

# UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

Fall 2012 Newsletter ♦ Volume 5.1

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

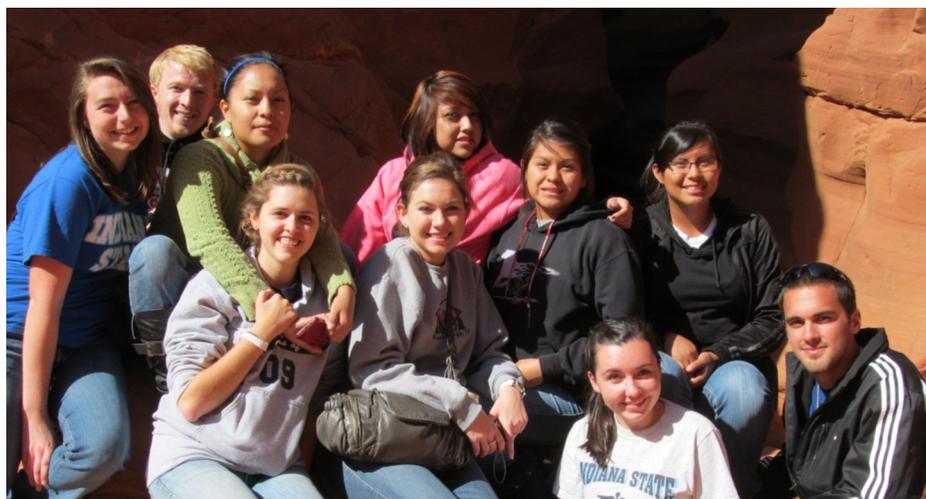
Greetings from the University Honors Program! Although it is not yet terribly winter-like, our Fall 2012 semester has concluded, grades are in the books, Honors students are home with family and friends, and December graduates are about to embark upon exciting new paths of work and advanced study. This semester saw the debut of several new Honors core classes, including Bisch's *Julius Caesar*, Brennan's *Gothic Psyche*, Hantzis' *2012 Presidential Campaign*, Leck's *Social Justice*, and Yousif's *La Femme Fatale*. Filling these classes was Honors largest incoming class of student yet – 282 students from every academic college and most majors.

Our home in renovated Pickerl Hall is now firmly established, and the community of students here is strong. As always, our students have served as ambassadors for Indiana State in the community and beyond. One highlight this term was a return service learning visit to the Navajo reservation community and schools in Piñon, Arizona. Ten Honors students, (including five freshman), accompanied by Nancy Rogers and myself, performed a variety of service projects and participated in open forums and discussions with the high school students of Kristin Monts, an Honors graduate of ISU. Honors was pleased to co-sponsor the campus visit of speaker Steve Wessler, a prominent writer on human rights education and advocacy. Senior Renee Buettner was a nominee for National Student of the Year at the National Collegiate Honors Council, and this very newsletter was awarded second place at the NCHC meeting (thanks entirely to the fine work of Laura Froelicher, and despite its tedious "Message from the Director"). In addition, numerous Honors students have studied abroad this Fall, while others experienced sites of historical and cultural significance in the Terre Haute community, courtesy of Marilyn Bisch's continuing series of Second Saturday Strolls.

As always, we are indebted and deeply grateful to the many campus offices with which the Honors Program works every day, as well as its generous supporters. The successes of Honors students are shared by all members of this University community.

Finally, congratulations to our seniors graduating mid-year. We will miss you and wish you success. We also extend a warm welcome to Kelly Anthony, who will join our staff as Honors Program Coordinator in the Spring semester.

Best wishes for a restful holiday to everyone,  
Greg Bierly  
Executive Director, University Honors Program



### CONTENTS

Honors Graduates .....	2
Summer 2013 GH Classes.....	3
Honors Curriculum.....	3
President's Scholars .....	4
Council of Honors Students .....	4
National Honors Conference.....	5
Honors Guest Speaker.....	5
Service Learning Trip .....	6

# CONGRATULATIONS, HONORS GRADUATES!

The University Honors Program would like to congratulate the December 2012 Honors Graduating Seniors!

