



News and notes from the University of Dayton *Honors Program*

The Newest Honors Class

300 Incoming Students
Choosing a Challenge

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Letter from the director

In the course of my interviews for this position, many asked why I wanted this job. Although the parallels with my research specialty (Russian history) make administration an interesting intellectual adventure, such activities generally are not as exciting as the archive or the classroom. Yet, my answer to the question was, and is, one connected to my interest in the past. As an historian, I found the opportunity to engage creatively with the legacy of the Honors Program—its traditions and the students that help create them—to be an exciting prospect.

In addition, I continue to be drawn to the transformative role that a Catholic and Marianist education intended to challenge high-achieving students can play in our lives and in the world around us. Indeed, on these pages you will get a good glimpse of how all of you—past and present—embrace your callings as students to explore the mystery of God's creation in all of its manifestations. You continue to be torch-bearers of a Catholic intellectual tradition that spans two millennia. Furthermore, you have become models of "honor" with your courage, humility, thankfulness

Student Contributors

Stephanie Pugar, Reporting and Writing
Maura Shanahan, Photography (Cover 2010)

Student Staff

Kristina Demichele, Reporting
Kathryn Gardocki, Editing
Kaitlyn Hiti, Layout and Production
Maura LaMendola, Reporting
Linh Pham, Writing
Amy Timmerman, Reporting
Anthony Whaley, Editing

Administrative Staff

Jeanne Palermo, Managing Editor
Ramona Speranza, Layout and Production Manager
Regina Lloyd, Editing Staff Manager
Becca Elliott, Reporting and Writing Staff Manager



Dr. David W. Darrow, Director

and faith—people who, like Mary, have trusted enough to say "yes" to what God asks of you. This legacy of scholarship, leadership, and honor drew me to this position and reminds me every day—even amid the clutter of time cards and meetings—that this is a program that makes a difference in the world in many ways. I am honored and blessed to be a part of it.

The University Honors Program thanks you for your contributions of talent, treasure, news, and humor over the years, and wishes you all the very best. Please keep in touch, visit when you can, and know that, as surely as your class picture hangs on the wall in Jill's office, you are always a UD Honors Student.

Peace,

David W. Darrow, Ph.D.

**On-line issues
of *HONORSlink*
can be found at:**
<http://honors.udayton.edu>

**Look there for our next
issue in May!**

Welcome to *HONORSlink*—the latest edition of news and notes from the University of Dayton Honors Program.

Over the past four years the Honors Program has made great progress in serving more of the University's most talented students. This fall Dr. David Darrow, Associate Professor of History and former Director of International Studies, takes the helm as the Program's fifth director.

Under previous directors, Dr. Steven Dandaneau and Dr. Patricia M. Hart, the Program expanded its diploma options to all students in the University Honors Program. The Berry Scholars Program is winding down, with the final class having entered in the fall of 2009. Now more than 200 students each year enter UD as equal members of the Honors Program with the opportunity to earn a University Honors Program diploma. The Honors academic staff currently includes Associate Director Dr. Andrew Murray (Mechanical Engineering), who organizes and leads the thesis process, and Dr. John McCombe (English), who serves as Associate Director for Fellowship Advising.

Current Honors Program students now can earn one of two diplomas through three pathways. Last year, 87 students earned diplomas and Honors keys from the University Honors Program.

While the Honors Program is proud to offer opportunities and benefits to a larger group of students, it remains committed to building and maintaining a close-knit community. This year's incoming first-year Honors students were invited to move in a day early and participate in a welcome program where they met upper class Honors students and learned more about the Program (see adjacent article). Also, first-year Honors students participate in Learning/Living communities where they take core courses together. Our upper class Honors students are helping to plan additional Honors special-interest housing opportunities in the student neighborhood.

Another part of this close-knit community is the long line of Honors Program alumni. This newsletter is one way we hope to stay linked. The University of Dayton Honors Program Facebook page is another. We hope you'll visit it often to hear about what is happening and also to post your own items. The future is exciting but our past is what has formed our strong foundation.

What do you get when you combine 584 family members, 244 incoming Honors students, 64 student leaders, and 1 day? And no, the answer is not a headache. On August 20, 2010, the Honors Program hosted its first ever **Honors Students Welcome (HSW)**. Inspired by a previous Honors summer orientation program designed for a smaller group of students, the HSW was an effort to provide all incoming Honors students with the opportunity to meet with peers, Honors Program faculty and staff, and the wide array of opportunities awaiting them at the University of Dayton.



