

The Eclectic

Winter 2008

Volume 14 Issue 2

Published four times a year

The Honors College

WELCOME NEW STAFF



As Events Coordinator, Diana Peel assists in the coordination of recruitment, retention, scholarship and outreach events, workshops, and programs to serve prospective and current Honors students. She works closely with Honors staff

to ensure all aspects of events proceed smoothly and in accordance with plans.

Before joining the Honors College, Diana worked as Community Relations Coordinator with local non-profit Native Seeds/SEARCH where she managed both volunteers and events. Diana has also coordinated a technical resource center at Blenman Elementary School (TUSD) funded by a \$60,000 grant that she wrote. She loves the positive energy at The Honors College and is excited to be part of its team!

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, December 10

Last day of classes
UA Main Campus

Saturday, December 20

Winter Commencement/
Graduation

Thursday, December 11

Honors Pre-Commencement
Reception

Sunday, January 11

Residence halls open

Friday, December 12

Final exams begin
UA Main Campus

Wednesday, January 14

Update Honors status start
date

Friday, December 19

Final exams end
UA Main Campus/ UA
South Campus

Wednesday, January 14

Classes begin

Saturday, December 20

Residence halls close

Wednesday, February 4

Last day to increase units
without \$250.00 late charge

FIVE STAR FACULTY AWARD COMMITTEE



The Five Star Faculty Award Committee is looking for members for Spring 2009. The Five Star Faculty Award, sponsored by the Honors College, is the University of Arizona's only student-selected award for professors. As a committee member, you would be part of the selection process for this year's Five Star recipient.

Want to get involved? Please email Sara Button at button@s@email.arizona.edu.

FALL BALL HIGHLIGHT

November 22nd, 2008 was a glamorous night. The Honors College students and guests were dressed to impress for the Fall Ball. They were illuminated by tall trees and beautiful lighting from props brought to decorate the Historic Y. Old Pueblo Grill and Jaime Campos, President of Honors Student Council didn't disappoint with delectable entrees. The ambiance was fun and inviting. A portion of the money from the dance went to benefit the Community Food Bank. Everyone was dancing and to music by DJ Tim, a local University of Arizona student. The Honors students and all those involved had a wonderful time in their ballroom attire.



The Honors College



NOVEMBER 22ND, 2008 FALL BALL



GUESTS
COURTNEY & FOREST

COMPETITION, COLLABORATION AND CHALLENGE

Recently, I asked a first-year student what differences she experienced comparing UA to her high school experience. She remarked that the environment was much less competitive here. High school seniors are wondering who will be the valedictorian, worrying about class rank, and determined to get a better grade than their lab partner. “In The Honors College, there is such a diversity of students with such different interests and passions; each one is following a unique path. I hear people talk about the classes they are taking and I want to explore some of those areas too.” We went on to discuss her desire to add a second major and when to fit study abroad into her educational plan.

Social psychology research demonstrates that competition has positive effects in some circumstances. If you are waiting for a job interview, the presence of other applicants has a positive effect on your energy level and confidence under most circumstances. However, if all the others waiting are wearing suits and you have on khaki pants and a UA polo shirt, your confidence will be undermined. If you want to improve your tennis or chess game, you should find competitors who are better than you are. Not so much better that you have no chance, but playing at a higher level so that you can learn from them.

Collaboration also affects performance. Students who study together in fields as diverse as geology, nursing and mathematics do better on exams and assignments than students who study alone. The University of Arizona built collaborative learning into the undergraduate curriculum because students who work in groups, engage in problem based assignments, and make class presentations are more successful academically than students in traditional lecture-based courses.

Honors students set high standards for themselves and expect to achieve academically. Our annual survey of incoming students offers interesting insights into student motivation. Over half of incoming Honors students report that they like competition and like competing with others. About the same proportion report that their main concern is to get good grades and a high grade point average. In terms of their expected performance, Honors students have high expectations; three-quarters want to get better grades than most other students.

Yet the challenge of the course is a more important motivator than grades or competition with other students. Eight out of ten Honors students prefer course material that really challenges them to learn new things; the same proportion reports that their greatest satisfaction comes from trying to understand the content of the course as thoroughly as possible. Nine out of ten students prefer course material that arouses their curiosity even if it is difficult to learn. Nearly half report that they choose course assignments based on what they can potentially learn even if such assignments don't guarantee a good grade. It is that passion for learning and that eagerness for challenge that distinguishes Honors students.

