



The Honorary

University of Wisconsin-Stout Honors College Newsletter



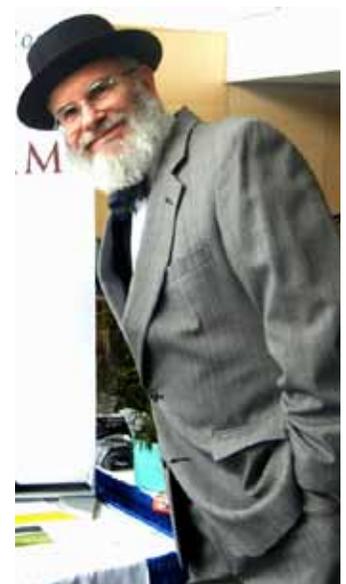
HONORS COLLEGE

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Honorary Staff

Amanda Little
Jessica Jacovitch
Jessi Goodell



Letter from the Director

*Welcome to the inaugural edition of The Honorary,
the Newsletter of UW Stout's Honors College.*



The Newsletter commemorates our transition to Honors College on July 1, 2012 after being the University Honors Program at UW–Stout since 1994. A Grand Opening celebration was held on September 12, 2012 and is featured in this newsletter.

In this first edition of *The Honorary*, you will find snapshots of people and events happening at Honors College. We hope to circulate this newsletter once every semester, keeping current students and alumni informed about developments and encouraging dialogue and involvement in the life of Honors College. From our humble beginnings in the basement of Harvey Hall, we have now moved to the fourth floor of the Robert S. Swanson Library. The office staff now includes the Director, (I have served in this role from June 2011) the Assistant Director, Dr. Mandy Little from the Biology Department, Beverly Deyo-Svensden, our Program Associate, Jessica Jacovitch, our Graduate Assistant and Joy Bergstrand, our new Program Assistant. We also have student employees, including Jessi Goodell who is responsible for the design of the newsletter.

Honors College at Stout is known for its many traditions, which include Colloquium, Wednesday Soups, and Opera trips among others. With *The Honorary*, we are inventing a new tradition, one we hope you will enjoy and participate in! Please send us your comments, updates, news and other things you would like to see in the newsletter. These can be addressed to honors@uwstout.edu.

Best wishes,

Lopa Basu

Director, Honors College
Associate Professor of English
University of Wisconsin-Stout



The Honors College Grand Opening!

(Left to Right): Program Director Dr. Lopa Basu, Assistant Director Dr. Mandy Little, and Program Associate Beverly Deyo-Svendsen at the Honors College Grand Opening ceremony

The University Honors Program has now become Honors College!

Since our humble beginning in 1994, the University Honors Program has grown into a membership that is rapidly approaching 400 students. On July 1, 2012 we became the second UW-System school to obtain the prestigious designation of Honors College.

As members of Honors College, our students will enjoy a wider variety of course offerings, co-curricular activities, and Honors-specific housing options. As Honors College graduates, our students' resumes will benefit from the increased prestige that the title brings. We are also collaborating with the UW-Stout Foundation to offer more to students in Honors.

Dr. Bob Horan



This September, we were happy to celebrate Honors College at our Grand Opening. Chancellor Charles W. Sorensen, UHP Founding Director Dr. Robert Horan, and UHP alumna Keri Holter, Associate Principal of Holmen Middle School all spoke on the meaning of an Honors education during keynote presentations. Both Dr. Horan and Ms. Holter emphasized the importance of Honors education in pushing students to achieve their fullest potential. Another topic was the importance of being able to ask good questions rather than having all the answers.

We were joined in our celebration by Honors faculty and students, State Representative John Murtha, State Senator Sheila Harsdorf, U.S. Representative Ron Kind, and UW Regent Edmund Manydeeds, along with members of the press. A feature article on the event appeared in the Eau Claire *Leader Telegram*.

Numerous Honors students presented work, including edited volumes, professional photographic journals, scientific and sociological research, fashion collection design and event planning portfolios. The Stout Jazz Embers directed by Dr. Aaron Durst performed as our guests enjoyed refreshments and shared stories.

