Honors Program and the students and faculty that comprise the program, it is clear that we have, and will continue, to play a major role in advancing the academic reputation of APU. Let me share with you a few ways in which students and faculty in the Honors Program demonstrate academic excellence:

- In fall 2011 the incoming Honors student had an average high school GPA of 4.104, and a mean SAT of 1319. In the latest issue of APU Life it was shared that the average high school GPA of incoming freshman was 3.62, with a mean SAT of 1,081.
- In May 2011 the average college GPA for the 44 graduating Honors Scholars was 3.729.
- In 2010-2011 the Honors Program and UG Scholarship sponsored the attendance of 8 students to present at national honors conferences. 11 Honors students participated in the paper competition for Common Day of Learning.
- The Honors Program includes 300 students. This represents 4.4% of the UG population at APU. We have been enrolling up to 100 new students for the past 2 years, and thus expect to continue to grow until we represent at least 10% of the UG population at APU.
- The Honors Colloquia courses have ensured the visibility and engagement of Honors students at multiple events across campus including special lectures on diversity, ethics and theology, as well as attendance at theatre, opera, and other special events (such as the Dead Sea Scrolls and the King James Bible Exhibits).

As we (both students and faculty) continue to pursue excellence in this 2011-2012 academic year, let’s remember the APU motto of “God-honoring Excellence”, and ensure that all we do brings honor to God. §
Congratulations to all of our accomplished students!

Congratulations to recent APU Graduate and Honors Scholar

**Benjamin Berk**
for receiving a Fullbright Award!

*Fullbright offers competitive, merit-based grants for students, scholars, teachers, and professionals.*

For more information, visit [http://fulbright.state.gov/programs.html](http://fulbright.state.gov/programs.html)

Congratulations to Senior APU Honors Student

**Emily Ediger**
for receiving a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship!

*Emily will be receiving a scholarship of around $27,000 to travel to South Africa to further her international knowledge and serve as a goodwill ambassador there.*

Congratulations to Freshman APU Honors Student

**Mackenzie Lind**
for receiving third place in writing in the category of short argument for the Freshman Writing Seminar Academic Conference!

Congratulations to Freshman APU Honors Student

**Cassidy Krueger**
for receiving third place in writing in the category of personal essay for the Freshman Writing Seminar Academic Conference!

Did you know that 45 Honors students participated in the Auxilium program this year as Honors Mentors?

**Auxilium**: *noun.* A peer-mentoring program designed to support first semester honors freshman transitioning to APU.

Auxilium mentees: 87 students
Auxilium mentors: 45 students
Number of coffee cards given: 15

For more info or to become a peer-mentor, please contact the Honors Program at APUHonors@apu.edu.
Academic excellence through scholarship is a primary goal of the APU Honors Program. One of the ways this goal is achieved is through the Honors Program journal Gratia Eruditionis, the result of the Common Day of Learning paper competition.

By Rachel Hastings, MA, Honors Program Coordinator

Each year the APU Honors Program holds a paper competition for its students, which coincides with the university wide Common Day of Learning (CDL), a community wide day of learning taught by APU students, faculty, and staff. The CDL paper competition was inspired by Dr. Jennifer Walsh, CDL director and professor of Political Science, and her vision is carried on by Dr. Vicky Bowden, director of the Honors Program and professor of Nursing. The winners of the paper competition are chosen by a committee of Honors faculty reviewers from a pool of submissions. The top three academic essays are published in the APU Honors Program journal Gratia Eruditionis, translated means “for the sake of knowledge”, and receive a monetary prize.

As the APU Honors Program enters its fourth year of this paper competition the faculty and administration are reminded of the high level of academic excellence achieved by its students. We are in awe of our students, and are humbled by the glory each student brings to God.