Patrica MacCorquodale
Dean

**THE ONLY PLACE THAT SUCCESS COMES BEFORE
WORK IS IN THE DICTIONARY. MAY SMITH**



THE HONORS COLLEGE OUTSTANDING SENIOR - JESSICA HELMERS DECEMBER 2008

Jessica Helmers is graduating with a 4.0 GPA in Business Economics, Entrepreneurship and Spanish Literature. She was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa society in spring of 2008. Her passion is economic policy, but she has explored many other areas of academic and personal interest, in experiences as diverse as her parliamentary internship in London and her summer as a park ranger intern in the Grand Tetons. Jessica's stellar academic record is matched by her embodiment of The Honors College mission to promote social responsibility. Jessica helped to organize the 30-Hour Famine, an event which raises money for the hungry in Africa. She also worked to create opportunities with food banks and other organizations through her leadership role in the Presbyterian Campus Ministry. Jessica plans to continue her work in the social sphere by applying to teach in a low-income community through Teach for America, or to volunteer in the Peace Corps' Business Development Program in Latin America.

HONORS FORUM LUNCH SERIES FOR SPRING 2008

In the Spring semester, The Honors College will host the Honors Forum Lunch Series, which brings together faculty and Honors students over lunch as they listen to a UA faculty member discuss his/her research. We have had a terrific line-up of presenters during the Fall semester and the Spring promises to be excellent as well.

Among our presenters:

Wednesday, February 4 (12-1pm): Dr. Vicki Chandler

Director of the Bio5 Institute, will talk about "Gene Silencing Across Generations;" she will discuss epigenetics, or patterns of gene regulation beyond the DNA.

Thursday, February 26 (12:30-1:30): Peter Smith

Senior Research Scientist and Principal Investigator for the Phoenix Mars Mission, will discuss the success of the Mars Mission and data analysis from the lander's initial science experiments on Mars.

Tuesday, March 10 (12:30-1:30): Dr. Andrew Comrie

Professor of Geography and Associate VP for Research, will discuss "Climate and Disease," specifically the relationship between climate change and health.

Thursday, April 2nd (12:30-1:30): Alan Weisman

Associate Professor of Journalism, will discuss his best-selling book, *The World Without Us*, which probes the idea of how the world might respond if human beings were not on the planet

Soon, you will be able to RSVP for one of these lunches. Go to the Honors website (www.honors.arizona.edu), and do so early to reserve your spot for the talk that most interests you.

IMPORTANT: UPDATING

All students who wish to remain members of The Honors College must activate their Honors status by filling out the on-line update form each semester. The form is located on The Honors College webpage. Updating will be available for the first five weeks of each semester. Students who do not update their Honors status during the first five weeks of classes will be dropped from The Honors College and may reactivate their Honors status only AFTER PRIORITY REGISTRATION IS COMPLETE for that semester. Dropped students may not complete an Honors Contract during the semester in which they have been dropped. If a student does not update for two consecutive semesters, they may only reactivate their Honors status by going through the self-nomination process and meeting with an Honors advisor.

RICHARD KISSLING SPIRIT OF INQUIRY SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT



Winner
Anna Woods

Linguistics with a Chinese minor. Anna speaks of her spirit of inquiry as a “way of life” that stems from the fire of curiosity burning within you. For Anna, this fire comes in the form of the Chinese language: she wants to teach Chinese in elementary or middle school classrooms as a means of opening doors of understanding between cultures. She also works in the Phonetics laboratory at the UA, plays her cello in the UA Philharmonic orchestra, and recently was married. Professor Amy Fountain from the Linguistics Department says that “she demonstrates a spirit of true scholarship, a sense of joy in the discovery of language...and she learns quickly and readily, but is never

satisfied with having conquered a particular problem or concept – she is always searching for more, and deeper knowledge and how it relates to the world around us.”

Thanks to the following for their recent gifts to the Dr. Richard Kissling Scholarship Endowment. Our goal is to reach \$50,000 for the endowment by 2010.

