

November
2001

Honorable Mention is published four times each academic year by The University of Iowa Honors Program.

Four of these are available on-line and two of these are a printed version.

The newsletter staff welcomes comments, suggestions, and ideas.

Submissions can be sent to the editor Dana Deuell at dana-deuell@uiowa.edu.

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H O N O R A B L E M E N T I O N

A Publication Of The University Of Iowa Honors Program

Plans For Blank Honors Center Underway...

Honors Program Gets New Home

By Dana Deuell
Newsletter Editor

As of August, the Honors Program is temporarily located in the Jefferson Building awaiting the completion of the Blank Honors Center in 2003.

The Center will house the Honors Program and the Connie Belin and Jacqueline N. Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development, making the UI the first school in the nation to offer services for academically gifted students in kindergarten through college in one building. The UI hopes that this partnership will assist in the recruitment and retention of top students.

Total cost for the building's construction is estimated at about \$13 million.

Over \$9 million in funding will come from private gifts to the UI, including a \$5 million donation made by Myron and Jacqueline



Blank Honors Center

The Blank Honors Center will house the UI Honors Program and the Belin-Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development. The Center will be located between Bloomington and Market Streets, bordered on the west by the T. Anne Cleary Walkway. (Computer-generated photo courtesy of UI News Services.)

Blank of Des Moines in 1999. Including this gift, the Blanks have given more than \$9 million to the UI Foundation in the past two decades in support of the Belin-Blank Center.

University earnings will provide the balance of the project budget.

The new building will

include a basement and six floors with a total of 58,700 square feet. It will be connected to a proposed Careers Center at both the basement and second floor levels.

Five modern, technology-equipped classrooms will be used for Honors Program seminars and general educa-

tion courses. The Belin-Blank Center will use the classrooms on weekends and in the summer months. The Center will also contain computers for students and areas for studying and socializing.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the Center was held on July 25.



Show Me The Money...

Scholarship Tips

By Bob Kirby
Assistant Director

Each year the Honors Program provides support to undergraduates in the University through scholarships and grants. This year, we will be providing more support than ever before.

We have added new scholarships for you to apply for as well as increasing the amount of support available to you for research and travel. There are two great ways to learn more about these opportunities.

The first is to stop by the Honors Program on the second floor of the Jefferson Building and talk with us. As well as talking to us directly, we can point you to a broad range of printed information we have on scholarships from inside and outside the University.

A second starting point is to open up the Honors web site and look at our scholarship page. You will find basic information about our scholarships, application forms, and links to a variety of other scholarship sites.

Listed below is a brief run down on what we have available through the Honors Program. Applications for all of the awards listed below are available on-line or at 202 JB.

The deadline for the scholarships is not until February 15, 2002 but I would encourage you to begin thinking about the application process now.

Putting together a strong scholarship application can take more time than you think and letters of recommendation can be much more effective when a faculty member is given the time to think about what they will say.

Bottom line is look into it now and find out what is required. Those slow times in early January could be a great time to get your application together!

Dewey Stuit Award for First-Year Honors Student: This is a single award of \$1,500 for a student returning for their sophomore year in the College of Liberal Arts.

It is based primarily on academic merit but also requires a brief written segment from the applicant and a faculty letter of support.

Dewey Stuit Award for Second-Year Honors Student: This is a single award of \$2,000 for a student returning for their junior year in the College of Liberal Arts. It is based on academic merit and requires a brief written segment from the applicant and a faculty letter of support.

It is expected that the applicant will have become broadly involved in the University and/or community in addition to excelling in the classroom.

Rhodes Dunlap First-Year Honors Student Awards:

Five recipients will be selected and receive \$1,000 towards expenses for their sophomore year at the University. It is based primarily on academic merit but also requires a brief written segment from the applicant and a faculty letter of support.

Rhodes Dunlap Second-Year Honors Student Awards: Five recipients will be selected and receive \$1,000 towards expenses for their junior year at the University. It is based on academic merit and requires a brief written segment from the applicant and a faculty letter of support. It is expected that the applicant will have become broadly involved in the University and/or community in addition to excelling in the classroom.

James D. Robertson Third-Year Scholarship: This is a single award of \$1,000 to a student returning for their senior year in the College of Liberal Arts. The scholarship is based on a combination of academic merit and University and/or community involvement. The recipient must be an Iowa High School graduate and be majoring in a social science discipline.