Past Recipients

2009
Tamara Moellenberg, Class of 2009, English and Philosophy double major
*Rushdie and the Real: Migrancy and the Hyper-Real in The Satanic Verses*

Tyler Stover, Class of 2009, Business Economics major
*Incomes and Compensation in the American Labor Market*

*Non-Profit or Non-Conscience: The Tragic Divide of American Enterprise*

2010
Holly Bream, Class of 2010, Biochemistry major
*Deconstructing Humbert’s Mind: Decentering Human “Consciousness” in Nabokov’s Lolita*

Robert Hake, Class of 2010, Psychology major
*Happiness: Plato, Epictetus, and Psychotherapy*

Jennifer Kemp, Class of 2011, English Literature major
*A Modern Cinderella From the Brothers Grimm*

2011
Kelsey Faul, Class of 2012, Biblical Studies major and English minor
*Discourse Versus Consensus: Gender Relations in Biblical Texts*

Marielle Kipps, Class of 2012, English Literature major and Christian Ministries minor
*Man Suspended: An Analysis of René Girard, Shakespeare’s Hamlet, and Blasie Pascal*

Andrew Soria, Class of 2014, English and Spanish double major and French minor
*Holiness as Defined by Leviticus 11 Through 26*
As the oldest English-speaking university, the charming city of dreaming spires, and the infamous source of large and exhaustive dictionaries, Oxford is known for a variety of honors. It has inspired brilliant writers, cultivated paradigm-shifting scientists, and has produced twenty-six prime ministers. J.R. Tolkien, Robert Boyle, and Margaret Thatcher are just a few of the giants whose grounds we now share. To walk upon the same streets, study in the same libraries, and even eat in the same stone and wood dining hall as Sir Laurence of Arabia is a common reality here! It would be a mistake, however, to get caught up in all of the sensationalism. In a time of Disneyland, where one can 'experience' enrapturing fantasies of castles and royalty. All in one day, it is far too easy for one to view the place as just another attraction. The stone walls of Oxford are not just plaster mock-ups, however, and the stories and legends are not simply contrived. Each stone was carved by a mason centuries ago, and each story was born from historical tension and plots. While I have grown up among a plethora of imitations, this is the real thing, and there is something very special about that fact. It is hard to describe this phenomenon, but developing an appreciation for it can be compared to developing a new sense. Almost as natural as the senses of sight or smell, Oxford has awakened this sense of appreciation. Walking through the stone buildings, one does not just experience them physically; one engages with a mindful appreciation as well: their past, their purpose, and their meaning. Whether it be for history, family, or home, Oxford cultivates a renewed sense of appreciation in the one who experiences it.

"Once I was a scuba diver in the sea of words. Now I zip along the surface like a guy on a jet ski," muses Nicholas Carr. I must confess, in high school I jet skied across literature and history: Dickens, Shakespeare, Beowulf; all of it was raced by without much of a passing glance. The Magna-Carta, John Locke, and even Henry VIII were just items I memorized for a term then forgot the next. History here, however, is alive! One hears some contrasting Locke's philosophy with current affairs, and, among others, one finds comparisons between Henry VIII and today's politicians! The rich history of this city imbibes everything with depth. For example, the college with which I am associated was established by Queen Elizabeth I in 1571 and was the first Protestant college amidst tumultuous and ground-breaking religious change. This heritage carries a distinguished gravity, and in the chapel, for example, there is a profound extrasensory appreciation that is felt. It is a mysterious awareness of place in history, one that is pulling me off the jet ski and into the sea of history and literature.

Along with Oxford’s historical heritage, my experience has inculcated in me a new appreciation for family heritage. On a short camping trip in Cardiff, a friend and I met a Welshman named Peter. At the time, my friend Jacob and I were not aware of the Welsh-English relationship, but Peter was – and had quite a few things to comment. What was most impactful was the personal nature of the issue: how his fathers were affected, and in turn, left an influence on him. This strong familial connection is something I have never appreciated; American culture endeavors to be more independent, notions of being a "self-made man" and carving out our own destiny. It is quite the opposite in Britian. One’s family history has significant meaning, as epitomized by a graduate student we met. His post-doctorate was passionately focused on the experiences of mixed-race families in colonial India, including his own family. There is a certain ownership and appreciation for family history here, a value that I hope to remember and bring home. It’s a wonder to consider our family’s past and how it connects to where we are now.

Lastly, Oxford has renewed in me a sense of appreciation for home. Having the chance to taste the waters of another university, a first ranked university, has illuminated how much we do have at APU. Our truly distinguished professors, an encouraging community of scholars, and our own significant history are treasures worth contemplating and appreciating. Eliot’s words about travel and appreciation express this quite poignantly, and they embody the most enduring lesson I will take home:

"And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we first started
And know the place for the first time."
-T.S. Eliot, The Four Quartets
Study ABROAD
SPRING 2012
Where in the world are APU Honors students?