David Scott Allen and Mark J. Sammons
Barbra H. Barnes
Nicky and Michael Bauer
Marion M. Butler
Richard A. Cosgrove
Phuong and Cac Dao
Betsy and Wayne Decker
Anne M. De Luca
Molly J. Engelhard

Joan and John Groce
Kelly Hartman
Lisa Hopper
Grace Kissling
Robert E. Kissling
Alaric C. LeBaron
Elizabeth and Clifford Lytle
Patricia MacCorquodale and Philip Krider
Vanessa and James Moxness
Janice L. Murphy
Virginia and Randall Richardson
Supapan Seraphin
Natalie A. Shue
Linda and John Stapleton
Allison L. Titcomb
Kurt P. Zobenica

Colleagues and friends honored Dr. Kissling upon his retirement in 2005 by establishing the Richard Kissling Spirit of Inquiry scholarship endowment. Dr. Kissling passed away at age 68 on April 5, 2008 after a long and courageous battle against diabetes, leukemia and heart disease having met one of the scholarship recipients. We know that he would have been delighted to talk with Anna Woods, the latest Kissling scholarship winner. Anna is a junior majoring in

HONORS COLLEGE AWARDS THREE SCHOLARSHIPS AT FAMILY WEEKEND HONORS CONVOCATION.



Hesketh Scholarship
Winner -
Mona
Eskandari

is a sophomore majoring in Mechanical Engineering. She loves the satisfaction of using the problem solving tools she has gained from her undergraduate education. She has conducted research since her senior year of high school and is active as an officer in the Society of Women Engineers. She also is a member of Women in Science and Engineering and an Engineering Ambassador. Professor Mark Riley says “Without any doubt, Mona is the most mature, intelligent, creative and thoughtful student I have encountered in 12 years on the faculty at the UA.” Karl also is a Mechanical Engineering major. He chose this major as it uses all the subjects that he loves: physics, computer science and mathematics. Karl credits his high school physics teacher as inspiring his fascination with physics and the engineering

faculty for introducing him to a world where physics and math can be applied. Karl has always been fascinated by the mechanics of the internal combustion engine and hopes to find an exciting career improving engine design.

The **Ligas Memorial Scholarship** honors the memory and spirit of Andria Ligas, a former Honors student. Andria lived each day as a quest, a challenge, and an adventure of mind, body and spirit. A stellar student with a penchant for languages, a triathlete, a marathon runner, an artist, a rock climber and a seasoned traveler, Andria never wasted time – every moment had its purpose. **Tamra Kasprzyk** was chosen to receive the Ligas Scholarship for 2008. Tamra is a junior majoring in Linguistics and Spanish and Portuguese with a minor in

Speech and Hearing Sciences. She had an opportunity to travel to Paraguay last summer to conduct language study among the Guarani and hopes to strengthen and preserve their language. Her artistic side finds expression in playing piano and throwing clay vases and bowls. She even took painting lessons this summer from a Paraguayan friend’s grandmother. She is a runner, plays tennis and gives tennis lessons, and serves in student leadership for the Catholic Newman Center Campus Ministry. Professor Melissa Fitch says that “Tamra is unique and has demonstrated multiple outstanding achievements; she is an adventurer, a linguist, an athlete and a community activist committed to helping others.”



Hesketh Scholarship
Winner -
Karl
Treadwell



Liags Memorial Scholarship
Winner -
Tamara
Kasprzyk

The **Hesketh Scholarship** for Honors students in the College of Engineering was awarded to **Mona Eskandari** and **Karl Treadwell**. Mona

The Honors College staff is proud of all our Honors students' accomplishments and our Outstanding Senior, Loran Kelly.

Honors Graduates

(listed under discipline in which honors will be awarded)

Sunshine Albright †
Anthropology
Jarita C. Holbrook

Thomas R. Anderson
Philosophy
John Pollock

Andrew Baranowski
Entrepreneurship
Don Piper

Gayle Bentley
Microbiology
Todd Vanderah

Alicia Bourassa
Family Studies & Human
Development
Bruce Ellis

Ariana Brocius
Latin American Studies
Elizabeth Oglesby

Lila Burgos
International Studies
Wayne Decker

Matthew Cagle †
Latin American Studies
Beatriz Urrea

Joshua Conver
Political Science
Chad Westerland

Jennifer Drain
Electrical Engineering
*Robin Strickland & Elmer
Grubbs*

Mau Chuang Foo †
Electrical Engineering
Elmer Grubbs & Charles Higgins

Andrea Gains-Germain
Mechanical Engineering
Gerald Pine

Stephanie Hall
Journalism
Kevin Kemper

Ryan T. Hartman
Engineering Management
Michael Arnold

Claire Catherine Heinitz
Plant Sciences
*Dennis Ray &
Ravishankar Palanivelu*

Jessica Helmers †
Entrepreneurship
Bob Morrison

Outstanding Senior

Amanda Herrell
Microbiology
*Emmanuel Katsanis,
Nicolas Larmonier, &
Nona Janikashvili*

