One of the most blessed aspects of being an academic is that there are numerous beginnings and ends to each year. I like the energy and freshness that surges forth at the start of the fall semester. There is an eagerness, from students and faculty, to do their best and see unlimited opportunity for growth. By the end of the spring semester, everyone is a bit more weary, more complacent, more hesitant to embrace a new activity. And yet, the “art of ending” embraces the notion that we must be committed to finishing well, to pressing on, to seeing the beauty and wonder of the road we have traveled. For as T.S Eliot states “the end is where we start from”.

So as I consider both the beginning and the end, I am thankful for the amazing Honors faculty, students and honors Council members, who have each brought some unique piece of themselves to the Honors Program, and to thus make this ending of the semester a beginning of something new to come. In the Honors office we are having medallions engraved with the names of graduating seniors, while at the same time reviewing applicants from high school seniors wanting to join the Honors Program. We are ensuring students have completed Honors Colloquia requirements, while recruiting new faculty to teach an Honors fall course. We are working out the details of beginnings and endings in the cycle of another academic year.

Thank you for engaging in the Honors Program. Thank you for being Christian scholars who use your intellectual talents to serve God. Bless you all as we reach the end of the semester, safe journey’s in your summer adventures, and may you be refreshed for the fall semester. To our seniors, thank you for the sweet joy of knowing you and sharing your lives with us while at APU.
Congratulations to all of our accomplished students!

Congratulations to:

Tim Greene
Matthew Cherry

for representing the Honors Program at the Western Regional Honors Conference

Tim Greene presented...
The Intersection of Mathematics and Communication Studies

Matthew Cherry presented...
Foreign Aid: A Helpful or Harmful Practice?

Congratulations to:

Megan Vanderkamp
Austin Layton

for representing the Honors Program at the West Coast Biological Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference

Megan Vanderkamp presented...
Discovering proteins that interact with the SmMAK 16 protein from the parasitic flatworm Schistosoma Mansoni

Austin Layton presented...
Evaluation of the Novel Tumor Suppressor Gene in Colon Cancer

Congratulations to:

Spencer Stewart
Courtney Webb
Margarita Ramirez

for representing the Honors Program at the Alpha Chi Super-Regional Convention

Spencer Stewart presented...
Anthropomorphism in Children’s Literature: A Psychological Perspective

Courtney Webb presented...
Is Foreign Aid Effective?

Margarita Ramirez presented...
If Men were Angels: Faith, Virtue, and Vice in the American Founding

Congratulations to our 2012 Common Day of Learning Paper Competition Winners!

Below are some pictures from the Common Day of Learning Session “Celebrating Excellence in Undergraduate Research: Winning Entries from the Fourth Annual Honors Paper Competition,” where Margarita Ramirez, Heather Murphy, and Hannah Steer presented their winning papers.

From left to right:
Hannah Steer, Class of 2014, Business Accounting Major
Homer’s Influence on Augustine: A New Look at the Return Home

Margarita Ramirez, Class of 2012, Political Science Major
If Men Were Angels: Faith, Virtue, and Vice in the American Founding

Heather Murphy, Class of 2012, Studio Art major and Global Studies minor
From Sacred to Modern: The Community Roles of Exiled Tibetan Artists

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 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, which translated means “for the sake of knowledge,” and are selected to present their research at the Common Day of Learning.
What OXFORD is like and why should YOU go?

By Emily Chesley

Emily is a junior Honors student currently living in and studying in Oxford, England.

When I prepared for Oxford, I thought I would have an academic semester, and I did. Academics were not the sum of the term, however. It was an all-encompassing experience full of friendship, culture-learning, and spiritual growth. I grew academically, culturally, and spiritually, and in even more ways than those. I discovered some things while in Oxford that you should know, and that hopefully will convince you to go across the Atlantic yourself.

When you apply for the Azusa Oxford program, the first thing they tell you is that you will have an intense academic semester. You will study one-on-one with your tutor, an expert in their field. You will read more books in a week than you would read in a semester at APU. Critical thinking and ability to argue a point will be challenged. This they tell you, and they are spot on.

I spent hours in the Radcliffe Camera (known affectionately in Oxonian as “the Rad Cam”), poring over thick books and writing “essays” that at APU would be called papers. I had engaging conversations in my Theology tutorial over the significance of the medieval mystics for the contemporary church, and gained confidence in defending my views. More than simply being challenged, you rise to meet the challenge. This has been a spiritually stimulating environment as well. Called “the most atheist place in Britain” by a student I met in Hall, Oxford is a taste of the real world. Many times we at APU complain of the “Christian Bubble;” here is a chance to be transported out of that bubble and live out Christianity in a completely new environment. It is humbling and encouraging to watch the Christians at Oxford live so boldly for Christ in their colleges, and there are many opportunities to speak up about Jesus. Sharing our faith may seem pointless at other times, but evangelism makes sense in Oxford and many people are eager to hear the Gospel.

