Greetings fellow students! I hope your semester is going well and that you remain charged and energized over the course of the semester.

This semester we have already held the annual Pre-performance lecture and Opera event on Saturday, January 23rd. Admission was free and the performance was both entertaining and educational. In addition, the Honors Program hosted a “Talk-Back” on opening night of A Raisin In The Sun”. Audience members had a chance to discuss the play with the cast & director. This semester the Honors Program will hold its Pizza with a Prof event, which provides an opportunity to talk with a professor about their scholarly activities, have good food, and receive Honors Colloquia credit! So make sure to sign up early and RSVP to those emails!

Being my last semester as an APU student, I want to make sure and thank every member of the honors program for their help, patience, and never ending service to its students. Specifically, I thank Dr. Bowden for always lobbying for honors causes, Dr. Oda, for the laughter and tolerance, Heather Murphy, for always working her tail off, and finally Rachel Hastings, without whom nothing would ever be achieved. The Honors Program professors and administrators are true gems and I encourage all of you to take a moment and thank them for their giving spirits and dedication to excellence. The Honors Program is a gift to this institution and I am very thankful for the education it has given me.

It has been a blessing to represent my fellow students and I wish all those who are graduating this semester a hearty congratulations! To those still standing alongside the cougar mascot, I wish you success and blessings. Embrace the gift of an education and make the most of your time left. The world awaits with bated breath at the changes you will soon bring.

So good luck in Spring 2010! While it may not live up to the predictions of certain science fiction writers, it still holds tremendous promise of exciting journeys and fantastic experiences. Work hard, study harder, remember to breathe, and take in every moment you’re offered.

Blessings,
Annie B
**If you haven’t visited the new Honors Program Office already, stop by and say hello!**

Our office is now located on East Campus, on the bottom floor of the 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

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**Now Serving You…**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In the Office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vicky Bowden, RN, DNSc</td>
<td>Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alan Oda, Ph.D</td>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Hastings</td>
<td>Program Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heather Murphy</td>
<td>Student Worker</td>
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<th>On the Student Council</th>
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<tr>
<td>Annie Berry</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Atha</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kendall Paulson</td>
<td>Jr/Sr Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juliana Cooper</td>
<td>Fr/So Representative</td>
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Your representatives in both the office and the student council hope that you will contact them regarding any and all concerns in the honors program.

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**Honors Scholars – Spring 2010**

*The following students have met all of the requirements of the Honors Program, and will graduate as Honors Scholars. A reception will be held on May 6th to recognize and applaud their accomplishments.*

Katrina Alston  
Meredith Anderson  
Jolee Baker  
Benjamin Berk  
Anne Berry  
Stephen Bixler  
Holly Bream  
Elena Brohmer  
Hannah Brownell  
Adah Fisher  
Brittany Fjugstad  
Alisha Gilbert  
Bethany Grigsby  
Robert Hake  
Rachel Heddles  
Robert Hake  
Katherine Kozlarek  
Caleb Linton  
Brittany Machado  
Jennifer McDonald  
Elisabet Medina  
Sammie Patrick  
Bethany Pillow  
Sarah Vrieling  
Brian Williamson  
Kimberly Wilson  
Melody Winslow  
Steven Wright

**Congratulations!**
Where are our Honors students studying?

Matthew Atha  
Katherine Hazdovac  
Whitney Heitzman  
Leizl Hinajon  
Michael Nunez  
Laura Knopf  
Kristin Patterson  
Kendall Paulson  
Kiley Price  
Bethany Pederson  
Carmen Roth  
Grant Smith  
Chelsey Souligny

Oxford  
Oxford  
High Sierra  
High Sierra  
High Sierra  
High Sierra  
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High Sierra

Dates to Remember

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 3rd</td>
<td>Common Day of Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 5th – 7th</td>
<td>Trustees Weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 5th – 7th</td>
<td>High Sierra Preview Weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 25th – 27th</td>
<td>Alpha Chi Conference, Little Rock, AR</td>
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<td>April 8th – 10th</td>
<td>Western Regional Conference, Jackson Hole, WY</td>
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<td>May 6th</td>
<td>Dessert Reception for Graduating Honors Scholars, 7pm, Wilden Atrium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 3rd</td>
<td>Ice Cream Social</td>
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<td>Oct 20th – 24th</td>
<td>NCHC Conference, Kansas City, Missouri</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.

