

Newsletter of the University Honors Program - Volume 5, Issue 7 (April 30, 2007)

## Our Amazing Honors Program Students!!!

*Professor Rosalie Cohen Saltzman, Director of the University Honors Program*

This has been an amazing year for the Honors Program. Our students have excelled in so many areas. We learned late last summer that Natalie Black had been awarded a Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship for graduate studies at UNMC. And, the year continued on a series of high notes.

The much discussed "linked classes" of World Civilizations, World Religions, and Honors English filled to capacity and proved to be an overwhelming success not only from the aspect of course relationships and content, but also as a model of first year relationships and community building. The culminating event of the classes is yet to come: A European Honors Odyssey that will include London, Paris, Rome and all the places in between. Many thanks to all involved – our Honors students, Professors Amis, Marx, Williams, Grams, and Dean Hendricks.

Equally exciting was the Computer Basics Honors Colloquium/Service Learning course at the Douglas County Corrections Facility. After the first class, Professor Dufner commented, *"The inmates were learning and were excited about computers. Not only that, they were transported for an hour and 1/2 away from their problems. The laughter and talking was a sure sign that all were involved in a positive way. The warmth, vigorous note taking and exploration of the technology that I saw going on in each class tells me we are accomplishing our goals. Yesterday was one of the most satisfying days of my life."* While some of our students are engaged in this class, others are dealing with Professor Wetig's colloquium on "Current Issues in Education," which impacted Tony Swirczek so much he has become a one man crusade to help World Literacy by seeking donations of used text books. Looking at the world from a new perspective is the intent of Professor Gershovich's class on the Holocaust; with reference to the assignments and the students in the class, Gershovich commented, *"This is usually a measure I use in graduate seminars, but I think this group of Honors students has risen to the occasion!"*

The list could go on and on. In every academic situation, you, the Honors Program students, have more than risen to the occasion. But, you have gone beyond academics: you have made a real contribution to our community as you oversaw a very successful Red Cross Blood Drive, made meals for the Ronald McDonald House, and continued your partnership with Liberty Elementary School through fundraising, book fairs, and much needed donations of specified clothing and playground equipment. Kudos to all who participated.

Elsewhere in this newsletter there is a list of our graduating seniors and their thesis/creative activity projects. All of the students were accepted into their choice of professional/graduate programs; those entering the work force had more than one offer from which to choose. They have made UNO so proud. Adding to our pride this year is our Truman Scholar, Sheila Korth; and our Goldwater Honorable mention student, Alicia Hardt Hinze. For the second year in a row, it has been an Honors Program student who was named as recipient of the Vice Chancellor's Award: last year, Dan Nixa who is now studying law at Vanderbilt University; this year, Sheila Korth. Many of our students were named as their department's 2007 Outstanding Student. These students are also listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Congratulations to all.

My Student Advisory Board this year has been superb! I thank each one of you for taking the time—not to mention getting to 7 a.m. meetings regularly—to offer your counsel and rolling up your sleeves to get the job done. Those of you who will be graduating will be missed. And, for those of you staying, I look forward to yet another great year.

I would be remiss if I were not to thank all of the faculty who make the Honors Program courses as challenging and exciting as they are. Each of you is very much appreciated! I thank you and look forward to an even more exciting and challenging year in 2007-08. And I welcome all of your suggestions and ideas for improvement—keep them coming.

I hope everyone has a fulfilling and restful summer.

With my best wishes and sincere thanks,

Rosalie

## From The Editor's Desk

*Jeff Lipschultz, VP of Communication, Honors Program Student Advisory Board*  
Academic Year 2006-07 has been a very productive and enjoyable one indeed. As Professor Saltzman noted above, we've done some great things this year. Compiling this newsletter for all of you has been a pleasurable experience; it is my hope to continue to provide the same high quality of information in the year to come. I would like to take a moment to thank those without whom this year's triumphs would have been impossible:

- Professor Rosalie Saltzman, Director of the Honors Program, and Mrs. Christine McIvor, Assistant to the Director. Thank you very much for your continual focus on student excellence.
- The University Honors Committee, chaired by Dr. James Czarnecki.
- Those who have contributed to feature articles in this newsletter: Professor Fred Amis, Dr. Donna Dufner, Dr. Moshe Gershovich, Dr. Laura Grams, Professor Matthew Marx, Steve Massara, and Ryan Murphy.
- Honors Program Speaker Series speakers Dr. Carson Holloway and Dr. Jeremy Lipschultz.
- University faculty, staff, and administrators who supported the efforts of the Honors Program with time, expertise, and resources.
- Kacie Johansen, Noelle Obermeyer, Emily McIvor, and Jenna Johnson, my fellow Student Advisory Board officers, all of whom are departing for graduate and professional study following this semester.
- Alicia Krogstrand and Erin Burke, who led social and philanthropic efforts this year.
- Students who participated in our outreach efforts this year, especially Shadow Day.

I would also like to thank all of you for your readership. If you have any comments, suggestions or submissions, please direct them to me at [jtlipschultz@mail.unomaha.edu](mailto:jtlipschultz@mail.unomaha.edu).

Best of fortune with your final exams and summer endeavors,

Jeff

## Fall Honors Colloquia

Four courses will be offered for honors colloquium credit in Fall 2007:

- Dr. Donna Dufner, Associate Professor of Information Systems & Quantitative Analysis, will offer **ISQA 4000-098/099 Special Topics: Teaching Computer Skills to Jail Inmates**, a course featuring a service-learning component at the Douglas County Correctional Center.
- Dr. Moshe Gershovich, Associate Professor of History, will offer **HIST 4910-099 Arab-Israel Conflict**.
- Dr. Jerold Simmons, Professor of History, will offer **HIST 4270-099 20<sup>th</sup> Century America to 1932**.
- Dr. Gerald Wagner, Distinguished Research Fellow in the College of Information Science and Technology and Director of the International Academy for Advanced Decision Support, will offer **ISQA 4000-899 Special Topics: Adv in Data Visualization**. This course, to be offered at the Gallup University Campus, will take a behavioral perspective on business data visualization and storytelling. There will be several noteworthy guest speakers.

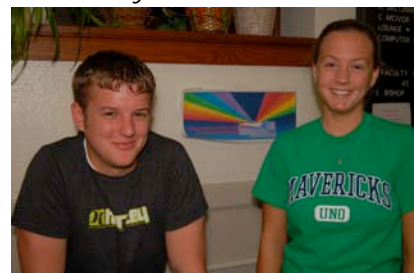
## Shadow Day Welcomes Prospectives

On Tuesday, April 3, the Honors Program hosted its annual Shadow Day for prospective students, who toured the campus and attended classes with current honors



students who volunteered to give them their perspective on life at UNO. Under the guidance of Student Advisory Board members Dan Recek and Sara Ourada

(pictured at lower right), the event proceeded smoothly and was well attended. The prospective students who participated gained valuable insights that will serve them well in their university careers. Thank you to all who contributed time and effort!



## Honorees

The Honors Program congratulates the following students who received 2007 Outstanding Student awards: Tiffany Ackerman (Special Education and Communication Disorders), Thaddaeus A. Bode (Engineering Construction Systems), Christopher Hasiak (Biology/Biotechnology), Sheila Korth (Management Information Systems), Dawn M. Cooperwood (Black Studies), Russell Gast (Geography/Geology), Kaylene E. Harris (Math), Jennifer M. Heineman (Sociology/Anthropology), Heather L. Horst (Economics), Cassandra Nesor (Spanish), Mary Kate Millerd (Secondary Education), Amanda J. Nelson (Finance), Justin D. Wheeler (Economics), Elizabeth A. Freshman (Criminal Justice), Brett A. Saunders (Psychology), Benjamin G. Davis (Computer Science), John Herzinger (Art and Art History), and Anna L. Speed (Music Performance).