The Rhodes Dunlap Honors Program Scholarships : These awards are for students returning as undergraduates to the University of Iowa and pro-

vides \$3,000 for expenses in the following year. Twenty are awarded in Liberal Arts and two in each of the other undergraduate Colleges.

The recipients are selected based on academic merit, university and/or community involvement, a written statement of academic purpose, and two letters of recommendation from faculty members.

Students may not apply for either the Rhodes Dunlap First-Year or Second-Year Honors Student Awards and the Rhodes Dunlap Honors Program Scholarships.

While students in their second year at the University are allowed to apply for the Rhodes Dunlap Honors Program Scholarships, there is a greater expectation for well developed extracurricular activities with this award.

Honors Thesis Research: These awards are available to anyone working on their honors thesis and provide up to \$500 for expenses. Students may request more if there is extremely strong need. Students may only receive the award once.

Honors Program Travel Grants: These awards support student travel for scholarly presentations. There will be ten awards of up to \$500 for expenses and they will be provided on a first come – first served basis.

What Does It Take To Win A Scholarship?

Honors Program Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic excellence, extracurricular involvement, and community service. The following are brief biographies of some of the students who received scholarships in 2001.

Sara Bradley was the 2001 recipient of the James D. Robertson Scholarship. She is a psychology major from Fayette, IA. She has been a member of The University of Iowa Student Democrats and a UI research assistant.

Yasser Dahab was a 2001 Rhodes Dunlap recipient in the College of Engineering. He has served as an officer with the Golden Key International Honor Society and is a regular contributor to *Hawkeye Engineer Magazine*.

Nana Diedrichs, a 2001 Rhodes Dunlap recipient, is from Cresco, IA. She has worked as a research assistant translating articles and compiling bibliographical materials. She has also volunteered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the free lunch program and participated in intramural athletics.

Marc Doobay was the 2001 recipient of the Dewey B. Stuit First-Year Scholarship. He is from Ames, IA. He has been a member of the Iowa Biosciences Advantage Program and a regular volunteer at UIHC.

Jesse Elliott was the 2001 recipient of the Dewey B. Stuit Second-Year Scholarship and the Rhodes Dunlap Scholarship. He is a Presidential Scholar and Honors Program student employee who also writes for *The Daily Iowan*.

Dara Hickman was a 2001 Rhodes Dunlap recipient in the College of Business. She has participated in Campus Bible Fellowship, Campus Crusade for Christ, Hawkeye Christian Fellowship, Intramural basketball, the Honors Volunteer Program, Associated Residence Hall, Voices of Soul Gospel Choir, and floor government.

Andrew Misfeldt, a 2001 Rhodes Dunlap recipient, is from Columbia, MO. He has worked as a research assistant looking at the role of amniotic fluid in prenatal development. He has also served as a communications officer for Mortar Board, in charge of society announcements and advertising.

Are You Looking For Additional Recognition?

In addition to administering its own scholarships, the Honors Program also offers advice on competition for certain national and international scholarships, including:

- **Churchill Scholarships**
- **Ford Foundation Scholarships**
- **Gates Millennium Scholarships**
- **Goldwater Scholarships**
- **Howard Hughes Fellowships**
- **Marshall Fellowships**
- **Mellon Fellowships**
- **Truman Scholarships**
- **Rhodes Scholarships**
- **Udall Scholarships**

Each of these programs supports a particular direction and/or location of study. They are not forms of general financial aid.

However, you may be exactly the kind of student one or more of these programs is looking for.

You can learn more about them by visiting the Honors Program and examining our notebooks.

Each is marked with the name of one of the scholarships. The binder contains details about that program, together with the application form.

The Honors Program has also included examples of successful applications written

by students at

The University of Iowa.

Reading through the binders will give you

a good sense of which

programs might support the kind of work you would like to do.

If you are interested in competing for one or more of these awards, please let us know. They require a significant commitment of your time and effort but students have consistently felt the experience was worthwhile.



Arts Program Enhances Enjoyment Of The Arts

By Evan Mazunik, Arts Program Coordinator

The Arts Program aims to serve as a catalyst in the lives of honors students for active participation in and enjoyment of the arts.