The Leaders of Leaders (front to back)—Carol Harper, Natalie Berra, Stephanie Pugar, Jacob Rosen and Zac Sideras

Photo by R. Speranza

Because the Honors Program has never attempted to sponsor an event this large, extensive planning began immediately after the end of classes in April. Over the summer months, five "Leaders of Leaders" devoted a vast

amount of time and energy to ensure that the HSW would run smoothly. And run smoothly it did!

Beginning at 7:30 a.m., 64 student-leader volunteers arrived on campus to provide move-in assistance to incoming students. With over 200 students moving into 4 separate residence halls, the student leaders demonstrated superior skills in manual labor, traffic-directing, and alphabetization, all with never-waning smiles. The HSW would not have been possible were it not for these crucial student volunteers, and they could not have been happier with the end result. A great majority of the student leaders reported satisfaction with their roles as leaders and expressed desire to participate in the HSW again.



Family lunch with new classmates

After the initial shock and sweat of moving 20-pound TVs up 4 flights of stairs, the incoming Honors students arrived at the Rec Plex donning their new white t-shirts. They were provided with a box lunch to enjoy with their families while the

Honors Program Director David Darrow delivered a welcoming speech. Dr. Darrow spoke of the overwhelming benefits the Honors Program has to offer, assuring parents that their children will have every opportunity to succeed at the University of Dayton.

After lunch it was time for the incoming students to willingly part from their parents and meet in



Cool treats for a hot day

small groups while Dr. Darrow hosted a parent question-and-answer session. The students were placed into small groups based on the criteria of residence hall and wide array of academic majors in an attempt to provide them an opportunity to meet and speak with students who have similar interests and live nearby. Through icebreaking, scavenger-hunting, and ice-cream-eating, incoming Honors students became much more comfortable with their newfound home.

Sound like a productive day? It had just begun! For the next three hours students were given the opportunity to sit in on six modules

covering topics such as national fellowships, student organizations, education abroad, faith, service, scholarship, and the benefits of being in the Honors Program. With mounds of information clouding their brains, students moved to a farewell dinner during which they had the opportunity to win what Dr. Darrow likes to call "fabulous prizes" through a raffle drawing.

If you find it exhausting simply reading about all the events of one day, it is nothing compared to the drooping eyes of the incoming Honors students.

However, despite the long day, students felt that the experience was positive and beneficial. One survey comment noted that "it helped to make things less overwhelming both socially and academically." So, the HSW was able to accomplish its main goal to acquaint new students with UD and the Honors Program. With the largest class of students in UD's history, the Honors Program anticipates the most active participation in the Program to date. The future Honors Students Welcome events are sure to continue to provide Honors students with an unforgettable introduction to their next four (or five) years at the University of Dayton.



Getting to know each other



Small-group icebreakers with Honors leaders

The Newest Honors Class 300 Incoming Students Choosing a Challenge

Article written by Stephanie Pugar
Photography by Maura Shanahan

Author Flannery O'Connor once said, "the writer operates at a peculiar crossroads where time and place and eternity somehow meet. His problem is to find that location." This conundrum is faced by authors along the entire spectrum of the written word, including Honors student thesis writers.

Sonya Bilocerkowycz, an English major and sociology minor of the Class of 2011, is in the midst of working on her Honors thesis, a novella inspired by her experiences in Ireland and her study of O'Connor's works. It is a project "that investigates the seemingly contradictory habitation of both doubt and faith within two characters, a father and his daughter," says Bilocerkowycz.

Bilocerkowycz feels she was first inspired to undertake the project when she was studying abroad in Ireland: "I did a lot of creative writing while I was abroad, and [in retrospect] that seems to have empowered me just enough to opt for the creative thesis. I was living on the outskirts of Dublin and taking a Modernism course from a Dublin professor. We read parts of Joyce's *Ulysses*. The combination of learning *Ulysses* from a bona fide Dubliner and being physically entrenched in the city of Dublin while reading the novel was really significant for me. It gave me a very strong, multifaceted sense of place. After feeling what Joyce did with Dublin, I was encouraged to try the same with Ukraine," the country of her ethnic background.

Bilocerkowycz received Honors credit through her study abroad experiences. She feels that the Honors program should receive special recognition for allowing her the opportunity and that her study abroad experience was a worthy challenge that assisted her on her educational journey: "I think traveling has made me more aware of geographic and cultural details that make for a memorable literary setting."

