



HONORS PROGRAM SPRING NEWSLETTER

Honors Student Association

May 2015 Issue

Congratulations to our Graduating Seniors!

The Honors Program commends the Honors Students who are graduating this May! They have worked very hard; we celebrate this accomplishment with them and wish them the best in all of their future endeavors.

Listed are each of the graduates, their college, major, thesis title, and faculty adviser.



May 2015 Graduates

May 8, 2015

Caleb A. Cave

College of Arts and Sciences

Major: Biology

“Detection of Mycoplasma in Human Cell Cultures Using Homology and PCR”

Adviser: Dr. Paul H. Davis

Danielle E. D’Alfonso

College of Arts and Sciences

Major: History

“U.S. v. One Package of Japanese Pessaries: A Case Biography Exploring the Second Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Case”

Adviser: Dr. Mark Scherer

Ashley H. Dorn

College of Arts and Sciences

Major: History

“Fences Through Families: The Effects of American Immigration Policy on Migrant Agricultural Communities and Transnational Families”

Adviser: Dr. Danielle Battisti

Katherine H. Durand

College of Arts and Sciences

Major: International Studies

“China’s Environmental Sustainability Issues”

Advisor: Dr. Patrick McNamara

Jonathan P. Foss

College of Business Administration
Major: Accounting
“A Strategic Analysis of Tesla Motors Company”
Adviser: Dr. Erin Pleggenkuhle-Miles

Katharine O. Gilg

College of Engineering, UNL
Major: Architectural Engineering
“Lighting Design Portfolio: Discovering Details”
Adviser: Dr. Michelle Eble-Hankins

Abbie L. Harlow

College of Arts and Sciences
Major: History
“Building Community with History: Founding the Waterloo History Museum”
Adviser: Dr. Maria Arbelaez

Madalyn M. McFarland

College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Biotechnology
“Mutagenesis: Evaluating Targets of an Experimental Treatment of Toxoplasma gondii”
Adviser: Dr. Paul H. Davis

Mary Ellen Mooter

College of Information Science and Technology
Major: Bioinformatics
“The Localization of Nuclear Encoded Mitochondrial Proteins Involved in ATP Production and Their Role in the Aging Process”
Adviser: Dr. Dhundy Bastola

Jacob R. Pulfer

College of Engineering, UNL
Major: Architectural Engineering
“Structural Steel Design of a Three Story Building Using RAM”
Adviser: Dr. Gary Krause

Haley S. Shelton

College of Business Administration
Major: Banking and Finance
“The Strategy Behind Managing Futbol”
Adviser: Dr. Erin Bass

Noah A. Sutton

College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Physics
“Systematic Convergence in Applying the Variational Method to a Double-Well Potential”
Adviser: Dr. Wai-Ning Wei



Noah Sutton and family



Caleb Cave presenting his research

HSA Election Results!

The Honors Student Association would like to congratulate the incoming officers of its first election. This election was a close one and we look forward to seeing even more Honors students running for a position next year! We recognize everybody who ran for a position and thank you for being an active member of your student organization. We hope that you all, along with the rest of the Honors student body, will continue to be involved in the many fantastic events that next year holds. Note: the HSA Representatives have yet to be appointed; if you are interested, contact President-elect Emily Pachunka at epachunka@unomaha.edu.

The winners for each position follow:



President
Emily Pachunka



Vice-President
Cristian Valquier



Treasurer
Justin Korth



Secretary
Josiah Krutz



PR Officer
Harim Won

Honors Student Contributions

An Art Trip Around Omaha | Tuesday, April 7th

Andrew Aulner

Downtown Omaha and Elmwood Park

The students of Professor Shari Hofschire's *Honors Art Appreciation* class took a field trip to view works of public art in downtown Omaha and Elmwood Park. We had spent the second half of the semester studying the purpose and importance of public art in American life. Professor Hofschire asked all of us to put this knowledge into practice by taking us to view and analyze Meg Saligman's *Fertile Ground* mural (off of 13th Street), Blair Buswell and Ed Fraughton's *Pioneer Courage* sculpture series (off of 14th and Capitol Streets), and Leslie Iwai's *Sounding Stones* sculptures (in Elmwood Park). We were allowed to interact with the art as we analyzed the symbols, themes, subjects, details, and purposes of the pieces that we viewed. It was a fun chance to learn outside of the classroom and helped us understand how what we've been learning can be applied to life right here in Omaha.