Jennifer Kahn
Biosystems Engineering
Douglas Loy & Gerald Pine

Tasneem Kaochar
Computer Science
Saumya K. Debray

Savannah Knight
Linguistics
Adam Ussishkin

Erica Koltenuk
International Studies
Wayne Decker

Pick Chung Lau *
Biochemistry & Molecular
Biology
Robert J. Gillies
Chemical Engineering
Paul Blowers

Kyle Malhotra
Molecular & Cellular Biology
Leland Sandy Pierson

Christine McCaleb
International Studies
Wayne Decker

Lindsay McDonald
Nursing
Elaine Jones

Michelle Moran
Economics
Price Fishback

Alonso Montesinos
Electrical Engineering
Hal Tharpe

Tanuja Mouli
Electrical Engineering
Elmer Grubbs & Urs Utzinger

Toan Nguyen
Electrical Engineering
Elmer Grubbs

Karey O'Hara
Psychology
Connie Beck

Wahida Omar †
Creative Writing
Alison Deming

Lauren O'Neal
Anthropology
Ana M. Alonso

Iris Postelnicu
Classics
Marilyn B. Skinner

Tara Pullano
Religious Studies
J. Edward Wright

Amanda Radcliffe
Nursing
Marylyn McEwen

Heather Raftery †
Anthropology
John Olsen

Christine Reeves
Molecular & Cellular Biology
Christopher G. Rensing

Craig Sheedy †
Biochemistry & Molecular
Biophysics
Megan M. McEvoy

Tijana Skrepnik
Art History
Sarah J. Moore

Achyut Sompura
Anthropology
Rhonda Gillett-Netting

Laura Stein
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Alexander Badyaev

Whitney Steinmetz
Nursing
Lois J. Loescher

Sarah Upstill
Physiology
Lucinda Rankin

Tina Ranjit Vallabh
Physiology
Carroll E. Settle

Michael Williams
Psychology
Jeff Greenberg

Stefanie Woodward
International Studies
Wayne Decker

Adeel Yang †
Economics
Ronald Oaxaca

Chelsea Young
Theater Arts
Marsha Bagwell

* Da Vinci Award recipient is a student who has completed more than one thesis
† Silver Award of Excellence recipient is a student who is graduating with a 4.0 GPA

(Thesis Advisors listed under student)

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and Outreach

Diana Peel
Events Coordinator

Julie Reed
Academic Advisor

Angelica Robison
Secretary

Natalie Shue
Program Coordinator for
Recruitment and Outreach

Dr. Karna Walter
Director of Nationally Competitive
Scholarships

Barbara Whittlesey
Administrative Associate

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES

During Spring 2008, The Honors College will sponsor the Professional Development Series, which is designed to provide Honors students with opportunities for intellectual and personal growth beyond the classroom. We will have several sessions throughout the semester, such as "How to Work a Career Fair" and "Undertaking the Honors Thesis". Stay tuned to our listserv and website for more details.

PALADINS PRECEPTORS

We appreciate your hard work and dedication as you led weekly Paladins colloquia, met one-on-one with your students, and organized great events for your class from bowling nights to potlucks on the mall.

Thank you for being responsible and thoughtful mentors and leaders!

Fall 2008 Paladins Preceptors

Ry Ellison
Mary Garcia
Marie Roy
Tiffanie Nguyen
Brittany Smith
Darren Thompson

Christine Filer
Kate Ismeurt
Danielle Myers
Jonathan Ostroff
Prita Tandyasraya

DEADLINE FOR UDALL SCHOLARSHIP (FOR ANY STUDENTS INTERESTED IN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, AND NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS INTERESTED IN TRIBAL POLICY AND/OR HEALTHCARE)

Are you a top undergraduate who expects to pursue a career related to the environment? Are you a top Native American undergraduate who expects to undertake work in tribal policy and/or healthcare? Consider applying for the Udall Scholarship, an undergraduate award for which you must secure the UA's nomination. To learn about the scholarship, visit www.udall.gov, and contact Dr. Karna Walter (karna@email.arizona.edu) to find out about the application and nomination processes. The UA's application deadline is February 5, so notify Dr. Walter ASAP if you intend to apply.

DEADLINE FOR BOREN SCHOLARSHIP

Undergraduates wishing to study abroad in a non-Western country: consider applying for the Boren Scholarship (www.borenawards.org), an award for top undergrads to undertake language and cultural study in an area of "critical interest" to the United States government. You must be nominated for this award, and the UA deadline is January 26, so contact Dr. Karna Walter ASAP if you wish to apply (karna@email.arizona.edu).

EDITOR/DESIGN BY
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