Congratulations to our winners of the 2010 Common Day of Learning Paper Competition!

Holly Bream  
Robert Hake  
Ellie Hipple  
Ruben Luciano  
Brittany Machado  
Tyler Prieb  
Jennifer Campbell  
Benjamin Berk  
Bethany Grigsby  
Erica Woertz  
Erin Warner  
Lindsay Pawlas  
Malia Guy  
Emily Ediger  
Margarita Ramirez  
Alisha Gilbert  
Matthew Cherry  
Berit Anderson  
Laurel Zheng  
Jennifer Kemp

Each student received a monetary prize of $250, and their work will be published in APU’s 2nd edition of Gratia Eruditionis.

Congratulations to the Honors students who presented at the Common Day of Learning 2010!

Holly Bream  
Robert Hake  
Jennifer Kemp

Congratulations to the Honors students who presented at the Common Day of Learning 2010!
**Bookends:** Interviews with a freshman and a senior honors student

**Joelle Baker** (senior, class of 2010)  
From Deer Lodge, Montana

What is your major?  
Liberal Studies, Science Concentration

What are your career goals?  
I would like to begin teaching in the elementary setting and eventually earn a master’s and doctoral degree and teach in the university setting.

Why did you choose to attend APU?  
I started at APU because of their music program, but changed to Liberal Studies after my first semester.

What is your favorite APU memory?  
The whole Oxford experience. I loved studying in a different country, experiencing a new culture and learning from some of the greatest minds in the educational system. A three week backpacking trip through western Europe didn’t hurt the experience either.

What is the one piece of advice you wish you would have known before entering college?  
Be active in getting involved. You meet more people that way.

What is your favorite quotation and why?  
A favorite is difficult to pick, but I like this one: "When you are arguing against Him you are arguing against the very power that makes you able to argue at all." ~C. S. Lewis [Mere Christianity] When I really ponder the nature of God and the ability of humanity, I am astounded that people can reject at least the possibility of an intellectual higher power.

What has been your favorite class so far and why?  
I took a class on the C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien at Oxford and absolutely loved it. I got to read great literature and discuss it in a completely new way.

**Danyel Goetz** (freshman, class of 2013)  
From Brentwood, Tennessee

What’s your major?  
Undeclared

What are your career goals?  
To do some kind of non-profit ministry but mostly to manage in some way or another.

Why did you choose to attend APU?  
The atmosphere of the campus and the location.

What is your favorite APU memory?  
The first week of choir camp, being on the beach with Man Choir and Bel Canto, gathered around a campfire, singing worship songs.

What is the one piece of advice you wish you would have known before entering college?  
It’s more responsibility than you could have ever imagined. You must manage your time wisely.

What is your favorite quotation and why?  
"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you as well." - Matthew 6:33. If I’m doing this I know I’ll be walking in His will and fulfilling His plan for my life, which is the only thing that will make me truly happy.

What has been your favorite class so far and why?  
Exodus/Deuteronomy Honors with Yarchin. He was the best teacher ever because He was in it to TEACH us, not to trick us. I also loved learning about the Old Testament and how applicable it is to our daily lives.
A perspective on High Sierra

By Whitney Heitzman (Class of 2013)

As I move my feet to push the pedals and look to my right, I see the glimmering of the lake as the sun goes down, and I shout to my friend, “This is crazy! I can’t believe we go to school here,” a phrase I say at least once a day. Not only did I say this because of the breathtaking landscape surrounding us at the moment, but because of where we had just come from. A little earlier, as we had been riding our bikes, we passed by our professor’s house, then turned around and decided to stop. Because he was busy grading our papers to get back to us by dinner that night, we could only stay and chat for a little bit, but he still had time to give us some pointers on what trails to take and update us on his new interest in banjo playing. As we left, I thought to myself, “This is what High Sierra is about.”

After being in the mountains for several weeks, I am undeniably aware of what makes High Sierra such a unique opportunity. It started with the professor’s and their families eating meals with us, and it got even more strange when we went backpacking with the professors, and continued to be more strange as we went mountain-biking together, watched This is it at his house, and probably peaked when we stop by a professor’s house amidst a bike ride just to hang out. Not only is this great relationship with the professors a quirk of High Sierra, but the entire community is a bit out of the ordinary.