By providing venues for creativity (ex. "Share Your Groove Night"—a new monthly open mike), interactions with artists and professors (such as pre-show discussions) and free tickets, the Arts Program seeks to encourage artistic expression and appreciation. In other words, everyone's creative and here's an opportunity to display it. The calendar of events includes (but is not limited to) the following shows at Hancher:

- ◆ Nov. 17: Dionysus
- ◆ Jan. 25, 26: Bill T. Jones
- ◆ Feb. 22: Shaolin Warriors
- ◆ Apr. 4-6: Blast!



Other venues and events may be added to the calendar. Check the honors web page for further updates.

If you have any suggestions, questions, comments, or flashes of insight, please e-mail me at evan-mazunik@uiowa.edu.

Foreign Relations Council Promotes Cultural Exchange

By Jesse Elliott, Council Coordinator

The Iowa City Foreign Relations Council brings distinguished scientists, politicians, journalists, artists, activists, and academics from all around the world to Iowa City for mutually beneficial cultural exchanges.

The Honors program has six memberships in the council and regularly sends students to luncheons held at the Rockwood Congregational Church--right next to Phillips Hall on Clinton

Avenue--where students are treated to a free meal and lively discussion.

In the upcoming year, students will have a chance to get personal with a Cuban writer, British journalist, and Iowa biotech scientist who is shaping the way the world thinks about international food production and distribution.

For more info about the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council and how to get involved, e-mail me at jesse-elliott@uiowa.edu.



Learning Community Schedules Activities

By Mike Brooks
Learning Community Coordinator

The Learning Community floors in Daum will have a righteous year of fun and learning.

Activities, as well as the general fun and growth of being a 1st year student, will keep everyone busy.

There will be a section for the LC under my name on

the Honors web page, so check that out as it comes along.

MOST students will be having a great time in the Honors program as well. Watch out for possible barbecues.



Volunteer Program Combines Service And Fun

By Katie Krone
Volunteer Program Coordinator

Upcoming events in the Honors Volunteer Program include the following:

Free Lunch Program On Nov. 14 and 28

11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

- ◆ Help prepare and serve lunch while spending time with the homeless of Iowa City

Owl Glass Puppetry On Nov. 17

9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

- ◆ Make finger puppets for the puppetry center in West Liberty

A Bright Star Shines In September...

UI Student Describes Study Abroad Journey

By Valerie Pelak

UI senior and theatre major September Lau's almost year-long journey to Kenya exposed her to the uniqueness that any foreign country has to offer: beautiful scenery, a rich culture, and the harsh realities of poverty.

The means by which the impoverished try to obtain money may seem unusual and frightening to most Americans but are commonplace in third world countries.

This poverty was the aspect of the country Lau wanted to see.

"I arrived to Kenya and I saw these individuals whose needs have not been met--so they will do just about anything to get ahead, even it is unethical and illegal," she said. "These people are poor and are living in impoverished conditions but are so complacent, and hospitable they do nothing to change their situations."

Lau's trip to Kenya was part of a program out of the University of Minnesota that dealt with international development and solidarity in third world countries.

Lau wanted a study abroad program that would guarantee the chance to work closely with individuals that lived in rural areas or were in poorer social classes.

In Kenya, Lau lived with a host family. Lau rarely saw her host mother and father, who had to work almost fourteen hours a day at a nearby restaurant--an unreasonable

working day in the United States, but a seemingly normal day in Kenya.

However, Lau did develop strong relationships with her two host sisters.

"They were similar in age to me, and we became very close," she said. "My one sister Ann and I talked about everything. I miss her very much."

Lau also attended school with other American students for two months in a makeshift barn--not in a normal school building.

Later, Lau became an intern at a citizens coalition for constitutional change facility where she counseled impoverished individuals from rural and lower-class communities.

"In Kenya, the city is divided into classes; the upper class and the lower class, but unlike in America, there is nothing

done to help these poorer classes," she said. "The country needs work, and just knowing that I helped in a little way was so gratifying."

What had originally been planned as a four month stay in Kenya stretched into an almost nine month opportunity. When Lau's voyage ended, it was tough boarding the plane for the United States.

"I must admit I was devastated," she said. "I cried for a half an hour, but I knew that I had to go back to my real home."