A special thank you to all who joined us for this occasion!



Awesome Honors students at Fall Colloquium 2012

Honors Colloquia

The Fall Honors Colloquium focused on economics, with a particular emphasis on the current worldwide economic crisis, which began arguably in 2008 and from which we are still trying to recover. Students and faculty across campus read Dr. Paul Krugman's *The Return of Depression Economics and the Crisis of 2008*. The author, 2008 Nobel Laureate in Economics and Professor at Princeton University, discusses the meaning of an economic recession and how our current circumstances are tied to other global financial crises in this illuminating book. Krugman writes about the historical roots of current economic thinking and the regulatory environment, and addresses ideas for economic recovery.

UW-Stout's Honors Colloquium is unique among Honors Programs across the nation, and provides faculty, staff, and students from multiple disciplines the rare opportunity to engage in intense discussions about relevant issues twice per year.

Dr. Chris Ferguson



324 students and over fifty faculty and staff met in two sessions in the Great Hall of the MSC to discuss this challenging text. Dr. Chris Ferguson of Social Sciences delivered a short informational address, and discussants were treated to a panel of economic experts from Stout consisting of Drs. Ferguson, Boubacar, Fanta, Tyson, and Seim of Social Sciences, and Dr. Livesey of English and Philosophy.

Spring Honors Colloquium delved into *Radioactive: Pierre and Marie Curie: A Tale of Love and Fallout* by Lauren Redniss on February 5th, 2013. To tie in with the book, we invited Dr. Shelly Leshner of UW-LaCrosse to campus to speak on nuclear science. Dr. Leshner is one of the few nuclear physicists currently working in Wisconsin.

Please let us know if you are interested in participating in colloquium or any other events! Both faculty and students love to interact with alumni.

Dr. Bob Horan, Founding Director, Retires

As we celebrated transitioning to Honors College, we also wished happiness during retirement to Dr. Robert Horan, “Doc Bob,” the founding director of University Honors Program. During our November soup, students and faculty celebrated Dr. Horan’s commitment to Honors. Below, Dr. Horan answers our questions about Honors and teaching.

Why did you start the University Honors Program?

The idea of forming an honors program at Stout existed before I became involved around 1992. I involved myself because I wanted more from my teaching experience than I was getting by teaching the standard English curriculum; I thought that honors education might be a solution to what seemed to me weaknesses in Stout’s curriculum, and I came to see that “honors students” at UW-Stout could benefit from some special attention. I wanted the University to be able to provide an education with intellectual teeth as well as market savvy.

What did you like about Honors?

What I like about teaching is working with students who want to learn – however, whatever they are designated. In the honors program, I encountered GROUPS of students who wanted learn – Honors was the only place at Stout I encountered this. I found it a great pleasure to work with teachers who were interested in their students as well as their academic discipline, cared about communicating with their students, and believed “higher education” was possible.

What’s it like being retired?

I spend time with my dog, Charlie; I play golf; I fit and build golf clubs; I practice saxophone and play in the Chipewa Valley Concert Band and the Ludington Guard Band; I cook; I attend the opera and other musical performances; I read; I write; I visit with non-musical or non-golfing friends; I help out when and where I can. I plan to move closer to my grandchildren.

What is your teaching philosophy?

As everyone else knows, some part of good teaching comes up through the roots – so, like all teachers, I am part mushroom. My other part is the odd synthesis of the parents, teachers, crossing guards, bosses, therapists, instructors, coaches, and mentors who I studied for many years and from whom I stole with impunity. Teaching and learning – as distinct from instructing and being graded – is intimate and difficult to describe. By definition, learning means change. While I’m not aware of being much affected by instructing/grading interactions, I have been changed through each of my teaching/learning interactions. I acquired information I did not have, perspectives I had not known, and sympathies I had not felt. I came to see myself differently more times than I can count. In consequence, I often felt alive and purposeful.