- Tiffany Brewer
- Robert Compton
- Amy Cook
- Ayrielle Davis
- Chelsea Elwood
- Elizabeth Gentry
- Joshua Gordon
- Jocelyn Gregg
- Aubrey Hancock
- Janelle Huber
- Chelsea Ligon
- Roxane Long
- Jessica Markle
- Mitchell McAdams
- Hannah Miles
- Amy Nakanishi
- Kara Parkes
- Brittany Parrett
- Tamara Riker
- Heather Welch



## SUMMER 2013 GENERAL HONORS (GH) CLASSES

The following General Honors (GH) courses will be offered during Summer I and Summer II 2013:

### GH201 – INTRODUCTION TO GREAT WORKS: STUDIES IN EPIC LITERATURE

Summer I • MTWR 9:45-11:45 • Dr. Donald Shorter

### GH301 – CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY

Summer I • MTWR 9:45-11:45 • Dr. Marilyn Bisch

### GH301 – GENDER AND MUSIC VIDEO

Summer I • MTWR 9:00-11:00 • Dr. Terry Dean

### GH301 – MASCULINITY IN LITERATURE

Summer II • MTWR 2:00-4:00 • Dr. Aaron Morales

### GH 401 – HONORS THESIS

Summer I or Summer II • Independent Study • Dr. Greg Bierly

## REVIEW: HONORS CURRICULUM

All Honors students must complete the following curriculum requirements:

### Honors Core

- Complete GH 101, GH 201, GH 301, and GH401 (Honors thesis)
- Completing the Honors Core will satisfy the following Foundational Studies requirements: Social and Behavioral Studies, Fine and Performing Arts, Literary Studies, Ethics and Social Responsibility, and Upper Division, Integrative Electives (all three)

### Honors Electives

- Complete 18 credits of Honors electives by any combination of the following:
  - Convert major/minor courses to Honors
  - Take departmental Honors courses
  - Study abroad
- Alternatively, completing one of the following minors will satisfy the Honors elective requirements: Civic Leadership minor, Non-Profit Leadership Alliance (formerly American Humanics) certificate, International Studies minor (with study abroad), or a foreign language minor (with study abroad)

In addition to completing the required courses, Honors students must earn a 3.25 cumulative GPA and a 3.0 GPA in their Honors courses.

**Note about Honors Housing:** Due to high demand, any Honors student with a cumulative GPA below 3.0 will not have priority to reside in the Honors living-learning community in Pickerl Hall. Honors standing and Pickerl eligibility will be reviewed every semester. The University Honors Program is available as a resource for you as you work to increase your GPA, should it fall below a 3.25. If you would like to discuss your plans to improve your grades, or address other questions or concerns that may be impacting your academic performance, please stop by Pickerl Hall 110 or contact us at 812-237-3225 to set up an appointment.

## PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

Four months is not typically a long period of time, however, the President's Scholars Association (PSA) made the most of it. Starting early in August the officers, Sean Carey (VP), Sarah Wachala (Secretary), Jonathan Wachala (Treasurer) and myself, Renee Buettner (President), made a plan for the Fall semester that would keep involvement high in the organization while sparking the interests of the President's Scholars.

We picked three themes for this year in how we wanted to build our events and activities. These three themes were Leadership, Philanthropy, and Networking/Team Building. For Leadership, we worked with the Honors department and Council this semester to plan events surrounding Homecoming/Tent City. We also adopted an event, the Study Week/Holiday Party, as something for us to host for the Honors program. For our Philanthropy theme, Vice President Sean Carey organized our Lighthouse Mission event, committing PSA to helping serve lunch every first Saturday of the month. We also sponsored an all Honors team for Race for the Cure in September, where we raised over \$600 toward breast cancer research. Finally, for our Networking/Teambuilding theme, Dr. Bierly graciously hosted a late September PSA bonfire where we all had a chance to really meet each other and grow as an organization while making new friends along the way.

While we definitely kept busy this semester, we are already planning next semester by inviting special guests for further team-building exercises and projecting leadership across campus and the community. We are looking forward to our future events, and hope that the rest of PSA is as well!

-Renee Buettner, President of the President's Scholars Association  
Senior, Nursing Major

## COUNCIL OF HONORS STUDENTS

The fall semester was successful with the help of many Honors students! This year the council introduced point cards. Students could come to an event and get a stamp for their attendance. At the end of the academic year they will be rewarded for each event that they attend. The year began with our Fall Picnic where students had the chance to eat and meet new people and see some people they already knew. As football games began, the Honors students decided to support our team by tailgating and having a great time as they took on South Dakota State. October was full of exciting opportunities for Honors students, such as Race for the Cure and talks on "10 Things Every College Graduate Needs to Know About Money" and hate crimes, bullying, and conflict resolution. The month ended with a large turnout for our annual Halloween Party. The costumes were creative, the games were fun, and it brought a lot of students together to just enjoy themselves.