The shock Lau felt on the day of her departure has continued back at the UI.

"This past summer, I did not wear a watch, because it was so laid back in Kenya, Things as simple as wearing a watch are different and difficult for me now," said Lau.

Lau's family was very sup-

portive of her journey and her relationships with friends are still strong after her time in Kenya.

"The friends I had before I left for Africa are still close to me and we did not really grow apart," she said. "My family and I are still very close, but they are used to someone in my family leaving for some reason. My sister has studied abroad various times and they have become acclimated to that."

Lau has set her sights on eventually becoming a playwright and writing works that could help Americans embrace another culture.

"I think I see myself writing plays or stories about politics or societal change," she said. "I think Americans are too isolated and narrow-minded."

Study Abroad Facts

The following facts are taken from the UI Office of Study Abroad website at <http://www.uiowa.edu/~uiabroad>.

- ◆ 705 University of Iowa students studied abroad during 1999-2000.
- ◆ Of the UI students who studied abroad during 1999-2000, 79% (560) were undergraduates.
- ◆ Among the UI undergraduate degree candidates who studied abroad, 2% were freshmen, 10% sophomores, 40% juniors, and 48% seniors.
- ◆ 49% of study abroad participants spent a semester abroad, 40% spent the summer/short term abroad, and 11% spent an entire academic year abroad.
- ◆ The 560 UI undergraduates who studied abroad during 1999-2000 did so in 40 different countries.

PROCRASTINATION DOESN'T PAY

I am the procrastinator of all procrastinators.

I will delay cleaning the floor of my shower until a thick charcoal-colored mildew appears under my feet. I will delay buying a new toothbrush until somebody tells me that I have got a bristle stuck in my teeth.

This last spring, the story was no different when I finally decided to begin my Journalistic Reporting and Writing Honors Project.

It was one

week before finals week and I had not done a thing.

Near the beginning of the semester I had a great idea for a project. I would take two music magazines, one magazine from the UK, and one magazine that was published in the United States. Then, I would compare the two, using quantitative and qualitative measures as methods of comparison.

I wanted to be able to distinguish an American audience from a British audience. I wanted to be able to answer



Taking A Class For Honors Credit

Any course in the College of Liberal Arts can be designated an "Honors course."

To arrange for Honors Designation, the student and professor should agree on a special course project, such as a paper or outside reading that would help enrich the course. The appropriate form should be picked up from the Honors Program secretary, completed, and returned to Honors Center before the first four weeks of the semester.

At the end of the semester, the student shall ask the professor to sign the original agreement form, and return the form to the Honors Program secretary in the Jefferson Building.

Providing that the student has also received the grade of "B" or higher for the course in question, the Honors Program will inform the Registrar that the student's transcript should reflect Honors Designation for that course.

questions like: which audience prefers listening to more hip-hop than the other? Do Americans go clubbing more than Brits?

The British magazine was called *Ministry Magazine*, a publication bursting of pro-drug itinerary, flamboyant super-club advertisements and pictures of sweaty club goers wearing next to nothing.

Mixer Magazine, the American-based magazine, was a bit more conservative, laced with CD advertisements and spreads showcasing the latest in technology.

I had a big job to do and I only had three days to do it.

The next 72 hours were rough. Leaving the apartment was out of the question. I felt like I had just ratted out Don Corleone and I had to stay clear of his buffers.

I needed a minimum of nine pages. It sounded easy. But after the quantitative analysis portion I wanted to pass out.

The constant number crushing was turning my brain

into that oozy-pink slime from *Ghostbusters II* that multiplied in size if you sang the *Full House* theme.

The hours flew by and it was Monday before I knew it. By that time thorough proofreading was out of the question. I had exerted every brain function until finally I couldn't do it anymore. I was officially burnt-out.

I turned in my project to Professor Stark that afternoon. At that moment I had never felt so high. It was as if I was invited to the Wonka mansion for desert.

The project was later approved for Honors credit and I went off to enjoy another luxurious summer.

Writer Aaron Brim is a junior from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He is majoring in journalism and English.

Aaron's future plans include becoming an esteemed music reporter and critic.