Honors Students Attending High Sierra:

Christy Ailman
Katelyn Beckett
Drew Brown
Amber Buchanan
Arielle Dreher
Danielle Graves
Loren Jolley-Ruud
Emma Lietz
Nathan Mather
Austin Rehbein
O’Neil Van Horn
Bethany Wagner
Gena Wasilenski
Michelle Yee

Honors Students Attending Other Programs:

Erica Woertz- Oxford
Emily Chesley- Oxford
Michelle Savarese- South Africa
Jessica Sokol- South Africa
Jennifer Plasier- South Africa
Victoria Loeffler- CCU: China
Kathryn Fugate- L.A. Term
Emily Sulark- L.A. Term
Katie Vasseur- L.A. Term
Haley Oram- Semester in Spain

Are YOU interested in studying abroad?
Did you know that Honors Students can receive up to 9 Honors units while studying in Oxford, and up to 8 Honors units while studying in High Sierra?

Contact the Center for Global Learning and Engagement for more information about APU’s study abroad opportunities.
(626) 857-2440
studyabroad@apu.edu
What do you do when midterms loom and 104 degree weather forces you to confront the reality that fall in Southern California is anything but crisp and refreshing? You hop on a plane and head to one of the year’s most important Honors conferences, of course! This October a group of Honors students and faculty from Azusa Pacific University had the opportunity to attend. The National Collegiate Honors Council held its annual conference in Phoenix, Arizona. Dr. Vicky Bowden and Dr. Alan Oda joined a group of five students (Kelsey Faul, Daniel Atwell, Andrew Soria, Sarah Wentworth, and Juliana Cooper) to travel to the conference.

The theme of this year’s conference, Stewards of our Colliding Worlds: Rights, Wrongs, and Responsibilities, reflects on the recent immigration debates that Arizona’s tightening immigration laws have sparked in recent months. This four-day conference provided countless opportunities for students and professors from Honors Programs and colleges across the nation to join together to present research that is relative to this theme. Andrew Soria and Kelsey Faul presented their winning Common Day of Learning papers as part of a student panel, while Daniel Atwell and Sarah Wentworth, along with Dr. Oda, participated in a poster presentation session. Daniel presented his research on Oliver Messiaen’s Quartuor pour la fin du temps, while Dr. Oda and Sarah presented on Latino Teens and Suicide Intervention. In addition to these fabulous presentations, the five students volunteered to serve as moderators to help facilitate other presentations during the course of the conference.

One of the most memorable sessions of the conference was a plenary, conducted by Dr. Tyrone B. Hayes, that focused on Dr. Hayes’ research into the detrimental effects of atrazine, a commonly used herbicide. Reflecting the conference’s theme of responsibility, Dr. Hayes offered an educational and entertaining message about the dangers such chemicals pose to living beings and to the world in which they dwell.

In addition to the countless presentations, panel discussions, and plenary sessions available during the conference, we enjoyed the opportunity to explore the downtown Phoenix area. The conference arranged for an evening event at the local Science Center, enabling us to spend time relaxing and indulging our inner nerd. Wandering the clean, quiet streets of downtown Phoenix reminded us that there is much more to life than the APU bubble, lists of papers to write, and exams to study for.

I would encourage every Honors student to consider applying to present at next year’s NCHC Conference, the Western Regional Honors Conference, or any other of the incredible opportunities the Honors Program facilitates. Please don’t hesitate to contact me or the Honors Program with any questions you may have! §
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Margarita Ramirez
Senior
Political Science Major
Tulare, CA

Extracurriculars: CDL Intern, Office Assistant in the Political Science Office, Academic Integrity Peer Counselor for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Study Abroad: Oxford
Favorite Honors Class: Leadership Class on Virtues and Values with Dean Weeks
Pearl of Wisdom:
“Think of the Honors Program as a community of scholars and not a label on your transcript. Ask yourself what it means to be a Christian Scholar.”

Andrew Soria
Sophomore
English/Spanish Major
Auburn, CA

Extracurriculars: Alpha Leaders, Worker at the Writing Center and the MAS Office, DC Missions Trip Leader
Study Abroad: Mexico Summer, Oxford Spr 13
Awards/Presentations: CDL Paper Competition Winner, Presenter at NACFLA, WRHC, and NCHC
Favorite Honors Class: Dr. Glyer’s C.S. Lewis Class
Pearl of Wisdom:
“It is not about what you know but how you use your knowledge.”