Studies fittingly make up a significant portion of the Oxford experience, but are by no means the only part. Friends and culture are two other ones that make the study abroad more than just study. Making friends takes time and effort, especially at Oxford since each person studies on their own and associate students live out of college. If you are intentional about reaching out, though, you will eventually find someone who reciprocates. I found my good friends through church and the Christian Union, but also spent time in my college library, read newspapers in the JCR (student union), ate in Hall for lunch and dinner, and went to Evensong in the dining hall are on philosophy and politics, the house where Edmund Halley discovered Halley’s Comet is simply student housing, and the world expert you cite in your essay may be sitting across from you when you read it. Despite the illustrious surroundings, though, you will find that students are just like you. They watch funny YouTube videos and procrastinate on papers, get grubby playing football (soccer) and run out of money at the end of term. This place is both posh and down-to-earth, academic and full of extracurriculars. Its culture defies description and can be found nowhere else.

There is no place quite like Oxford. Casual conversations in the dining hall are on philosophy and politics, the house where Edmund Halley discovered Halley’s Comet is simply student housing, and the world expert you cite in your essay may be sitting across from you when you read it. Despite the illustrious surroundings, though, you will find that students are just like you. They watch funny YouTube videos and procrastinate on papers, get grubby playing football (soccer) and run out of money at the end of term. This place is both posh and down-to-earth, academic and full of extracurriculars. Its culture defies description and can be found nowhere else.

“Where is the University?” The traditional response is, “It’s all around you.” All around me in Oxford are new settings, new procedures, and new people. I cannot point to one single area of life and say, “There is where I was affected.”

Oxford was a holistic journey, touching the academic, cultural, and spiritual spheres, and many many more. It is not for the faint of heart, but worth every out-of-my-comfort-zone moment. If you have a chance, GO!

Honeys Students Abroad:

Leisl Hinajon   Oxford
Jessica Luchtenburg   Oxford
Chelsey Souligny   Oxford
Christy Allman   High Sierra
Emily Boden   High Sierra
Sara Flores   High Sierra
Calli Fuchigami   High Sierra
Hannah Gaddini   High Sierra
Payson Marsh   Italy
Julia Prellberg   South Africa
Victoria Pennell   South Africa
Danielle Briscoe   South Africa
Rachel Graham-Howard   South Africa
Claire Villaroman   South Africa
Katelyn Beckett   South Africa
Mackenzie Lind   South Africa
Katherine Sullivan   South Africa
Katie Klein   Heidelberg
Berit Anderson   GLT: Turkey
Hannah Sample   GLT: Ethiopia

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

Dates to Remember...

Reception for Graduating Honors Scholars
UTCC
Thursday, May 3rd
5:00pm-7:00pm

Honors Program Orientation
Wynn Center, Room 2
Tuesday, Sept. 4th
8:30am-10:30am

Auxilium Ice Cream Social
Wynn Amphitheater
Thursday, Sept. 6
4:00pm-5:00pm
**WHAT I WISH I HAD KNOWN:**
WORDS OF WISDOM FROM SENIOR HONORS STUDENTS

An Interview with Juliana Cooper and Clifford Gee

**Juliana Cooper**

Q: What is the most meaningful activity you have gotten involved in at APU throughout your years? Definitely my D-group. I have been fortunate enough to be with the same group of girls from freshman to senior year, and we are great friends outside of d-group but meeting for d-group is a good excuse to get deep in conversations that might not happen on a daily basis.

Q: What is something you wish you would have known about APU sooner so that you could have taken advantage of it? I wish I had understood how willing professors are to hang out and meet outside of class, and to be involved in our lives as people and mentors rather than just being professors.

Q: Who was someone who impacted you during your time at APU? Dr. Kathleen Tallman, who I have had for two classes, helped me prepare for grad school and hung out with me outside of class. She has been very influential in my life.

Q: If you had to give one piece of advice to the incoming freshmen of the Honors program, what would you say? Take initiative with the Honors Program! I know that sounds cliché, but I don’t mean it to sound that way. The Honors Program is great, but it will give to you what you put in. You can make contributions to the program and help make it better, but it takes initiative.

Q: Looking back over your years at APU, what was one memorable moment? Interactions with faculty are some of my favorite moments. I’ve gone up in Ronald and hung out with the Interactions with faculty are some of my favorite moments. I’ve gone up in Ronald and hung out with the

**Clifford Gee**

Q: What is the most meaningful activity you have gotten involved in at APU throughout your years? Mens chorale. It was community building and I could see God work through the group. It was a new way for me personally to connect with God.