Words To Live By

"A good education is not so much one which prepares a man to succeed in the world, as one which enables him to sustain a failure."
— **Bernard Bell**

"Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."
— **Malcolm X**

"Many college textbooks, which were a weariness and stumbling-block when I studied, I have since read a little with pleasure and profit."
— **Henry David Thoreau**

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."
— **Albert Einstein**

"The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet."
— **Aristotle**

"Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself."
— **Chinese Proverb**

Please Don't Ask Me What My Major Is

By Mike Brooks
Learning Community Coordinator

A new school year is underway, and once again the questions start. "So, Mike," friends, professors, bosses, and strangers on the street ask me, "What's your major this month?"

I guess the thought of a third year student with enough credits to be a senior, but not enough to qualify for even one minor is sort of confounding. My grandparents are more to the point: "Mike, you directionless jerk," Grandma says, "Make up your mind already."

The irony is that I have made up my mind. I like political science, English, philosophy, economics, psychology, ecology, theater, sociology, music, cooking, and some other stuff. Will I major or even minor in any one of these areas? Unless it is "other stuff," probably not.

Instead, I am committed to making my mind work in as many different ways as possible while I still have the mental flexibility to do so. I want to learn how scientists think more than I want to get an in-depth look at what they

think. We can always read a book once we understand its language. What we cannot always do is be a business major who is taught the process of analyzing a literary text by an English professor. Likewise for the English major who learns the scientific method in biology.

As responsibilities mount and gray matter hardens it will be increasingly difficult to push our minds in different directions. We need to do it now.

My method is a somewhat extreme one that works for me personally; most people are more sensible than I and will discover one or two majors to stick with. This is great, and probably a good move when it comes to considering life after graduation.

But one should remember not to cling so fiercely to an area of specialization that they ignore other modes of thought. The world's phenomena are not divided into specific sciences; a good understanding of them will require multiple perspectives.

Can we examine politics without considering economics? Can we produce art in a world isolated from business? Maybe. But I bet we would do better by integrating the fields.

While our minds must make conceptual boundaries for sanity's sake, we shouldn't hesitate to jump between them when we can. If you are

dreading your General Education Requirements, look at them with a fresh perspective. They are unique chances to put on a new thinking cap. If you are an upperclassman with some extra space to fill in your schedule, consider taking a course radically different from ones you have had.

Learning should be interesting. If it is just about checking off requirements in an inflexible progression you have not actively considered, it isn't worth it.

So if you see me on the street, please don't ask me what my major is. Instead ask me what excites me.

Ask me if I have developed a unified theory of knowledge yet, or if instead I have burnt out my brain, losing myself in incoherent existential musings. While the later may be more likely than the former for me, it doesn't have to be for you.

Learning is beautiful, there is a lot of it to do, and it will make us a better people and society to stick with it.

Ask me what excites me and I will say, "Everything."

Somewhere my grandma is crying.

A Message From The Director...

September 11: How You Can Help

**By Alice Fulton
Honors Program Director**

All of you know of the great tragedy that happened September 11, and the outpouring of help to those who suffered in New York and D.C. We all mourn with those who lost family and friends. Some of the concrete ways you can help if interested include giving blood (a convenient site is in the hospital) or donations to aid organizations such as Red Cross.

Doing what we can as individuals helps each of us cope with a difficult time. Some of you may also know that there have been less civil responses as well: defacements of mosques, attacks on individuals who are Moslem or who are from the Middle East.

I am sad to say that there have even been a few incidents here at the University of Iowa in which people flooded by anger against those who did so much harm have turned their anger against innocent individuals.

I appeal to you all, as outstanding students who carry influence through your actions and speech, to help the university

stay true to its ideals of community and justice. Take a moment to reach out to anyone who may feel at risk in these times and support them with your words and actions. Speak up if you hear someone condemning a whole group for the actions of a few.

Take part in and tell other students about educational opportunities that can help us all to understand more of what has happened. The University is a community, but communities are the dynamic consequence of all our choices. Only as each one of us lives out our commitments to community does this community remain a reality.

Finally, remember that the University Human Rights policies embrace and protect all members of the community. Encourage anyone who has been ill treated to tell the Vice President for Student Services or Public Safety, so that we can act together to make this a community that is open and welcoming to all.

I have always been touched by the good spirit in which our honors students respond to calls for service, and I have great confidence that each of you will do what you can in these times of challenge.

The University of Iowa Honors Program
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