Camille Endacott
Freshman
Communications Major
Pasadena, CA

Extracurriculars: HSAB, Ambassador, Young Life Leader
Study Abroad: Would like to go to Oxford, High Sierra
Favorite Honors Class: Dr. Wilkens Intro to Philosophy Class:
“The class has only 15 students, and it is more comfortable for discussion. Dr. Wilkens has even had them over to his house.”
One Pearl of Wisdom:
“Take advantage of your professors and the other students you are with.”

Victoria Pennell
Junior
Nursing Major
Louis Town, MT

Extracurriculars: Resident Advisor for Adams Hall, Member of the Global health Committee
Awards/Presentations: WRHC last spring
Favorite Honors Class: Dr. Matthew Hauge’s Luke/Acts class:
“He gives us enough information to make us think for ourselves. He challenges and uplifts our faith. He is funny, witty, and great.”
Pearl of Wisdom:
“Embrace the Honors Program and take advantage of it”
At most universities, the provost is a distant, obscure figure, with an engraved name plate on his desk. However, at Azusa Pacific University, he is the man who takes the time to answer students’ questions, as they eat pizza together. On Tuesday, October 25, 2011, Provost Doctor Mark Stanton joined over fifty APU Honors students to engage in a dialogue about the academic goals of the institution, allowing the students to connect the ambiguous role of “Provost” to a face and a conversation.

Dr. Stanton talked about what his job as provost entails, explaining that he is the chief academic executive for the entire university. He also outlined his ten goals for the university in the years to come. One goal which especially resonated with students was to increase APU’s academic reputation. Dr. Stanton pointed out that we have a nationally ranked service-learning program, a world-class faculty, and a developed Honors Program, all components of APU that are often not showcased enough. He also discussed the possibility of transforming the APU Honors Program into an Honors College, a proposition that received mixed reactions from students. Lastly, he offered a time for students to ask him anything they wanted. Many students wanted to know about the selection of honors faculty and how to fit in the Honors Program while in a very credit-intensive program, such as the Nursing or Music Program. Dr. Stanton was able to assuage a wide variety of students’ concerns through this open dialogue.

Now that Dr. Stanton is a little more familiar and obviously very willing to help students as best as he can, students should be able to better understand both his position and the man himself. Overall, the event was a success, given that a slice of pizza will boost spirits any day. §

Camille Endacott is a freshman Honors student who currently serves on the Honors Student Advisory Board.

By Camille Endacott

Spring 2012
Honors Events

APU Theater
Blithe Spirit (February 2-11)
A Night of One Acts (February 23-26)
How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying (March 8-25)

Common Day of Learning (March 7)
Keynote Speaker: Timothy Dalrymple, Ph.D

Honors Scholar Reception for Graduating Seniors
May 3rd, from 5:00 - 7:00pm
UTCC

Trustee Weekend
March 7th - 9th

WRHC Conference
Between Earth and Sky: Imagining the Future
April 12th-14th, in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Alpha Chi Convention
A Star-Spangled Super-Regional Convention
March 22nd-24th, in Baltimore, Maryland

Alpha Chi Induction Ceremony
January 31st, from 7:00 - 9:00pm
UTCC
Honors Faculty Profile:

**DR. BILL YARCHIN**

By Cassandra Isaacson

*By Cassandra Isaacson is a freshman Honors student who currently serves on the Honors Student Advisory Board.*

### Where did Dr. Yarchin attend college?

Dr. Bill Yarchin studied in Costa Mesa Southern California College, graduating in 1976, and then completed a Ph.D program at Claremont Graduate University while simultaneously getting his master’s degree. The most pivotal experience in his education was the time he spent at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. According to Dr. Yarchin, he learned an incredible amount from the world class professors and was able to learn the Hebrew language, live among the locals, and experience an “orientation to the society you can’t get otherwise.”

### What has he experienced as a professor at APU?

Dr. Yarchin has taught at APU for over 20 years in the Biblical Studies department and has taught courses ranging from Old Testament classes such as Exodus-Deuteronomy to the History of Biblical Interpretation. When asked what his favorite course is to teach, he responds, “This is going to sound contrived, but the honest answer is that my favorite course is whatever I’m teaching at the time.”

### How has he been involved with the study of the Dead Sea Scrolls?

While studying in Israel, Dr. Yarchin made copies of negatives of the Dead Sea scrolls for preservation purposes. He loves working with these ancient texts because “we can listen to [the authors] and gain insight from the direct source about God, themselves, salvation, and history.” Although Dr. Yarchin wants to clarify that he is “not an official Dead Sea scrolls scholar,” his investment in the project is evident from the fact that he has a forthcoming publication about the Psalms scrolls.