Q: What is something you wish you would have known about APU sooner so that you could have taken advantage of it? I wish I would have known more about the Science faculty. They are concerned with your spiritual growth along with your academic growth, and always take time to ask how I am doing in life in general.

Q: Have you received any honors or awards for your accomplishments or research? I received the Stauffer Scholarship for a senior Bio/Chem major who has made overall academic progress and achievement. I have also presented at conferences.

Q: Who was someone who impacted you during your time at APU? Kevin Huang, my organic chemistry professor has been my research mentor, Bible study leader, and a huge help in steering me towards graduate school. He really made the effort to build relationships. The director of “Man Choir” has given me a lot of insight into how God works as he has led us both musically and spiritually.

Q: If you had to give one piece of advice to the incoming freshmen of the Honors program, what would you say? Something I would say to Honors students is “study less.” There’s a lot to learn outside the classroom that isn’t necessarily academic in nature. It’s okay to get a slightly lower grade in exchange for having unique college experiences that you may never have again.

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**Daniel Atwell**

Senior

Music Major

Riverside, CA

**Extracurriculars:** Mens Chorale, Symphony, Chamber Singers, Chamber Music Groups, Auxilium, School of Music Student Representative 11-12, and making memes for the APU memes page

**Favorite Honors Class:** It’s a tie between CLFM with Professor Bruner and Hebrew Poetical Wisdom Literature with Professor Hartley.

**Pearl of Wisdom:** “The things that you take away from a class, and how your walk with God is affected, are more important than any grade on a transcript.”

---

**Spencer Stewart**

Junior

Psychology Major

San Clemente, CA

**Extracurriculars:** Works at Hillside Grounds, and enjoys reading a good book and motorcycling around the Azusa foothills

**Study Abroad:** Oxford Fall 2011

**Awards/Presentations:** Alpha Chi Spring 2011 Super-Regional Conference: Presenter

**Favorite Honors Class:** The Oxford tutorial system, because it taught me that even as a student, I have a voice to contribute to the academic community.

**Pearl of Wisdom:** “To take life seriously, but not yourself too seriously”

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**Justin Hyer**

Sophomore

Political Science and Business Admin Major

Winters, CA

**Extracurriculars:** Mens Chorale, Symphony, Conferences.

**Favorite Honors Class:** The Oxford tutorial system, because it taught me that even as a student, I have a voice to contribute to the academic community.

**Pearl of Wisdom:** “To take life seriously, but not yourself too seriously”

---

**Cassie Isaacson**

Freshman

Liberal Studies Major

San Jose, CA

**Extracurriculars:** Vietnam Missions Trip, HSAB, Our Neighborhood Homework House

**Study Abroad:** Would like to go to Oxford, study in the Dominican Republic

**Favorite Honors Class:** Dr. Yarchin’s Exodus Deuteronomy Class: “It sparked my interest in Biblical studies. The class was discussion-based and open to questions.”

**Pearl of Wisdom:** “Remember what a privilege it is to be engaging in classes with Honors professors and to be involved with other Honors students.”

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Sophomore

Political Science and Business Admin Major

Winters, CA

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**Pearl of Wisdom:** “Remember what a privilege it is to be engaging in classes with Honors professors and to be involved with other Honors students.”
Making a difference:
The Honors Program Uncovered

By Leizl Hinajon

Leizl Hinajon is a Junior Honors student who currently serves on the Honors Student Advisory Board.

The first thought most people have about an Honors Program is NERD! Though Honors students do take their academics seriously, there is more to Honors students than meets the eye. After interviewing faculty and students alike, I discovered a common thread of Honors values that made our students different.

“Honors students are not cookie-cutter molds that only study and have no other life.”

The Honors Program not only pushes students to pursue intellect, but to experience life on campus to its fullest. Since Honors students are on top of their academics, more time can be spent contributing to the APU community. Whether this is holding a leadership position or being involved in student-led initiatives, the Honors students are not cookie-cutter molds that only study and have no other life. Though the majority of students in the Honors Program are involved with other programs, Honors Colloquia has allowed students to reach outside of their comfort zones. Honors English Professor Joseph Bentz has enjoyed the positive change that Honors Colloquia has brought about, stating, “I think this was a brilliant idea because it gives Honors students the incentive to go out and experience the amazing special speakers, theater events, music events, and other opportunities APU offers. These events go beyond the usual classroom learning and can inspire the Honors students in many ways they wouldn’t have expected. Also, I have seen that the events themselves often benefit from having the bright, inquisitive Honors students in the audience, asking questions and participating.” Students are not the only ones that have benefited from the Honors Program, but all those who come in contact with Honors students find they have a unique disposition on university life.