Bilocerkowycz's creative writing thesis is especially inspired by the works of Flannery O'Connor and Graham Greene. "These writers symbolically equate belief with disease and ailment, as is evident in Greene's *The End of the Affair* and O'Connor's

Wise Blood," says Bilocerkowycz. Rather than a convenient, cure-all remedy for life's trials, genuine belief is portrayed as a fierce struggle; like any medical disorder, faith is life-altering and severe. While doubt is sometimes dismissed as a weakness of faith, O'Connor asserts that disbelief can, in itself, serve as a source of redemptive suffering. "With the literary motifs of disease and suffering, I will examine the paradoxical impulses of belief and disbelief in my creative thesis. This work will attempt an honest depiction of modernity and its refusal to approach belief or disbelief with any sense of gravity."

Bilocerkowycz also feels that working on this project has allowed her to explore her own artistic direction as a writer. The opportunity presented in the Honors thesis has pushed her to work on this project, something she says she may not have done on her own.



Ms. Bilocerkowycz at the Giants Causeway

In addition to her thesis work, Bilocerkowycz is applying for a Fulbright Fellowship to teach English in Armenia: "Armenia's Orthodox culture is very unique, and it has produced some great writers. It is also a former Soviet state, like Ukraine, and that resonates with my background."



Ms. Bilocerkowycz on the Aran Islands

It would seem that Bilocerkowycz has solved O'Connor's problem of finding the intersection of place and time and now stands at her own crossroads, trying to make a small mark on eternity with her current writing project. And while all of us who desire to write must find that place ourselves, it certainly helps to have the support like that given by the University Honors Program as we make that journey.

Article written by Becca Elliott

The University Honors Program is foremost a program centered on academic excellence. A passion for learning and a lifelong curiosity is something all former Honors students possess. Some Honors graduates have decided to share this passion by continuing down the path of academia. In this Honors Alumni spotlight we highlight five Program graduates who continued their formal educations and are now educating the next generation of thinkers and innovators.

Joe Acquisto, Class of 1997

Dr. Joseph Acquisto thinks he is probably best remembered by his peers for his crazy credit load. He graduated with a double degree in Music Performance and French. Dr. Alan Kimbrough was a mentor and Acquisto credits Dr. Kimbrough for pointing him in the right direction. Acquisto was a first-generation college student and his time at University of Dayton showed him he never wanted to be away from a college campus.

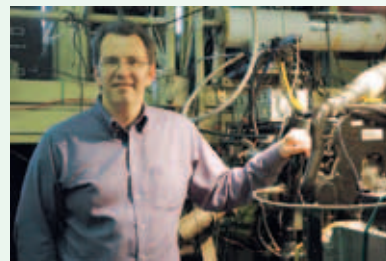
Acquisto earned his Ph.D. in French at Yale University. He wasn't sure he would be accepted, as Yale has one of the top-flight programs in the field, nor was he sure if his undergraduate work at Dayton would be enough to help him compete. He credits his acceptance largely to his work in the Honors Program. The thesis leveled the playing field and allowed him to compete: "Ivy league graduates also have to have a thesis, so even if you aren't coming from an Ivy school you can show you are able to do sustained, focused research."

Acquisto currently works at the University of Vermont as an Associate Professor of French, specializing in Baudelaire, which was also the basis of his thesis research at the University of Dayton.

Andre Boehman, Class of 1986

Dr. André Boehman began his life at the University of Dayton much earlier than most. His parents were living in graduate housing when he was born and his father later became a UD professor. He even has childhood memories of playing with the frogs his dad was using for Biomedical Engineering research.

Boehman studied mechanical engineering at the University of Dayton in the Honors Program. He completed two theses while at UD and even won money in a technical competition which allowed him to buy his wife's engagement ring. He attended Stanford University for graduate school and completed a two-year, post-doctorate program. Boehman said his years in the Honors Program helped to prepare him for Stanford: "The first few quarters [at Stanford] were intimidating because



Dr. Boehman in His Lab at Penn State University

other students were from very elite programs, but I was right in there competing with all of them because I was well trained."

After finishing his doctorate, Boehman's thesis advisor recommended a teaching post at Penn State University because of his thesis on pollution control and his post-doctoral research. He applied for the position in 1993 and was notified that he had received the position while skiing with his wife; he has spent his entire career at Penn State. Boehman's research centers on alternate fuels. He runs a burn lab at Penn State, which tests fuels, then designs engines to run those fuels.

"All of this was enabled by the University of Dayton and it started from a very young age. I was very happy there and I credit a lot of this to the University of Dayton," said Boehman. His advice to current Honors students is to focus on a thesis.