We travel this earth a short time. I believe we best treat other creatures as fellow travelers and fellow sufferers, and I believe maintaining your avidity for learning is the best way to spend your short time here. I tried to express my convictions through my teaching and administrative work at Stout.



We wish Doc Bob the best in retirement, hope to see him around from time to time, and thank him for touching our lives.

Featured Alumna



Keri Holter

Associate Principal

Keri Holter, a 1999 University Honors Program Alumna, answers our questions about her memories from Honors at Stout and her experiences since her graduation. Keri received a BS in Marketing Education with Minors in Economics and General Business Administration. Her hobbies include traveling, gardening, fishing, going to rock concerts, Mayan history, reading, and spending time with her amazing sons (7 years old and 2 years old) and husband (who she also met at Stout).

Where are you now?

I now live in Holmen, WI (where I grew up). I currently serve as Associate Principal at Holmen Middle School (rural 6th-8th grade with 900 students). I have since received a Master's in Educational Leadership.

What does a typical day look like?

For me, there is no "typical." The best part about my job is having an ever-changing, always surprising schedule. It is the kind of job that absolutely requires that you balance detail orientation and being able to react to situations with being a big-picture person who never loses sight of what we need to be striving for. I get to work with an amazing staff including teachers, educational assistants, custodians, food service workers, secretaries and district leaders. I work with parents to support their children academically, emotionally and socially. Currently, I am heavily involved in our school Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) group. I work with teachers on developing annual achievement and school goals centered around students. I also work very closely with Special Education staff and students, help coordinate the HMS Talented and Gifted (TAG) program as well as serving as summer school principal.

What's new with you?? Keep in touch with Honors College!

We would love to hear where you have been since your graduation or about any recent accomplishments.

What do you value most about your experience in Honors?

Honors went beyond teaching me facts and helped teach me how to think. It helped me gain an appreciation for the various gifts people have and how you can see things more clearly when you truly appreciate the skills and dispositions that everyone brings to the table. Honors helped foster my curiosity and hone my questioning skills. In my career, my honors experience helps me make sure that our gifted students get the extensions and differentiated learning experiences they need to really reach their potential. It has also really helped me see both sides of any dispute which helps with conflict resolution.

What is your favorite Honors memory?

Going on a road trip with UHP students and Dr. Horan to see a controversial Nobel winner on the subject of evolution.

What words of wisdom would you offer for current students in Honors?

Don't think of Honors as a separate program, a project or a series of classes that you take. Take it as an opportunity to network, learn from others and develop as a truly well-rounded person outside just the discipline you have chosen to major in. With that increased understanding of people and their viewpoints, you'll be successful no matter what field is lucky enough to employ you in the future.



Honors About Town

City As Text

This September marked the second annual City as Text Freshman Honors Orientation. Approximately 150 students combed Menomonie’s important locales, observing and reading “place” in order to determine how each place contributed to Menomonie’s sense of community. “Place as Text” is a much-celebrated form of honors pedagogy in which students create their own knowledge through interaction with locations. This year’s faculty-led groups visited sites including Downsville’s Empire in Pine Museum, Wal-Mart, Govin’s Tree Farm, the Himalayan Education Center, and Hoffman Hills. This annual event helps introduce students to the Menomonie Community and find new friends in the Honors College.



Top: Students participate in an intense intellectual exploration of the Bouncy Castle at Govin’s Tree Farm.

Left: Barb Young and Hanah Woik write reflections about the Menomonie Community Gardens.

Dr. Basu’s group samples the local produce while observing the role of the Dunn County Farmer’s Market in the Menomonie Community.





Exploring the Ice Age

Not every UW-Stout student gets a chance to toss an axe at a target or use a cross-cut saw. On Saturday, October 20, Honors students in Dr. Mandy Little’s Plants and People course took a trip across Western Wisconsin to the Chippewa Moraine Ice Age Interpretive Center near New Auburn. There, they were treated to not only lumberjack games, but also an exploration of the botanical and geological features of this unique part of Wisconsin. Following the trip, they experienced the traditional Wisconsin corn maze and ‘punkin’ chunkin’ at Pleasant Valley Tree Farm.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Interpreter Rod Gont tells Honors students about the logging sledway that was constructed to transport logs from one kettle lake to another during the logging era.