Andrew inside one of Iwai's *Sounding Stones* sculptures

Honors Student Contributions

Sustained Dialogue Reflections

Amber Johnson

Downtown Omaha and Elmwood Park

Since starting as Student Director and Coordinator of Sustained Dialogue (SD) in February, I've received a number of opportunities that have allowed me to learn more about my position and how I can best serve this campus. Sustained Dialogue is a relatively new student-led group on our campus (also nationwide) that works to improve relationships between diverse groups on our campus. Its focus is two-fold: first, to build up relationships between students, and, second, to hone in on a specific issue or opportunity in order to work together toward a common goal that benefits our campus. After participating in Dr. Patrick McNamara's Political Science SD course, and working on an Honors video project that focused on the relationship between students involved in Greek Life and non-Greeks, I joined the on-campus group, attended the January retreat, and ingrained myself in all meetings. I have been fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to fill the position of student leader while our previous director Cassidy Cooper is studying abroad and will continue working with SD even after she returns in the fall.

I was incredibly privileged to be able to attend the Sustained Dialogue: Crossing Bridges Conference in Tuscaloosa, Alabama this March. It was at this conference that I met with students across the country who have been busy implementing dialogue into all aspects of their campus life in order to create a warmer, more welcoming and inclusive community. It was a wonderful thing to see and a huge learning experience for me. My trip to Alabama was dual fold as I was also able to travel to Selma for the Jubilee, participating in the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement: the Selma March to Montgomery. This was amazing for me to be a part of and I have continued working hard since returning, utilizing what I've been able to absorb in my work and personal life. SD has successfully kept me busy with weekly leadership meetings, two small group dialogues that also meet weekly and larger events like the Inter-generational Dialogue and Town Hall Race Dialogue. I look forward to all of the challenges, partnerships, and initiatives that I am blessed to have the chance to tackle in the coming year.

If you are interested in joining or collaborating with Sustained Dialogue or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at ajohnson01@unomaha.edu.



On the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL



Amber on the University of Alabama campus in Tuscaloosa

Event Recap

Honors Shadow Day | Wednesday, April 8th

University of Nebraska at Omaha
Josiah Krutz

I had a great time showing high school students around UNO's Peter Kiewit Institute for the recent Honors Shadow Day. The event started early in the morning with Emily Pachunka giving information about the activities soon to occur, and continued with Dr. Lucy Morrison, our Honors Director, telling us about the Honors program at UNO. While they spoke, we had a delicious breakfast catered by UNO, and then separated into our groups and spread out across both campuses.



Explaining on Shadow Day

My group visited PKIt and saw two Robotics labs, an App Development lab, three Information Assurance Labs, and a Computer Science class. We also discussed the Honors Program, UNO, and other academic things. Looking back, I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to be mentor for Honors Shadow Day, not only because it is fun (and I got free food!), but also because it helps give high schoolers a better understanding for what happens at UNO.

Inagural Annual Honors Program Banquet | Sunday, April 19th

Thompson Alumni Center
Harim Won, Public Relations Officer

This semester, in the interest of bringing Honors students together as well as starting a fantastic new tradition, the Honors Program held its first Spring Banquet. The Honors Student Association's Board spent several meetings discussing the logistics of such an event and we were ecstatic to see the event come together as well as it did.

We began the evening with an inspiring speech from Senior Vice Chancellor BJ Reed, followed by a delicious dinner. President Madison Nutter gave a review of the activities of the SAB/HSA over the past year, followed by Vice President Cristian Valquier and myself, who explained the transition of the student organization from the Student Activities Board to the Honors Student Association. Secretary Johanna Jones then announced the winners of the first HSA elections, who are listed above.