Chikako Mese, Class of 1991

Dr. Chikako Mese studied mathematics at the University of Dayton. The Honors Program provided her with an academically-challenging



Dr. Mese with Friend

environment and helped expand her horizons: "People in the Honors Program are highly motivated and that motivates you to do better yourself." In addition, the math department was influential in her decision to continue studying mathematics: "The math department had very energetic and dedicated people that motivated you to get into the profession. They were great role models."

After graduation, Mese pursued her Ph.D. in mathematics at Stanford University. She was an assistant professor at the University of Southern California for three years, moved on to Connecticut College for five years, then to Johns Hopkins University. She has been at Johns Hopkins for six years doing mathematical research and supervising graduate students. Mese believes that there is a very positive environment at Johns Hopkins and people are "here to do a lot of good work."

Carrie Rohman, Class of 1993

Dr. Carrie Rohman has fond memories of being in the Honors Program under Dr. Kimbrough. As a student in the English department, she saw him in a dual role as Director of the Honors Program and as the English Department Chair. She remembers enjoying dinners at his home with fellow Honors students and his graduation day party attire—shorts with a blue button-up shirt and red polka dot tie—which she said was classic Dr. Kimbrough. These experiences were coupled with an Honors Program that also supported her academically: "It cultivated an intellectual rigor and curiosity at a formative moment that I think was really helpful in getting through graduate school and learning how to be a scholar."

Rohman attended the University of Indiana after graduation and received her Ph.D. in English with a subfield in British Literature. After finishing her Ph.D. program she took a visiting position at the University of Cincinnati and then moved on to her first tenure-track position at the University of Pittsburgh in Johnstown. She is currently an assistant professor at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania where she teaches courses in British Modernism. Rohman enjoys being at a small liberal arts college where teaching is the real focus. The Honors Program helped prepare her for the dual role of teacher and scholar: "I try to get my students to be interested in difficulty, rather than avoid difficulty, and that was modeled for me in the Honors Program."

Link profile Experiences in Higher Education

Jeff Shafer, Class of 2002

Dr. Jeffrey Shafer came to the University of Dayton from his hometown of Bowling Green, Ohio. As an undergraduate, he studied computer engineering and he remembers the campus as having a "friendly and supportive atmosphere." He earned his Ph.D. at Rice University in Houston, Texas. Shafer believes that he learned diligence and independence from writing and researching his Honors thesis, and that the individual student attention from faculty and staff helped him progress as a scholar and academic. This combination helped Shafer in his graduate school pursuits. As an undergraduate, he always thought he would make his way into the computer science industry, but on the suggestion of a professor he applied to graduate school.

Shafer currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the



Dr. Shafer at the University of the Pacific in California

University of the Pacific in California. He has built a connection to his new school because he is able to give one-on-one attention to his students, similar to his experiences at the University of Dayton. Shafer credits the Honors Program with pushing him harder as a student and getting him on "more of a competitive track" which helped him in his career.

Article written by Becca Elliott

Link profile Sonya Bilocerkowycz

1985

Greg Goodheart: In June 2009 I earned a Ph.D. in Higher Education from Ohio University. Currently, I am a professor in the Mathematics Department at Columbus State Community College.

1986

Jonathan Huston: The company I founded back in 1993, TrollAndToad.com, just made the Inc. 500/5000 this year. A story on our history is here: <http://www.inc.com/articles/2010/05/applicant-of-the-week-troll-and-toad.html>. Our ranking is here: <http://www.inc.com/inc5000/profile/trollandtoad.com>. We're the 51st fastest-growing retailer in the US. The systems analysis degree I earned at UD turned out to be somewhat useful. On a personal note, my two children have grown up. Alicia is our inventory manager, and David is in our IT department as a Java programmer.

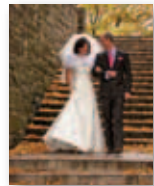
Tom Maloney: I have a new appointment at the University of Utah as the director of the Barbara L. and Norman C. Tanner Center for Nonviolent Human Rights Advocacy. This is an interdisciplinary center that puts on a major conference each February on a topic related to human rights and social conflict. We also support an interdisciplinary minor in Peace and Conflict Studies and put on a variety of programs throughout the year. Also, a book that I co-edited came out last month—*Migration in the 21st Century: Rights, Outcomes, and Policy* (Routledge, 2010). The research that I presented at the Honors dinner in March 2009 is incorporated in the book. You can see more information at <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415779142/>. My wife Maria (UD '86) still works in health sciences here at Utah, and our daughter Roma is 8 years old and attends the Madeleine Choir School. Her soccer team, the Black Widows, suffered their first-ever loss recently, dropping their record to 34-1.