These types of trips are supported by Honors College in order to build community and provide the experiential learning that is unique to honors programs.

Would you like to participate in any future Honors events? Do you know of any great opportunities for our students? Would you like to be a featured alumnus in a future newsletter?

Please let us know!

email: honors@uwstout.edu

phone: (715)232-1455

Spring Honors Events!

Guest Speaker, nuclear physicist Dr. Shelly Leshar of UW-LaCrosse

Spring Colloquium—*Radioactive: Pierre and Marie Curie: A Tale of Love and Fallout* by Lauren Redniss
Annual Honors Snowshoeing Trip

Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*
Guthrie Theater

Honors Preview Day for incoming freshman, Class of 2017

Upper Midwest Regional Honors Conference at College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN
JazzMN Orchestra, featuring Grammy-winning saxophonist Eric Marienthal
Honors Picnic

Bestow the Stole Graduate Banquet

Spring Commencement Ceremony

January 31

February 5

February 16

March 9

April 5

April 18-20

April 27

May 7

May 9

May 11

Wendy Woessner

Packaging- Graphic Communications Management

“Being in honors has made me widen my thoughts and help me expand on ideas I never thought I would have.”



I am a graduating senior in the Packaging program. I have a concentration in Graphic Communications Management with a minor in Sustainable Design and Development. I am from Golden Valley, MN, a western suburb of Minneapolis. When I was a first year student I decided to join the Honors Program because I wanted to be challenged and learn as much as I could while in school. As a first year student I lived on the honors floor and met some really great students. We are still friends today and it is nice to see familiar faces on campus. I enjoy getting to know the professors and having small classes in the Honors College. Everyone is so helpful and each professor wants their students to succeed. It makes learning easier as well.

During my years in the program I took the opportunity to study abroad in Costa Rica. I also wrote a paper for a packaging competition and was able to utilize it as a contract. Being in honors has made me widen my

thoughts and help me expand on ideas I never thought I would have. I have taken some exciting courses where I could reflect on my life and learn. I enjoyed the Honors Seminar in Lifespan Human Development the most, since I was able to compare my life and the things that have happened to the ideas of theorists. It was a great way for me to reflect on the first 21 years of my life. I also have been enjoying the Honors Jazz History course, offered for the first time this semester. I enjoy music and getting to dig deep into jazz and the people, who formed the music, is really enjoyable.

I am very excited about my future plans. I just accepted a job with 3M in St. Paul Minnesota as a Packaging Engineer and I am looking forward to starting my career there in January. Lastly, if my career at Stout was a movie, the title would be “How to Succeed in Packaging by Actually Trying.”

Graduate Spotlight

Sean Doering

Applied Science- Biotechnology



“Since I have been here I have realized how much more Honors actually is. I have met so many people”

Hello! My name is Sean Doering and I am a freshman here at UW-Stout. My major is Applied Science with a concentration in biotechnology. I am from Green Bay, Wisconsin where I have lived my entire life. I enjoy camping, running, Frisbee golfing, kayaking, and almost anything in nature.

I initially decided to join Honors because of the benefits the program provided, like priority registration, extra scholarship opportunities, and of course it looks pretty good to future employers. However, since I have been here I have realized how much more Honors actually is. I have met so many people in Honors that have the same interests and goals in life as I do. The people involved with Honors form such a great community to go through the rest of my college career with.

There are always events for the Honors community to attend at Stout. I feel so much more a part of the world because of the wide range of events available to us. They have broadened my perspective and knowledge outside of the box, which I never realized existed in me. In fact, my most favorite thing about Honors College is the quality and depth of my learning.