It is not secret that the Honors Program is filled with diverse, outspoken individuals, but each student possesses a distinct quality that got them into the program. Honors students take advantage of all the opportunities put before them, especially in the classroom. Honors Freshman Austin Layton says, “The Honors Program fosters a closer knit community of students so that classrooms are on the same page in terms of what they desire from each class.” Honors classes offer a different environment for learning because the students are eager to engage in the classroom and stimulate conversation for personal growth. Honors students tend to be more interested in the scholastic pursuit of knowledge rather than getting the “A”. Honors Psychology Professor Joel Sagawa weighs in stating, “Not only does the Honors Program raise the bar for our students, but it also raises the bar for us as professors as our students push us to become better teachers and researchers. In addition, I have found the honors students on this campus to be especially invested in living out their learning in a practical manner. They educate their fellow students, they reach out to others in the community, and they are actively involved in service opportunities that allow them to apply what they have learned in class.” Honors students strive to be the best they can be in and out of the classroom by contributing not only in bringing prestige to the Honors Program, but advancing the outlook on the APU campus as a whole.

The Honors Program has been a great testament of the scholastic pursuit of knowledge rather than getting the “A”. Honors Psychology Professor Joel Sagawa weighs in stating, “Not only does the Honors Program raise the bar for our students, but it also raises the bar for us as professors as our students push us to become better teachers and researchers. In addition, I have found the honors students on this campus to be especially invested in living out their learning in a practical manner. They educate their fellow students, they reach out to others in the community, and they are actively involved in service opportunities that allow them to apply what they have learned in class.” Honors students strive to be the best they can be in and out of the classroom by contributing not only in bringing prestige to the Honors Program, but advancing the outlook on the APU campus as a whole.

The Honors Program not only pushes students to pursue intellect, but to experience life on campus to its fullest. Since Honors students are on top of their academics, more time can be spent contributing to the APU community. Whether this is holding a leadership position or being involved in student-led initiatives, the Honors students are not cookie-cutter molds that only study and have no other life. Though the majority of students in the Honors Program are involved with other programs, Honor Colloquia has allowed students to reach outside of their comfort zones. Honors English Professor Joseph Bentz has enjoyed the positive change that Honor Colloquia has brought about, stating, “I think this was a brilliant idea because it gives Honors students the incentive to go out and experience the amazing special speakers, theater events, music events, and other opportunities APU offers. These events go beyond the usual classroom learning and can inspire the Honors students in many ways they wouldn’t have expected. Also, I have seen that the events themselves often benefit from having the bright, inquisitive Honors students in the audience, asking questions and participating.” Students are not the only ones that have benefited from the Honors Program, but all those who come in contact with Honors students find they have a unique disposition on university life.

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What has your experience teaching at APU been like?
I love teaching writing classes, specifically the Honors section of Freshman Writing Seminar. That may be my favorite class I teach here, because I see tremendous growth in the students, and I think one reason I love teaching is because I get to see that huge transformation. Not only does their writing improve but the class also teaches the students what it means to be scholars.

What drew you to teach at APU?
I was attracted to the focus on community. Everything I saw showed that they didn’t just talk about community but really meant it. Another thing that appealed to me was that while the school requires strong Christian commitment from the faculty, students have the freedom to ask tough questions and don’t have to sign a statement of faith. I really liked the idea that students are free to investigate faith while learning. I also appreciated the variety of denominations among faculty—that was really important to me.

Are you involved in any outside study or research?
I publish articles and books about C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. They are incredibly interesting to study because they are teachers, they are creative, and they are Christians. One of the most important books I’ve written, which has actually won various awards, is called The Company They Keep, which is about Lewis and Tolkien and their involvement in the global writing community.
A book, a catalog essay, an editorial, and five art reviews written by Dr. G. James Daichendt, Department of Art and Design, were published. One of the reviews was co-written with a colleague at another institution.

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!
BEHIND THE SCENES

The Honors Program Office

From Left to Right: Matthew Morrison, Haley Oram, Heather Murphy, Dr. Vicky Bowden, Rachel Hastings, Jori Ford. (not pictured): Chelsea Ebersole, Camille Endacott

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

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Juliana Cooper . . . jcooper08@apu.edu
Megan Vanderkamp . . . mvanderkamp08@apu.edu

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Cassie Isaacson . . . cisaacson09@apu.edu
Taylor Neff . . . tcnzelf10@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 Camille Endacott, Heather Murphy, Chelsea Ebersole, Matt Morrison and the Honors Student Advisory Board 2011-12 for the creation and editing of this newsletter!