1987

Rafe Donahue: Michelle and I continue to live in Brentwood, Tennessee, with the three kids, all of whom are in high school. Harry is a senior and is busy evaluating his college options. Zach is a junior and generally just enjoying life. Olivia joined her brothers this year at the high school and is enjoying the new-found freedoms that come with being a freshman. Michelle is working part-time here at our office doing clinical data management. I continue to run the statistics operation at BMTI, a small orthopedic device company in Franklin, Tennessee. We make some goo that helps bones grow. We are busy working through FDA labyrinths and hope to have some very good news early in 2011. In our spare time, we help the grass and bushes in the yard die, drive the shuttle bus, and those parent sorts of things. Michelle also makes wool hooked rugs while I am busy playing in the workroom making sawdust or sneaking addition elements into our over-sized Lego collection.

1993

Jonathan Judge married Christine Field on October 30, 2009, in Fort Tryon Park in New York City. **Brian Flaherty**, from the Honors program, attended the wedding along with UD alumni Chad and Stephanie Magula and Paula (Eck) Clifton. Father James Heft presided at the ceremony. Chris is a costume designer and they met on the set of the Naked Brothers Band TV show for Nickelodeon. They went bicoastal this fall, splitting their time between New York and Los Angeles. Jonathan continues to direct and produce for Nickelodeon, Disney and Comedy Central. His credits include Tosh.0, Fresh Beat Band, Imagination Movers and Big Time Rush. Everyone says he is dressing much better now that he's married a costume designer.



Judge-Field Wedding

Steve Scanlon: I was promoted this summer to associate professor with tenure in the Department of Sociology at Ohio University. I teach environmental sociology, poverty, globalization, and social movements at both the graduate and undergraduate levels and continue doing research on hunger, international development, and social change; poverty and inequality; and Appalachia, among other things. My wife Nicole and I continue to enjoy Athens and southeastern Ohio.

1997

Jeremy Focht: Jeremy and Heather adopted their daughter (Eliana Jou-jou Iris, born March 27, 2008) on October 13, 2008. Elli is an active 2-year-old and keeps her parents entertained with her growing vocabulary and sense of humor. She was baptized on June 26, 2009, with Andy Klosterman ('97) as her godfather. Jeremy is now working for Dow Corporation in their supply chain organization, and Heather continues to work for Procter and Gamble in R&D. Here's one of their favorite pictures from a recent family photo shoot. As you can tell, Elli loves the "Swing on Mommy and Daddy's hands" game.



Focht Family

Joseph Acquisto: (MUP/FRN '97) is associate professor of French at the University of Vermont, where he also teaches freshman and sophomore interdisciplinary seminars in the Honors College and directs the Global Village Residential Learning Community. He publishes books and articles on nineteenth and early twentieth century literature, and especially on the relations among music, literature, and philosophy.

1998

Julie Caruso Haines: I'm very happy Dr. Darrow is the new director of the Honors Program—I loved his class when I was at UD.

1999

Tracy Drukke Goldkamp: After graduation I spent one year as a live-in volunteer at Boys Hope Girls Hope in St. Louis. I then went to Washington University (in St. Louis), where I received my MSW in 2002. From 2001 to 2008 I worked as a grants manager/grant writer at both Washington University and Preferred Family Healthcare. In 2009 I left full-time employment to stay at home with my children. My husband, Seth, and I have three girls—Ruth (born June 17, 2007), Martha (born December 21, 2008) and Miriam (born May 18, 2010). I reunite each year with three of my fellow Honors programs grads/101 Lawnview housemates—**Erin (Dougherty) Shank**, **Kelsey (McCourt) Madges**, and **Cindy (Phipps) Sarinyamas**. They are some of my dearest friends, and I have the Honors Program (and Floor 2, Stuart Hall) to thank for that!



Drukke Goldkamp Girls

Honors Program Giving

Help make a difference in the lives of current students.

Consider a gift to the **Dr. Patrick F. Palermo Honors Program Founders Fund**.

To learn more about the fund to go <http://honors.udayton.edu>

Make a Donation to the University Honors Program

125 Alumni Hall
University of Dayton
Dayton, OH 45469-0311

2000

Chris Ward: I am currently in my eighth year as an associate attorney at the law firm of Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP in Columbus, Ohio. I primarily practice in the areas of environmental law, workers' compensation, labor and employment and litigation. My wife, Wendy ('01 UD grad), is the Senior VP at Constructive Communication, a PR and marketing firm for construction, engineering and architecture companies. We have two kids—Caroline will be 5 in November and is in preschool, and Jack just turned 2 years old. We live in Hilliard, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus.