## Congratulations to Graduating Seniors!

Congratulations to the May and August 2007, Honors graduates:

- Caleb W. Beasley, a Civil Engineering major in the College of Engineering. Caleb completed a thesis entitled *North Downtown Redevelopment: Proposal & Design* under the guidance of Dr. Tian Zhang.
- Andrew K. Behne, a Computer Science major in the College of Information Science and Technology. Andrew completed a thesis entitled *Service Learning: My Experience* under the guidance of Dr. Donna Dufner.
- Benjamin J. Bialas, a Civil Engineering major in the College of Engineering. Benjamin completed a thesis entitled *Elk Creek Pines Development* under the guidance of Dr. Raymond Moore.
- Michael V. Cavanaugh, a Banking & Finance and Investment Science & Portfolio Management major in the College of Business Administration. Michael completed a thesis entitled *The Advanced Placement Program and Nebraska: Issues and Trends* under the guidance of Dr. Sandra Wetig.
- Fajr Cooperwood, a Black Studies major in the College of Arts and Sciences. Fajr completed a thesis entitled *Driven: African Americans' Educational Pursuits, 1735-1870* under the guidance of Dr. Sharon Wood.

- Viviana Desmoineaux, a Sociology major in the College of Arts and Sciences. Viviana completed a thesis entitled *Fieldwork in Pajamas: Popular Health Care in the Spanish Speaking Virtual World* under the guidance of Dr. Mark Rousseau and Dr. Timi Barone.
- Michelle L. Flint, a Biology major in the College of Arts and Sciences. Michelle completed a thesis entitled *A Comprehensive Review of LASIK in 2007* under the guidance of Dr. James Fawcett.
- Megan E. Guthrie, a Civil Engineering major in the College of Engineering. Megan completed a thesis entitled *Lot 10 Union Pacific Place* under the guidance of Dr. Tian Zhang.
- Christopher M. Hasiak, a Biotechnology major in the College of Arts and Sciences. Chris completed a thesis entitled *Development and Implementation of EISAs for the Detection of Glatiramer Acetate Specific Antibodies in Immunized Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Patients* under the guidance of Dr. Elaine Lahue.
- Daniel J. Hassing, a Psychology and Spanish major in the College of Arts and Sciences. Daniel completed a thesis entitled *The Need for Cognition and its Role in the Elaboration Likelihood Model* under the guidance of Dr. Lisa Scherer.
- John J. Herzinger, an Art History major in the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media. John completed a thesis entitled *No Breast, No Body, No Battle of the Sexes: Recontextualizing André Masson's "Rape" Beyond Gendered Politics* under the guidance of Dr. James Czarnecki.
- Alicia M. Hinze, a Biotechnology major in the College of Arts and Sciences. Alicia completed a thesis entitled *Comparative Analyses of Brain Inflammatory Markers and ex vivo Microglial Responses from Alzheimer's Disease and Non-Demented Control Subjects* under the guidance of Dr. Anuja Ghorpade.
- Heather L. Horst, an Economics and Spanish major in the College of Arts and Sciences. Heather completed a thesis entitled *The Demand for Higher Education: a UNO Case Study* under the guidance of Dr. William Corcoran.
- Kacie J. Johansen, a Biology major in the College of Arts and Sciences. Kacie completed a thesis entitled *Dragonflies and Damselflies as Indicators of Man-made Wetland Restoration* under the guidance of Dr. Claudia Rauter.