I am currently involved with a project in Dr. Jennifer Grant’s lab in the Biology Department. I am working on taking samples and trying to purify, isolate, and identify phosphites in them. I am really excited about working in a lab as early as a freshman and I am not sure I would have gotten the position without being an Honors student.

My future plans include going to graduate school for Biotechnology. I know that with the help of Honors College, that dream may one day become reality. If my academic career at Stout were a movie, it would probably be called “Forging the Key to Success.”

Student Spotlight

Honors Student Achievements

Honors students demonstrate dedication to academic achievement. We would like to recognize several 2012 student projects and presentations, which represent just a sample of our students.

Look for a more comprehensive listing in future newsletter issues.

[Laura Abel](#). Rebranded: America's Favorite Store. Upper Midwest Regional Honors Council Conference. (Advisor: Tena Cochran)

[Callie Bernier](#). Effects of Wet Prairie Restoration Methods on Native Plant Species and Transplant Survival. Natural Areas Conference, Norfolk, VA. (Advisor: Amanda Little) [Applied Science](#)

[Ashley Brauner](#), Danielle Moehring, & Calli Walsh. Effect of Aqueous and Methanol Extracts of Tradescantia zebrina and fluminensis on Human Cells. UW-Stout Research Day. (Advisors: Michael Pickart, Jennifer Grant) [Applied Science](#)

[Andrew Christie](#) & Ryan Appel. Creating a Video Game for the PlayStation 3. UW-Stout Research Day (Advisor: Diane Christie) [Applied Math & Computer Science](#)

[Andrew Christie](#), Josh Herbert, & Richard Johnson. MOVviewer: A Visual Evaluation Framework for Mobile Data Analysis. UW-Stout Research Day (Advisor: Wan Bae) [Applied Math & Computer Science](#)

[Andrew Christie](#), Tegan Moersfelder, Andrew Benson, Chase Sauer, Chayne Zhenga, Tiffany Truttman, & Tyler Haas. 3D Videogame and Mobile Platform Compatibility. UW-Stout Research Day (Advisors: Diane Christie, Ellery Connell) [Applied Math & Computer Science](#)

[Lakayana Drury](#). Breaking the Chains: Student Organizations and Social Integration as means to the Development and Academic Emancipation of African American Students. UW-Stout Journal of Student Research (11:42-55) (Advisor: Nels Paulson) [Applied Social Science](#)

[Xanthi Gerasimo](#). Expanding Rugby in Minnesota and Beyond. UW-Stout Research Day (Advisor: Chris Ferguson) [Applied Social Science](#)

[Greta Hau](#). The Impact of Consumers' Psychographic Profiles on Their Assessment of Commodities. UW-Stout Research Day. (Advisor: Jongeun Rhee) The Evolution and Values of Series Literature for Children. Upper Midwest Regional Honors Conference (Advisor: Joan Menefee) [Human Development and Family Studies](#)

[Richard Hoverman & Jessica Morrison](#) Live Life: An Anthology for Charity. UW-Stout Research Day & Upper Midwest Regional Honors Conference & UW-Stout Research Day (Advisor: Robert Horan) Richard: [Engineering Technology](#), Jessica: [Psychology](#)

[Ariel Kraemer](#). Classic Rhetoric and the Film "Thank You for Smoking." UW-Stout Research Day. (Advisor: Daisy Pignetti) [Professional Communication & Emerging Media](#)

[Andrea Kruger & Alexandra Grams](#). Seasonal Transitions in Overwintering Bird Feeder Use in Menomonie, Wisconsin. UW-Stout Research Day. (Advisor: Amanda Little) [Applied Science](#)

[Jennifer Liegl](#). Perception of America through the Eyes of International Students. Upper Midwest Regional Honors Conference & UW-Stout Research Day. (Advisors: Silvia Ruiz-Tregallo, Robert Zeidel) [Packaging](#)

[Nicole Ries](#). Getting Away with Murder: Gender, Homicide, and the Judicial System. UW-Stout Research Day. (Advisor: Inoussa Boubacar) [Applied Social Science](#)