Heather Cornell Focht: Jeremy and Heather adopted their daughter (Eliana Jou-jou Iris, born March 27, 2008) on October 13, 2008. Elli is an active 2-year-old and keeps her parents entertained with her growing vocabulary and sense of humor. She was baptized on June 26, 2009, with Andy Klosterman ('97) as her godfather. Jeremy is now working for Dow Corporation in their supply chain organization, and Heather continues to work for Procter and Gamble in R&D. [See 1998 **Jeremy Focht** for photo.]

2001

Daniel Sheppard: After graduation I entered UD's Lalanne program and taught high school math for 2 years. I received my MED from UD in 2003 and am currently one class away from finishing an M.A. in mathematics from Cleveland State University. I am entering my 10th year of being a high school mathematics teacher. I currently live in Mayfield Heights, OH, (southeast suburb of Cleveland) and teach at Mayfield High School. I was married in 2004 and my wife and I have one daughter (Grace) who was born in 2006.

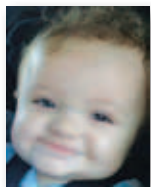
2002

Jeff Shafer: After dragging my feet for a number of years, I finally got around to graduating this past May and promptly moved from one role at school (grad student) to another (professor). In May 2010 I received my Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Rice University, and in August 2010 I started my new job as an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of the Pacific located in Stockton, CA. (Which, technically, is not actually on the Pacific Ocean, but is rather a hundred miles inland. But, hey, who's counting?) I'm really enjoying the work so far and have a very supportive department and school.

2003

Tim Weale: I just graduated from The Ohio State University with my Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering. I have moved to Maryland and will be programming for the Department of Defense.

Stephen Abrams: I went to Indiana University for a Masters in mathematics and University of Missouri-St. Louis for a Masters degree in computer science. I am a doing software development for Scottrade, a financial services company in St. Louis. I am married to another UD alum, Elizabeth Weiser Abrams, and we had a baby boy last New Year's Eve: Maxwell Marvin Abrams.



Maxwell Abrams

2004

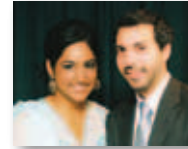
Amy Batchman: I recently purchased an old farm near Yellow Springs, Ohio, where I'm working hard to fix it up and start my own organic farm with fruit, veggies, chickens, goats and the whole caboodle!

2005

Brian May: I was ordained a Roman Catholic priest on June 10, 2010, at St. John's Cathedral in Boise, Idaho. I am assigned as a parochial vicar to St. Mary's Parish in Moscow, Idaho, after having spent four years engaged in Masters and doctoral studies at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Catholic University of Leuven) in Belgium. I am excited to serve the people of God in Idaho as a priest.

Karen Setty: I got married recently on July 23, 2009 (civil ceremony at the Old Orange County Courthouse in Santa Ana, California) and April 10, 2010 (church ceremony and family celebration in Youngstown, Ohio). My husband, Fabio Bolognesi, is from Rome, Italy. We spent some time with his family after the wedding and took a short honeymoon trip to Paris. I received my Masters degree from the University of California-Santa Barbara in 2007 and have been working at the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (in Costa Mesa, CA) since then.

Shahyan Ahmad: I am still in Chicago in charge of \$150 million in sales for the Kmart Footwear Men's business. I went back to Pakistan for two weeks in March, the first time home in over 2 years. Of course, it's been a very difficult year for the country. If you are able, please help the 20-million-plus Pakistanis that have been affected by the devastating floods by donating to the Red Cross, Oxfam, (or a local charity that I can vouch for at <http://www.karachirelief.org>) or the charity of your choice. In June I went to South Africa for the World Cup. It was an amazing experience. I got to go to 7 games. Then, in July, I got married. Yes, it kind of took me by surprise, too. I met Kinza in February and by late June both of our minds were made up. Since my parents were coming to visit in July anyway, we decided to have as many ceremonies as possible while they were here. So we had our civil ceremony and our religious ceremony in July, and will have the remaining events in April 2011 when my parents return. Kinza is from Karachi, like me, but she has been in the US for the past 22 years. She's a teacher in the Lake County School District just outside Chicago.



Kinza and Shahyan

Greg Raffio: I live in Chicago, but I'm working for Go Sustainable Energy, an independent energy consulting firm in Columbus, Ohio, that currently employs UD alumni like George Mertz, Charlie Schreier, Peter Kleinhenz, and John Seryak. This summer, Alicia DiMarco (UD 2005, Intervention Specialist) and I became engaged after dating for about six years. Feel free to shoot me with "finally" or "about time" jokes!