Perhaps the most exciting point in the night was the presentation of faculty/student awards and scholarships! For the faculty awards, Honors students nominated professors they felt had demonstrated an extraordinary level of dedication to the students that they serve. As prime examples of the quality instructors here at UNO, we had two outstanding professors win the award this year: Dr. Karen Murch-Shafer in the Biology Department and Dr. Charles Johanningsmeier in the English Department.

For Honors students who are nearing the end of their undergraduate studies, the Honors Program offers a student scholarship. Congratulations to Packy Colgan, Shelby Dechow, Miles Russell, and Cristian Valquier! We commend your efforts and hard work.

Banquet (cont.)

I had the privilege and was quite honored to receive the Outstanding Leadership Award that night. I am grateful for every single opportunity that the Honors Program has given me even in the short year that I have been here at UNO, and I am indebted to every single person - among faculty, staff, and my peers - who have helped me navigate my freshman year in any way possible. In the years to come, I am determined to do everything I can to help others in the same way!

Those of you who have spent any time in the Honors Office in Kayser Hall will undoubtedly have spoken with Mrs. Christine McIvor at some point or other. She has faithfully served as the Assistant to the Director of the Honors Program for many years, and I can say that, personally, she has been one to consistently go out of her way to help me whenever needed. She is dedicated and passionate about Honors students and, for this, the Honors Student Association presented her with an Outstanding Service Award. Thank you Mrs. McIvor!

We closed the night with remarks from Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Graduate Studies Deb Smith-Howell and several stayed behind to chat and catch up. It was an incredible night, and I hope to see even more Honors students at the Second Annual Honors Program Banquet!



Senior Vice Chancellor BJ Reed



Enjoying dinner with friends



Honors Student Scholarship winners
Left to right: Dr. Morrison, Miles Russell, Cristian Valquier,
Shelby Dechow, Packy Colgan



Dr. Murch-Shafer and her nominator,
Madison Nutter



Dr. Johanningsmeier and his nominator,
Quinn Nelson



Mrs. McIvor receiving her award



The Outstanding Leadership Award

Event Recap

National Conference for Undergraduate Research Cheney, WA

Ashley Dorn presented “Fences Through Families: the Effects of American Immigration Policy on Migrant Agricultural Communities and Transnational Families” and Abbie Harlow presented “Discovering Nebraska: A Pioneer’s History of Western Expansion” at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research in Cheney, WA at the end of April. These two students represented the University Honors Program and UNO at NCUR and were wonderful speakers! They also saw a moose at the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge down the road from Eastern Washington University, in between attending other sessions, and they explored downtown Spokane (and Coeur d’Alene in Idaho too).



Ashley Dorn and Abbie Harlow at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge in Washington

Spotlight on a Student

Making a Difference: Brieland Fripp Campus Connect

Poverty and need are serious problems, even here at home in Omaha. Brieland Fripp, a sophomore Honors Student, has become dedicated to doing her part in making a difference and changing that. According to the Campus Compact article, “Brie’s service and leadership are focused on the goal of addressing the needs of youth and families in high poverty areas of Omaha.” She is involved in various local food banks and nonprofit charities. It is her heart to serve as a positive role model for younger students who face the daily struggles of poverty.

In her words, “No child should be excluded from fun, engaging educational activities due to their economic status. It is my goal to make a difference in my community so that future generations can live in a hunger and poverty free, engaging world.” For her efforts, she was named a Newman Civic Fellow for 2015 by Campus Compact, and it is certainly well-deserved! You represent UNO well, Brie - keep up the good work!



Read the full article here: <http://www.compact.org/initiatives/awards-programs/the-frank-newman-leadership-award/the-2015-newman-civic-fellows/brieland-fripp-university-of-nebraska-at-omaha/>

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