Since we are all in similar classes and studying the same time periods, all of students are all struggling through similar aspects of our beliefs. When casual conversation includes references to Descartes and Hume, or when I am hanging out in my room and there is a nonstop flow of people coming in to talk about a reading we did, I can feel the campus buzzing with new ideas, and once again I am astounded by the situation I am in.

How many people get the opportunity to sit around and read books and talk about them with outstanding teachers and students? Then when you need a break, go kayaking on the lake, go biking, play disc golf, or work on ceramics? I have the luxury of being a scholar, finding the Christian perspective of truth and life, surrounded by beautiful trees, fresh air, great people, and remarkable teachers. How could I not be fascinated daily as I look around and reflect on this crazy opportunity?

Fall semester in High Sierra

The following Honors classes will be offered

HUM 221H Humanities Seminar I: Great Works with David Williams
HUM 223H/323H Humanities Seminar III: Aesthetics with Tom Dunn
HUM 224H/324H Humanities Seminar IV: Great Ideas with David Williams

*Contact the Center for Global Learning and Engagement to receive additional information regarding studying abroad*
Getting to Know...

Professor Michael Bruner
Honors Christian, Life, Faith and Ministry (CFLM 108H)

Educational Background:
B.A. in English from the University of Washington
M.Div from Princeton Theological Seminary

When asked about his experience with the Honors Program:
Professor Bruner says that teaching the Honors CFLM class is “a huge privilege” and “the highlight of my year” and that he “can’t imagine a more fun class to teach”.

Some Interesting Facts about Professor Bruner:
Professor Bruner was born in the Philippines and lived there until age 11. He’s thankful for this experience and says it helped give him a different view of the world.

During the interview Professor Bruner joked about his favorite color (green), his love of animals, and how he “still despises facebook” because he prefers face-to-face conversations.

A Glimpse into Honors CLFM with Professor Bruner:
Professor Bruner says that students taking his class should “expect to have their world rocked!” because he challenges students to learn to ask the right questions, rather than simply memorizing and regurgitating information. He desires for students to see that the subject is about “more than just studies and GPAs...it’s about life”. By challenging students to “think with their hearts” Professor Bruner hopes to walk alongside students as they try to find their identity. He commented that “the world needs us [Christian scholars] to be serious thinkers...thoughtful”.

A Closing Thought:
It has been said (and is frequently heard in Professor Bruner’s class) that “the journey from the head to the heart is one of the longest and most difficult”.

Two sections of CFLM will be offered in the fall of 2010 as follows:

**CMIN 108H Christian Life, Faith & Ministry**
TuTh 1:05-2:30 p.m.
Call #10321

**CMIN 108H Christian Life, Faith & Ministry**
TuTh 2:45-4:10 p.m.
Call #10335
Out And About

Honors Students Attend National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Washington D.C.

By Matthew Atha (Class of 2012)

Washington D.C. is home to powerful political leaders, bureaucrats, and lobbyists. However, for four days last October, the nation’s capital was also home to the annual National Collegiate Honors Council Conference. The conference drew hundreds of students, staff and faculty from across the country, including six honors students from Azusa Pacific, accompanied by Dr. Curtis Hsia, Dr. Alan Oda, and Rachel Hastings. Through the conference, honors programs share ideas and learn from one another through networking and seminars, while students are given an opportunity to present research.

APU honors students Annie Berry, Brittany Machado, Kendall Paulson, Ruben Luciano, and Erica Woertz were selected to present research at the conference in both panel discussions and poster sessions. Panel discussions allow several students to read selections from their papers and then answer questions from panelists and the audience. Posters sessions allow students to share their research with peers and professors. Students create a poster which outlines the research and results, and then answer questions (and sometimes defend against attacks) on their research.

As an interdisciplinary conference, the research presented at NCHC covered a broad variety of topics. Machado presented her research on male eating disorders in a panel discussion entitled Culture, Human Behavior, and Change. Berry, President of the Student Honors Council, displayed a poster on the legal philosophy of jurisprudence. Luciano advocated for increase foreign language education in his poster on multilingualism. Paulson and Woertz presented a poster on the most recent discoveries of an ongoing study of the flu virus they worked on over the summer with Professor Sarah Richart.