As the semester comes to a close and we look to next semester, the council welcomes three new members. Students should look forward to events such as a Survivor Game Night and Relay for Life. More information will be coming out soon. The council is excited about all of the involvement this semester and looks forward to another great semester in the spring!

-Marissa Goins, Chair of the Council of Honors Students  
Junior, Mathematics Education Major

**Congratulations to the three new council representatives for Spring 2013:  
Ashley Borhart, Amber Wilcox, and Chase Wilson.**

## NATIONAL HONORS CONFERENCE

This past semester, representatives of the Honors Program, including three Honors students, were able to attend the National Collegiate Honors Council annual meeting in Boston, Massachusetts. The conference was a time to learn about how other colleges and universities run their programs, as well as share with other programs what Indiana State University has found to be successful. The students who attended the conference were able to hear presentations from several of their peers, and they brought back great ideas about mentoring and peer advising within the Honors Program. There was plenty of fun to be had outside of the NCHC conference as well! A trip spent exploring Harvard University, dinners in the city, and an afternoon performance by the Boston Symphony Orchestra were all a part of exploring the city of Boston. The students who attended the conference extend thanks to the Honors Program for providing this opportunity.

-Payton Kuhnle, Junior, Nursing Major

## GUEST SPEAKER: STEVE WESSLER

ISU was fortunate enough to have Steve Wessler, founder of the Center for the Prevention of Hate Violence, visit November 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> he gave a lecture at the CANDLES Holocaust Museum on his work in interfaith conflict resolution in Kosovo between Christians and Muslims, and his work in Northern Ireland between Catholics and Protestants. There is no doubt that Steve has had experiences that the Average Joe could barely imagine. He originally worked in hate crime prosecution, and then decided that he was working at the wrong end of the chains of events that lead to hate crimes, and so now works in the prevention of hate crimes. He is incredibly passionate about his work, and it shows.

On November 9<sup>th</sup> Steve conducted a number of seminars to have a conversation about interfaith issues on our campus. One was a focus group between Christians and Muslims to determine interfaith issues and needs at ISU, in order for Steve to have a more fruitful discussion with the Honors program students. He then had a discussion in the lower level of Pickerl among Honors students to educate them about various world religions and have a discussion of what it is like to be religious in college. He divided the students into groups of about five, being sure that there was a Muslim student in each group. This was to ensure that both Christianity and Islam were represented in every group. He asked the students to list the similarities of all the religions represented in the room, as it is often the differences between different religions and not the similarities that are emphasized. Also, he asked the students to ask their fellow group members questions about each other's religions. It was very informative for everyone involved and a good exercise in interfaith discussions. Steve's work is inspiring, and the world needs more people like him.

If you are interested in participating in interfaith discussions and initiatives, there is a new student organization called Interfaith Fellowship started by sophomore Honors student Olivia Bohnhoff. Olivia started this as organization as she transferred from the University of Indianapolis, where she participated in an interfaith student organization and was really inspired by it. When she came here, she saw an even bigger, more diverse campus, thus it seemed to her that there was a need for an interfaith group. Interfaith Fellowship is dedicated to fostering dialogue, respect, and positive relationships between members of different faiths. If interested in learning more about Interfaith Fellowship, contact Olivia Bohnhoff at [obohnhoff@sycamores.indstate.edu](mailto:obohnhoff@sycamores.indstate.edu).

-Olivia Bohnhoff, Sophomore, Language Studies Major

## OCTOBER 2012 TRIP TO PINON, AZ

During the last weekend of October, I, along with a group of Honors students and faculty, visited the Navajo reservation in Piñon, Arizona. As part of an on-going three year partnership between the ISU Honors Program and Piñon Schools, we had the privilege of shadowing Navajo high school students during our five day stay.

