

THE ECLECTIC

The Honors College Newsletter Winter 2003 Volume 9, Issue 2

Update Your Honors Status

Please remember to update your Honors status. Updating is will be available from the first day of class, January 14, 2004, until February 18, 2004. Please see www.honors.arizona.edu for the updating icon. Just click on the icon and follow the directions- it's that easy. Updating your Honors status will let us know that you want to be an active member of The Honors College. This process activates your Honors College benefits, such as extended library privileges, access to the computer lab at The Honors College, access to the "Research Opportunities" database, and other wonderful benefits. The most important benefit to the updating process is priority registration. If you are a freshman or sophomore this will allow you to register with the juniors for the fall and spring semesters. If you do not update, all of the benefits previously mentioned will be revoked and you will have to nominate yourself for readmission to The Honors College the subsequent semester. Reminders for updating will be posted in The Honors College, the Honors residence halls, on the Honors webpage and on the Honors listserv. Please call 621-6901 for any questions you may have.

Undergraduate Research Grant Program

The Vice President for Research commits \$40,000 each year to the undergraduate research fund to expand educational opportunities for undergraduate students. Undergraduates can apply for a stipend or other expenses needed for a personalized research endeavor. The amount of an individual grant typically is around \$800 with the possibility of an additional \$200 allocation for supplies and other expenses when justified.

Proposals must have the support of a faculty member. The faculty member co-signs the proposal and commits to serve as a research mentor and advisor. Proposals are judged by a review committee composed of faculty and students. Applications are encouraged from all disciplines within the University. Student researchers may not receive a grant and also obtain academic credit for the project, and applications for instructional projects are not considered. Research culminates with an undergraduate research forum in the spring following the summer in which the research is undertaken. The forum is conducted like a scholarly meeting and provides student researchers with a stimulating and memorable experience of publicly presenting their findings. Research projects are begun as early as June 1 and projects should be concluded in summer or early in the fall semester.

Applications are available from The Honors College beginning in late January. Proposals are due in early March, and the judging committee meets in early April to decide which proposals should be funded.

Attention Graduating Seniors

Please be reminded that The Honors College Pre- Commencement ceremony will be held on December 11th at 11:00 am in the living room of Slonaker House. December commencement medallions will be given to those graduating with Honors at this time. Please RSVP to 621-6901 before December 5th.

The University of Arizona Honors College
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Phi Beta Kappa Travel Grants Available

Phi Beta Kappa and The Honors College have a travel fund to help Honors students present papers at regional, national and international professional societies and associations. The Phi Beta Kappa travel fund will award two grants of \$300 each annually.

To be eligible for funding, students must:

- be active members of The Honors College
- be juniors or seniors in terms of their class standing
- have a 3.6 cumulative grade point average or higher
- have selected a major that is eligible for Phi Beta Kappa membership (<http://www.honors.arizona.edu/PBKmajors.html>)

Applications are due on December 1. Travel for either the fall or spring semester will be supported. To apply, students should submit an abstract of their paper or presentation, a letter from the society or association confirming their invitation to participate, and a letter of support from a faculty member familiar with the student's scholarly work. Because of the limited amount of funding available through the PBK travel fund, students' expenses will only be partially funded. Students should expect to seek funding from other sources; ability to secure funding from other sources or organizations will be viewed positively.

Upcoming Deadlines for Nationally Competitive Scholarships

The University of Arizona may nominate students for a number of nationally competitive scholarship programs. Although most scholarship deadlines occur in the fall semester, several important deadlines land in the spring semester. Here are upcoming deadlines for programs that may be of interest:

January 22: UA deadline for the NSEP/Boren Scholarship (for undergraduates interested in studying overseas in non-Western countries)

February 2: UA deadline for the Udall Scholarship (for undergraduates interested in the environment and/or Native American students interested in tribal health care and public policy)

February 12: NSEP/Boren Scholarship foundation deadline

March 3: Udall Scholarship foundation deadline

In addition, please note that The Honors College will host several scholarship information sessions during the spring semester. Stay tuned for specific information about times and locations.

Dr. Walter is available for appointments if you would like to discuss the prospect of applying for one or more of these nationally competitive scholarships. Please contact her at karna@u.arizona.edu or 621-6546. As always, consult the Honors College's Scholarship website for specific information about each scholarship administered <http://www.honors.arizona.edu/national.calendar.htm>.

Honors Advising

Academic advising is offered in The Honors College and also in over 100 academic departments. Advisors work with students to plan schedules, discover research and study abroad opportunities, and set goals for beyond graduation. Juniors and seniors can get assistance in finding a Senior Thesis advisor or to prepare for graduate fellowships. Students should call our office at 621-6901 for advising appointments with staff at The Honors College. Honors students who have not yet selected a major can meet with our new advisor, Diana Rix. Special faculty advisors for Honors students, in most departments, can be found on The Honors College website at: www.honors.arizona.edu/facadvisor.html

Contracting for Honors Credit

Short a few Honors credits for First Level Honors or Graduation with Honors? Having trouble finding Honors classes in your major? Consider contracting a class for Honors credit. You put a little “something extra” into the class and in return you receive Honors credit.