In allowing students to present research, NCHC recognizes excellence in research, while allowing students to build their resume for graduate school or a future career. Having presented at several conferences, Machado sees the experience as greatly beneficial to her both personally and academically.

“When you present at conferences, you have to know your research backwards and forwards,” said Machado. “Professors from other universities have no problem in attacking your work if they see a hole in it. By presenting, you have the opportunity to not only share your knowledge with others, but learn valuable presentational skills that can be used no matter what field you go into.”

In recent years, research has become increasingly emphasized in the Honors Program and APU as a whole.

“Undergraduate research is a great way for students to experience more than just a textbook,” said Dr. Alan Oda, who serves as a psychology professor and Assistant Director of the Honors Program. “Students discover not only how to do research, but also their own passion for the subject they are studying.”

As Vice President of the Student Honors Council, I attended NCHC along with Dr. Oda and Program Coordinator Rachel Hastings to learn how to better orient the program to meet the needs of students. Although many of the honors programs at other schools are much larger than APU’s, many of them had valuable suggestions on recruiting practices, communication between students and the program, and how to provide students with both social and academic activities.

Although the conference was focused on improving honors programs and student scholarship, we were also able to explore the wealth of culture and history of Washington D.C. We took a tour of the Capitol and the House of Representative, led by a Congressional aide, explored the Supreme Court, visited the bustling Chinatown, and walked the National Mall, visiting the multitudes of monuments and the White House. All of these endeavors, along with the Smithsonian Museums, the Library of Congress, and other landmarks, can be done at little cost (or no cost if you walk instead of taking the Metro).

To start working on research for next year’s conference and others, find an advisor who specializes in the field you are interested in. You can also take the route of Paulson and Woertz and join a professor in their research.

Said Paulson, “The projects professors are working on are at the forefront of their field, and they are more than happy to include you in them. You just need to find one that you are passionate about.”
HOW Do They
Do It All?

Spencer Stewart (Class of 2013)

When I had an open schedule, time was mine to squander and enjoy. I could do whatever I want, whenever I want, and then later get the important stuff done -- because I thought I could. The only issue for me was that my cornucopia of time ironically led to a poverty in productivity. To be honest, all the important stuff would hardly get done, because I thought I would always have time to do it later.

More or less, when time was as common to me as soil, I ungratefully treated time like soil. When time was as rare as gold, I gratefully treated time like gold. And with the temporal responsibilities of being a ministry leader with Mexico Outreach, an ambassador with Admissions, a marathon trainee with APU, and an honors student, time was certainly something recherché to me.

Basically, what I’m trying to say is the busier I am, the better I perform - but to an extent. When time is valuable, I use it much more valuably. It just gets harder to balance the value of “important” and productive activities with the simple yet sacred acts of being still. α

Morgann Green (Class of 2013)

My name is Morgann Green and I am majoring in Liberal Studies, with hopes of being an elementary school teacher. College is definitely a matter of time-management, but it’s so fun and rewarding! Currently, I am involved in leadership through the Ambassador program which entails spending time with prospective students over the course of the year. I am also taking part in a D-group Ministry as well as Heart-to-Heart. I enjoy going to sports events on campus and supporting my friends in their activities (music, intramurals, etc.). Needless to say, I frequently find myself trying to find time to fit everything in!

The most important thing for me is making sure that all the “big things” are in place before all the little things are added in. In Matthew, Jesus speaks about not worrying about tomorrow. He instructs us, as believers, to “seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,” and that everything else will be taken care of in His timing. In my life, this means sacrificing a little bit of sleep to get up early and spend time in the Word, or taking time away from homework to keep my commitment to my D-group. Even though sometimes I don’t know how there is enough time in the day to get everything done, God promises you and me that He has it all in His hands. I figure if He can create the whole universe in seven days, surely He can make time for my homework! He hasn’t failed me yet, and I will continue to trust that He never will. α

Special thanks to Honors Program student worker Heather Murphy for serving as Editor of this edition of the newsletter.