### What intrigues Dr. Yarchin about Biblical studies and exegesis?

Dr. Yarchin’s passion for exegesis comes from his love of “learning and discovery.” He explains, “As you discover things, you have these ‘aaahh’ moments, and as you get better and better, you can explore more and more.” This method translates into his teaching of Biblical studies as well as his own research, but it also affects his spiritual life. “It’s pretty humbling, because as you study you are in the presence of very insightful people who wrote the Bible.” As overwhelming as it can be to study the Bible in-depth, Yarchin has found that “we will never get it all sorted out, and that’s okay!” He continues, “My standing with God doesn’t depend on my understanding of God, and realizing that broke some things through for me.”

### What new research is he currently conducting?

Dr. Yarchin’s latest project involves examining discrepancies in the configuration of the book of Psalms. Different manuscripts are “all over the map” in how they are organized; for example, the Bible that is usually used today has 150 Psalms, while other manuscripts have that same text in varying configurations consisting between 146 to 154 Psalms. Yarchin plans to examine all Hebrew manuscripts of the Psalms that exist in the world, amounting to an impressive 420 versions. He has already analyzed about 60 online or locally, but he will have to travel to Jerusalem in order to view the rest, a trip that he hopes to take next summer. “My hypothesis in doing this project is that there is no definite, authoritative shape of the Psalter that you can point to, and that is okay,” states Yarchin. “What is now accepted as normal is not the whole picture, and this project is a comprehensive profile of all manuscripts to see the full landscape of the Psalms.”
A presentation and a workshop prepared by Dr. Joseph Bentz, Department of English, were shared at a national conference.


The expertise of Dr. Marcia Berry, Department of Communication Studies, was recognized and tapped in her selection to review a textbook, a textbook chapter, and a textbook proposal.


An article written by Dr. Heather Clements, Department of Theology and Philosophy, and Ms. Cassandra S. Esquivel, Graduate Student, Masters of Leadership Studies Program and Staff Member, Office of Graduate Admissions, was published in a journal.


Two art reviews and one book review written by Dr. G. James Daichendt, Department of Art, were published in online journals.


Our Honors Program Faculty are not only amazing teachers, but they are exemplary scholars in their respective fields. Take a look at all the academic work they have been doing outside of APU!

The expertise of Dr. G. James Daichendt, Department of Art, was shared in his guest lecture at an international conference in another country.


A presentation and session chairing were provided by Dr. G. James Daichendt, Department of Art, at a national conference.

Daichendt, G. J. (2011, June). Scholars Track, Presentation and Session Chair, Christians in the Visual Arts (CIVA) Biennial Conference, Los Angeles, CA.

A book written by Dr. John Hartley, School of Theology, was published.


A book review, written by Dr. Kathryn Smith, Department of Biblical Studies, was published in a journal.

BEHIND THE SCENES

The Honors Program Office

From Left to Right: Matthew Morrison, Haley Oram, Heather Murphy, Dr. Vicky Bowden, Rachel Hastings, Jori Ford.

THE HONORS PROGRAM OFFICE

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

Honors Program Student Advisory Board

Seniors
Matt Atha (not pictured) . . . matha08@apu.edu
Juliana Cooper . . . jcooper08@apu.edu
Megan Vanderkamp . . . mvanderkamp08@apu.edu

Juniors
Jonathan Monson . . . jmonson09@apu.edu
Chad Seiler (not pictured) . . . cseiler10@apu.edu
Leizl Hinajon . . . lhinajon09@apu.edu

Sophomores
Justin Hyer . . . jhyer09@apu.edu
Tyler Shattuck . . . tshattuck09@apu.edu
Andrew Soria . . . asoria09@apu.edu

Freshmen
Camille Endacott . . . cendacott10@apu.edu
Cassie Isaacson . . . cisaacson09@apu.edu
Taylor Neff . . . tcnelf10@apu.edu

The Honors Student Advisory Board is always here to hear your comments, critiques, and questions!
Feel free to contact one of your representatives at any time using the above email addresses.

Special thanks to Haley Oram, Heather Murphy, Chad Seiler, Matt Morrison and the Honors Student Advisory Board 2011-12 for the creation and editing of this newsletter!