2006

Habib Srour: I have finished medical school at the University of Toledo. I matched in anesthesiology at the University of Kentucky and am in my first year of residency at the moment. My wife and I are living in Lexington, Kentucky; we were married at the beginning of medical school on July 27, 2007.

Julie Corvo Byrne: I graduated from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in May 2009. I am currently an attorney at Frost Brown Todd LLC in its West Chester, Ohio office where I practice management-side labor and employment law.

Leslie Singel: After graduating from UD in '06, I completed my MA in English (focus on Irish Studies) at University of Louisville in '08. I then spent a year abroad, the fall of 2008 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and half of 2009 in Budapest, Hungary. When I got back, I moved to Chicago. I am the cultural programming manager at the Irish American Heritage Center and am getting married to another UD grad, Jay Kemper, in May 2011.



Eric and Andrew Shayde

Eric Shamo Shayde: I survived medical school at OSU and now I'm in Portland, Oregon, doing my first year of family medicine residency at Oregon Health and Science University. Andrew and I just got married in May in Dayton and went to Kauai for our honeymoon.

2008

Tracy Kemme: As most of you know, I am back from Ecuador after two years with Rostro de Cristo and have been spending time over the last month with family and friends in the Midwest! This Sunday, I am moving to Anthony, New Mexico, to begin a year (or so?) the end date is undetermined) of volunteering with a program run by the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. I'll be living with three sisters and two other volunteers who are young women about my age. I will be working a few days a week at Proyecto Santo Niño, a clinic for children with special needs, in Anapra, Mexico, and a few days a week at Annunciation House, an emergency shelter/welcome home for the needy in El Paso, Texas. When not working, I'll be participating fully in community life with the nuns and volunteers. I also hope to do a lot of writing! I am perfectly excited about my next step, and I think it will be a very healthy place for me to grow and transition after my time in Ecuador. The best part about it all is it will be much easier to keep in touch now that I am back in the USA!

Lori Hanna: I got married to Alex McIlvaine on December 19, 2009, in our hometown of Wadsworth, Ohio. We've been dating since sophomore year of high school, so it was about time. :) It was a beautiful snowy day! We are living in Lexington, Kentucky, where Alex attends the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry (he just passed his first set of Boards and will graduate in 2012). I am working for Tetra Tech as an environmental engineering consultant. In a nutshell, I assist companies, municipalities, and airports to meet environmental regulations.



Hanna-McIlvaine Wedding

2009

Lauren Hackman: I'm currently in my second of two years as a Jesuit alumni volunteer at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Chicago. This year, I am Director of Campus Ministry. Next fall, I will begin graduate work to obtain a Masters degree in Divinity.

Michelle Wintering: Since graduation I have worked with Goodwill Columbus in Columbus, Ohio, in a job-readiness program for young adults with developmental disabilities (mostly ages 18-25) called LIFE Works (Leveraging Internship for Employment Works). I taught classes on resumes, interviewing, job-seeking skills, money management, etc. and supervised them in entry level internships around the city to gain work experience. I loved my job but had the opportunity to return to school this fall full-time. I'm now in the middle of my first quarter in the Masters of Speech Language Pathology program at Ohio University! I'm also assisting with research in the department (for the graduate assistantship).

2010

Grace Crivello: I recently became engaged to a fellow alum, Darren LeCroix. We both are attending the Michigan State University College of Law. I hope to specialize in family law and am enjoying my first year. It is strange to be a 1L on the bottom of the pile after so recently being at the top of the heap. I can't wait to hear what Dr. Darrow is going to do with the Honors Program. He is a brilliant professor and was one of Darren's favorites.

Katie Sunday: I am actually back at UD—surprise!—and am working as a graduate assistant in the Office of the President. I am also working toward my MBA and will graduate again from UD in 2012 (hopefully).

MICHAELA MINICHELLO AWARDED FOR RESEARCH

This past summer Michaela Minichello, an Honor senior writing a thesis, was awarded a Fight for Sight Summer Student Fellowship Grant. Her ongoing research project on aniridia, a birth defect of the eye, will continue throughout this semester supported by her faculty adviser, Dr. Amit Singh. Minichello's research will be discussed during her presentation at the Honors Students Symposium March 2011.

ROTARY CLUB ANNOUNCES ZACHARY SIDERAS AS NOMINEE FOR AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Rotary Club of Dayton announced that senior Zachary Sideras is the district nominee for the 2011-2012 Ambassadorial Scholarship. Sideras is an Honors student majoring in international studies and history. As a Rotary Scholar, he plans to continue his education in a Master's program in a Middle Eastern-related field. The Ambassadorial Scholarship provides up to \$26,000 for one academic year of study abroad.