Through activities and conversation, we shared so many unforgettable experiences with the Navajo students. The first of these activities was a personal guided tour through the Navajo Nation Museum, during which the students sparked life into the Navajo culture and history with stories and personal accounts. Then, we traveled to Window Rock Monument, a remarkable example of the beautifully sculpted landscape found on the Navajo reservation.

The following day, the students took us on a tour of their high school. It was an incredible building, with all of the modern technologies and good will found in any American school. We then led a Q&A to inform the students of college enrollment and college life. The last period of the school day took us to an elementary school, where we read stories to the children and answered all their questions about college, our favorite colors, and other silly topics brought up by the kids. Later that evening, we attended a presentation, created and led by the Navajo students. Their presentations consisted of PowerPoint slides about Navajo culture and history, native dances, heartfelt poems, and other powerful performances.

During our final day with the students, we volunteered in the Piñon Senior Center and collected trash in an area behind a roadside market. Finally, to wrap up the day and the trip, we all gathered in the school's library to discuss our experience. As we went around the circling sharing our opinions, I began to realize how much I had learned and changed during this visit. Everything we did together, from the cultural immersion to the simple community service, opened my eyes to a beautiful culture, established strong friendships, and created memories that will last a lifetime.

The students demonstrated the power of understanding and respecting one's heritage. They showed kindness that surpassing cultural and societal boundaries. But, most importantly, they taught me that people are people, no matter where you go. We may have different skin colors or religions or histories, but if we took the time to educate ourselves on our differences, perhaps we would discover our similarities.

-Jonathan Wachala, Sophomore, Business Major





## HONORS CONTACT INFORMATION

### University Honors Program

Pickerl Hall 110  
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Hours: M-F 8:00am-4:30pm

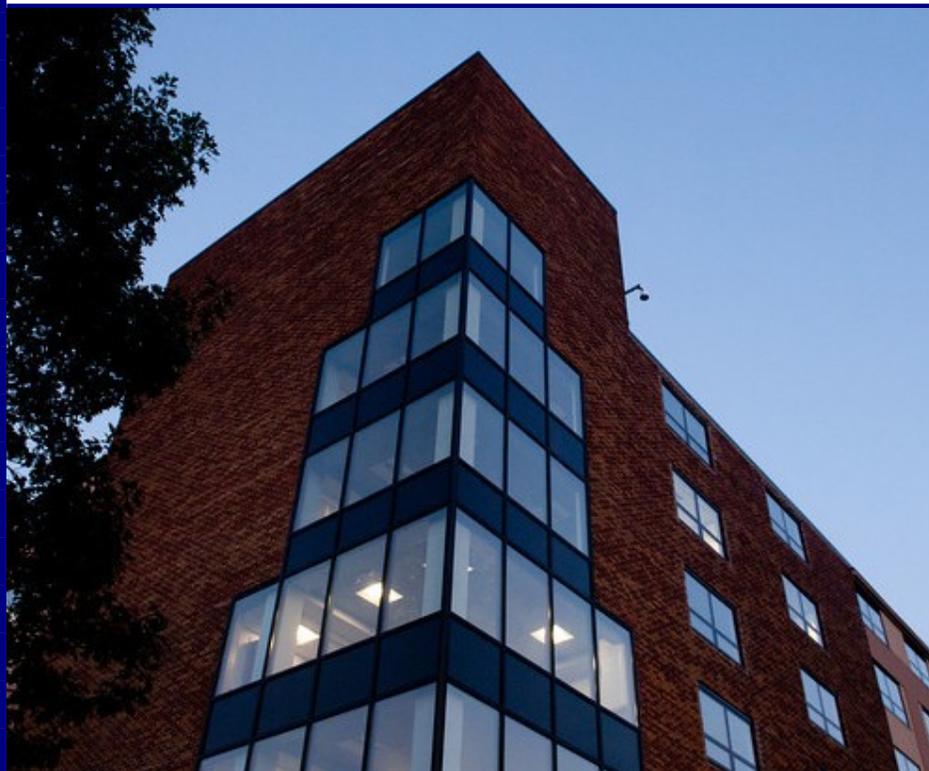
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*Pictured above: the University Honors Program participated in Tent City at ISU's Homecoming on October 6.*

### IMAGE CREDITS

Page 1 – Dr. Greg Bierly

Page 2 – ISU Photography Services

Page 6 – Tracy Ford

Page 7 – Tracy Ford

Page 8 – ISU Photography Services



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