The first step is reviewing your class syllabus and meeting with your professor to determine if the class may be contracted. To complete the contract form on-line you must already know the details about your “something extra” before you open the form — “extra paper” or “extra project” will not be approved for Honors credit! General education classes should have the contract terms in the syllabus, and may even have a pre-approved group contract. The terms of the contract should make it evident how often you will meet with your professor to discuss your progress. On the form you should explain how the contract will enrich the subject matter and show that you are incorporating ongoing experiences through the entire semester. Projects likely to be approved may involve discussions outside of class or other practical applications of knowledge or skills that are not offered to other students in the class such as keeping a journal, reporting on a workshop or event, or conducting interviews. Work that is qualitatively different may include covering topics outside the basic course, using a different analytic technique from the rest of the class, or presenting a project in a different format/mode from the other students. Be as specific as possible about the readings (how many?), topics, presentation formats (how long?) or outline how decisions are to be made (is any topic okay or must the professor approve it first?). Describe how you will summarize and evaluate your Honors experience. Go to the Honors website at www.honors.arizona.edu to get ideas about what other students have done.

Just a reminder: You may not contract a class taught by a graduate student. Read the form carefully for the other restrictions.

The on-line form is available at: <http://www.honors.arizona.edu/cgi-bin/contract.plx>. You must have updated to use the form, and you must use the on-line form to contract a class unless you are in a class with a pre-approved group contract. Print the form, obtain your instructor’s signature and turn in the form and a copy of the class syllabus to the front desk at the Honors College no later than **February 18**.

Please call 621-6901 for any contracting questions.

Honors Student Association

The Honors Student Association is a social and philanthropic club for Honors students. HSA meets on the third Tuesday evening of each month and plans a philanthropic and social activity each month. Membership is open to all Honors students. HSA was started in 1971 to promote interest in community service, to provide a social outlet for busy Honors students, and to encourage scholarship, both in and out of the classroom. HSA is an excellent way to get to know other Honors students while engaging in community service activities, such as volunteering at Casa de los Ninos, cooking meals for the Ronald McDonald House, or collecting holiday food for families in need. Please keep an eye on the Eclectic Bits listserv for meeting dates, location and times.

Honors College Play Auditions

Auditions for the Spring 2004 Honors College Play will be held at 7pm in the living room of Slonaker House on Wednesday, January 21 and Thursday, January 22. This Spring’s production will be a series of acts from three different plays. More information will be available on the Honors listserv and in The Honors College closer to audition dates.

Writing Services Available

We have found that many of the Honors students are unaware of the existing writing support services for the upper-division majors. Depending on your particular individual concerns about writing, here are two appropriate places for your reference. We encourage you to use them.

The Writing Center helps students with work in progress. The most effective service of the Center is to advise at-risk students at the beginning of their courses that they should make an appointment at the Writing Center as soon as they are given a writing assignment, to troubleshoot the writing task they have been assigned and develop a plan for carrying it out. Then, well before the due date, the student should take a draft to the Writing Center and work on it with the same tutor and revise it. This reminds them of the process they were taught in composition that earned them good grades. The instructor can be assured that the at-risk student has taken his or her advice if s/he requires the draft submitted for a grade to be accompanied by the reviewed draft.

The Writing Skills Improvement Program provides a similar service with professional tutors for minority and financially assisted students. It also provides free weekly drop-in workshops that review specific writing topics. The schedule for each semester's workshops is available on the WSIP web page or by phone. The most effective use of the free weekly series is to assess students' writing early in the semester and refer individuals to the entire series or to multiple sessions that review the concepts in which students show weaknesses.

Here are the websites and contact numbers for the Writing Center and the Writing Skills Improvement Program:

Writing Center: Individual sessions with peer consultants on work in progress.
 Director, Sandra Florence: 621-7409, Writing Center Desk: 621-3182,
 Web Site: <http://w3.arizona.edu/~uawc>, Location: Bear Down Gym, east front entrance

WSIP: Individual sessions with professional tutors for minority students and students on assistance. Free weekly workshops for anyone on specific topics.
 Director: Dr. Roseann Gonzalez, Asst. Director: Dr. Donna Rabuck, Phone: 621-5849
 Web Site: <http://w3.arizona.edu/~wsip>, Location: 1201 E. Helen for individual services; Modern Languages Bldg. for workshops

Important Dates and Deadlines

11/11/03	VETERANS DAY- NO CLASSES	1/14/04	First Day of Spring Classes
11/27-11/30/03	THANKSGIVING RECESS- NO CLASSES	1/19/04	Updating Begins MLK DAY- NO CLASSES
12/10/03	Last day of Classes	1/22/04	Last day to add classes for credit from zero units using
12/11/03	Honors College Pre-Commencement Ceremony		Change of Schedule form
	Slonaker House Living Room beginning 11am	2/10/04	Last day to drop a course resulting in deletion of course
12/12-12/19/03	Final exams		enrollment from record
12/20/03	Winter Commencement/ Graduation	2/18/04	Last day to update Honors status
12/22/03-1/13/04	WINTER RECESS- NO CLASSES		Last day to contract course for Honors credit
1/11/04	Residence halls open		