- Nicole R. Kobus, a Computer Science major in the College of Information Science and Technology. Nicole completed a thesis entitled *Electronic Document Imaging* under the guidance of Dr. Donna Dufner.
- Jennifer L. Kopanic, a Biotechnology, Chemistry, and Spanish major in the College of Arts and Sciences. Jennifer completed a thesis entitled *Interference of Receptor Functions Using Cancer-Associated Mini-Proteins* under the guidance of Dr. Jodi Kreiling.
- Jacob M. Matuzek, a Computer Engineering major in the College of Engineering. Jacob completed a thesis entitled *Wireless PC Media Controller* under the guidance of Dr. Hamid Sharif.
- Emily J. McIvor, a Clarinet Performance major in the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media. Emily completed a thesis entitled *Transcription: A Musical Translation of J. S. Bach's First Cello Suite, BWV 1007* under the guidance of Professor Cynthia Nichols.
- Amanda J. Nelson, a Business Finance and Investment Science & Portfolio Management major in the College of Business Administration. Details on Amanda's thesis will be forthcoming in the August *Honor Roll*.
- Cassandra Nesor, an English and Spanish major in the College of Arts and Sciences. Cassandra completed a thesis entitled *Deseos e Identidad: Mujeres en las novelas de Gabriel Garcia Márquez* under the guidance of Professor José Mesa.
- Noelle M. Obermeyer, a Political Science and International Studies major in the College of Arts and Sciences. Noelle completed a thesis entitled *The Art of War: Using Rape as a Strategy for Victory* under the guidance of Dr. Meredith Bacon.
- Stephen W. Osberg, a Political Science major in the College of Arts and Sciences. Stephen completed a thesis entitled *A Necessary Defense of the Necessity Defense: Interrogational Torture and the Law* under the guidance of Dr. Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado.
- Linden M. Prickett, a Psychology major in the College of Arts and Sciences. Linden completed a thesis entitled *The Effect of the Hazard Function Probability on Delayed Naming Performance* under the guidance of Dr. Michael Cortese.

- Brian T. Roy, a Computer Engineering and Computer Science major in the College of Information Science and Technology. Brian completed a thesis entitled *Eye of the Tekbot* under the guidance of Dr. Hamid Sharif.
- Anna L. Speed, a Cello Performance major in the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media. Anna completed a thesis entitled *Hindemith Cello Sonata, Op. 25, No. 3* under the guidance of Dr. David Low.
- Mona Sorouri, a Biotechnology major in the College of Arts and Sciences. Mona completed a thesis entitled *Defining the Role of the Pseudomonas Aeruginosa Chaperon SpcU in Secretion of ExoU* under the guidance of Dr. Donald Rowen.
- Cheyanne J. Swarthout, a Psychology major in the College of Arts and Sciences. Cheyanne completed a thesis entitled *Boutique and Physician-Owned Practices: An Effort to Take Back Control from Corporate Hospitals* under the guidance of Dr. Boyd Littrell.
- Amanda J. Timm, a Spanish major in the College of Arts and Sciences. Amanda completed a thesis entitled *The Spirituality of Community Care* under the guidance of Dr. Paul Williams.

## Student Advisory Board officers elected

At the meeting Tuesday, April 24, the Honors Program Student Advisory Board elected the following officers for the 2007-2008 academic year:

- Sara Ourada, President
- Jeff Lipschultz, Vice President
- Alicia Krogstrand, Treasurer
- Dan Recek, Secretary

They need your help. SAB, which will meet over breakfast next year every other Thursday at 7:15 a.m. in room 105 of Arts and Sciences Hall, is responsible for providing advice and feedback about the Honors Program and planning activities and events to benefit honors students and the community at large, such as social events and Shadow Day. All honors students, including freshmen, are strongly encouraged to apply for and participate in this excellent service opportunity; the application is available at [http://www.unomaha.edu/wwwhonor/PDFs/SAB\\_App.pdf](http://www.unomaha.edu/wwwhonor/PDFs/SAB_App.pdf).

## Advisory Board Adopts Elementary School

*Noelle Obermeyer, VP of Programming, Honors Program Student Advisory Board*  
Liberty Elementary is one of the newest additions to Omaha Public Schools. While looking brand new on the outside, on the inside, some students are in need of certain survival supplies. While any donations are welcome, Principal Oberst requests socks, underwear, and other clothing items, children's books, personal hygiene items, and particularly, head lice shampoo. All donations can be made to the Honors Program Office, Arts and Sciences Hall Room 105.

## Summer 2007 Calendar of Events

April 28 - May 4	Spring final exams
May 4	Commencement (2:00 at Civic Auditorium)
May 7 - June 22	Summer Session A - First Evening
May 28	Memorial Day, UNO closed
June 4 - July 6	Summer Session B - First Day
July 4	Independence Day, UNO closed
June 26 - August 3	Summer Session C - Second Evening
July 9 - August 10	Summer Session D - Second Day
August 6	August senior honors theses due
August 10	Commencement
August 27	Fall classes begin