HONORS STUDENTS WIN BIG IN FALL ELECTION

Congratulations to all the Honors students who won positions on this year's Student Government Association: Jim Saywell, president; Megan Abbate, Marycrest senator; Scott Bridwell, freshman senator; Kara Dickey, natural sciences senator; Jesse Grewal, Stuart senator; Carol Harper, education senator; Timmy Henry, VWK senator; Emily Jirles, humanities senator; Emily Kaylor, VWK senator; Luke Nichols, Marycrest senator; Dana Roederer, Stuart senator; and Jeff Schumacher, vice president of finance. Special congratulations to the SGA election coordinators: Berry Scholar Jacob Rosen and Honors student Sue Gogniat!

ESPN THE MAGAZINE NAMES CHRIS LEMON AS SECOND TEAM ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN

Chris Lemon, a senior teacher education and Spanish double-major, was named second-team academic All-American after winning the A-10 individual cross country title and achieving an outstanding GPA.

2010 PALERMO FOUNDERS FUND RECIPIENT IS ABAGAIL LAWSON

Abigail Lawson, Honors Class of 2011, was the 2010 Palermo Founders Fund recipient. Lawson describes the vision of her thesis project: "...My thesis directly concerns questions of justice—what does the word "justice" actually mean, how is it obtained, particularly within the context of violent conflicts, and how is it related to the concept of peace?"

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University Honors Program

125 Alumni Hall
300 College Park
Dayton, OH 45469-0311



contact us

email: honorsinfo@notes.udayton.edu ~ website: <http://honors.udayton.edu> ~
facebook key words: University-of-Dayton-Honors-Program

HONORS STUDENTS ARE NEWEST CHAMINADE SCHOLARS

Six of the Chaminade Scholars recently announced are Honors students from the Class of 2013. Congratulations to Emily Hascher, Nicholas Fahrig, Colleen Federici, Kara Kindel, Sarah Kociuba and Emily Motz!

MEGHANN WYGONIK RECEIVES "SMART" MONEY

The U.S. Department of Defense awarded junior civil engineering major and Honors student Meghann Wygonik a SMART scholarship—Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation—that will provide funding for full tuition, a \$1,000 book allowance, other education-related fees, paid summer internships, health insurance and a job after graduation. Wygonik, who graduated from Kiski Area High School near Pittsburgh, said she is excited to return home for her internship and post-graduation employment with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District.

NATIONAL GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO JULIA FAETH

Julia Faeth, a senior Honors student majoring in chemical engineering, has been awarded a 2010-2011 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. Faeth is currently conducting research under Dr. Sukhjinder Sidhu with the Sustainable Environmental Technologies Group at UDRI.

In addition, Faeth was recently awarded an American Institute of Chemical Engineers National Scholarship based on academic performance and involvement in chapter activities.

DAN PRINDLE SELECTED TO NATIONAL GOOD WORKS TEAM

University of Dayton senior offensive tackle and Berry Scholar Dan Prindle has been selected to the 2010 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team. Allstate Insurance Company and the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) annually select the team, which is one of the most prestigious off-the-field honors in college football. Prindle is the first UD player ever selected to the Good Works team.

NICHOLAS PESOLA WINS UD'S RILEY AWARD

Nicholas Pesola, a senior Honors student and psychology and Spanish double major, was the winner of the 2010 Riley Award. This University of Dayton award recognizes a junior student who has exercised sustained leadership through involvement with student initiatives, exemplifying the educational and service values of the University. Nick is an active member of the UD and City of Dayton communities. He also devotes attention to service trips and immersion experiences that benefit the residents of other states and countries.

JOHN MCGINNIS AWARDED NATIONAL CLINTON SCHOLARSHIP

John McGinnis, junior international studies and Spanish major, was recently awarded a William Jefferson Clinton Scholarship to study at the American University in Dubai for the Spring 2011 semester. This scholarship entitles John to a 100% waiver in tuition and housing during his stay, allowing McGinnis to continue his studies in the Arabic culture and language.

Link calendar

January

- 21 Honors Art Exhibit Open House
- 31 Honors Students Symposium: Senior Registration Due
- 31 Hull Applications Due

February

- 11 An Honors Evening at the Dayton Philharmonic

March

- 11 Honors Students Symposium
- 11 Honors Students Reception

April

- 1 Juniors: Thesis Proposal and Grant Request Documents Due
- 8 Seniors: Theses Due
- 13 Joseph W. Stander Symposium

May

- 7 Honors Graduation Brunch
- 8 Graduation