Scholarship

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News and notes from the University of Dayton Honors Program

Creativity
The Value of Research

Every discipline has its own methods for teaching, its unique ways of thinking, its specific types of work. Research can be approached in a variety of ways as well, but ultimately, the process of research is where the fun is.

Fun? Sure—if you are a biologist, it’s fantastic to see how a hypothesis can develop into a project so rich in results it takes your work to a new level. Or if you are a musician studying composers, what you learned in one composition can reverberate in future works. As he has also advised a significant number of students in the Honors Program and Associate Professor of Mathematics Murray P. Culloch often finds that the research process from all sides. Murray finds the breadth of what constitutes scholarship and the methods for producing scholarship fascinating.

Murray says, “Although completing the written thesis comes as a great relief, the students growing through the engagement in scholarship is really the result we are after.”

Presenting their research at the Honors Students Symposium, creating and posting posters outlining their projects for the John W. Stander Symposium, and writing up their work for the printed thesis manuscripts, all impacted the students’ whole experience of researching and completing their theses.

Breadth and Depth: The Symposium

This year’s Honors Students Symposium featuring the senior thesis writers was a resounding success from all perspectives. From the breadth of presentations—59 students from numerous disciplines—to the depth of topics, the evening drew hundreds of attendees who came to listen and discuss the scholarly work.

Feedback from the senior presenters indicated that their experience at the Symposium was beneficial to their research process. “I gave me a greater opportunity to more thoroughly understand my material,” said one thesis writer. Another presenter stated, “It was an opportunity to speak in front of an audience… Also, you were able to share your original research with people that had genuine interest in what you were studying.”

Here is a sampling of research topics that explain why the event continues to be the highlight of the Honors Program calendar each year:

Business Administration

Attitudes and Behavioral Intentions toward the Adoption of TeleBanking: An Analysis of T Anco American, French and Swiss Consumers, Catherine Cipolla-McCullough (UD School of Business, Socio-Cultural, Engineering)

Health and Sports Science

Pedestrian Traumatic Brain Injury: Best Practices for Return to Play, Alexandria C. Harris (UD School of Health and Exercise Science, Health and Exercise Science)

Students from the 2011 Honors Students Symposium.

Honors Fellows 2011

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Students from the 2011 Honors Students Symposium.
Jonathan Judge, Class of 1993

Jonathan Judge knew that he wanted to be a writer, but while studying Communications on campus, he became aware of the more it makes you better. It makes me a better storyteller.”

Adrienne Niess, Class of 2004

Adrienne Niess almost immediately felt at home at the University of Dayton. “It was the right distance from home, the right size campus, had great art programs and scholarships...”

Russell Podgorsek, Class of 2002

Russell Podgorsek was selected as a multi-talented musician with his experience in guitar, violin, and voice. Since he was able to arrive at the right distance from home, the right size campus, the right setting to play the guitar, high school music theory to sing, and his experience at UD to join Chorale and sing.

The University of Dayton was the only school that emerged in his college search where he could double major in both math and music. “When I came to UD I met Phil Magnussen and he seemed like a great teacher, so there was no question in my mind that I wanted to come to UD.”

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To Watkins, one of the best things about UD and the Honors Program was the opportunity to take interdisciplinary seminars and learn from those in departments other than his. “His advice to current Honors students is to take advantage of the fact that you can meet people in different fields of endeavor, and get to see all the ways that people think. Make good friends. I’ve kept many friends I met in the Honors Program and I’m very grateful for that.”

Watkins graduated with a Bachelor of Music in piano performance from UD, a Master of Music in piano performance from the University of Michigan, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in piano accompaniment and chamber music from the University of Michigan, studying under renowned pianist Martin Katz. In addition to his conducting work for the Met, Watkins also serves on the faculty of the Tanglewood Music Center where he is the Opera Program Coordinator. He also performs as a pianist, and as an opera coach and accompanist for some of the world’s leading musicians.

Based on his enlightening experience with the Honors thesis, he highly encourages students to take advantage of the experience since it is a “rare opportunity for undergraduates to do graduate work.” Podgorsek also advises current Honors students to make the most out of the honors classes they will need to take. “We live in a world of specialization. It is beneficial to broaden our horizons and learn a lot of good information from professors with interesting insights.”

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Podgorsek is currently pursuing his doctorate at the University of Texas in Austin and plays the viola in his ensemble, the Miklos Quartet.
It is said that scholarships will give Ghana everything she has dreamed of — an individual interactions. Most of all, Hallinan wants more. Hallinan wants to learn about other cultures as well and practicing medicine in a third world country...will and their interactions with patients. “I want to go into medicine, but I put it all together myself. I contacted the Hull International Fellows Fund to help with a drug trial at the hospital.”

Once a year, the small hallway of the Honors Program overflows with students, professors and parents, drawn by the popular Honors Art Exhibit. Honors students of all majors may enter art pieces into the juried show, with winners receiving a nominal scholarship. Long-time Honors office assistant administrative, Jill Talley, suggested the exhibit as a solution as the bare walls of the Honors hallway was originally a plan to borrow student pieces from the Department of Visual Arts turned into a juried show open to Honors students in all majors. Dr. Roger Crum from the Visual Arts department was instrumental in organizing the original show and is still involved every year in selecting a juror. Any student in the Honors Program can submit up to three pieces of artwork. An exhibit is then judged by a community member with art credentials. Selections are based on artistic merit and must also fit the available space. In past years, local artists, art educators, museum professionals and even a well-known local artist collector have served as judges. This year Professor Benjamion Montague, an associate professor of art and art history at Wright State University, judged the art.

Students whose work was selected for the 2011 Honors Art Exhibit include: Leanne Bernardne, Allison Burns, Chi Yi Chen, Brittany Cook, Caitlin Douglas, Adam Ferguson, Carol Harper, Alexandra Hill, Karltern Kay, Lisa Lorek, Kaitlin Malson, Michaela McKnight, Malcom Myktyka, Meghan O’Connor, Amy Pancher, Amanda Schultz, and Madison出來. Kelly McChesney won “Best of Show and a $500 scholarship.

Talley, who now coordinates the program, said, “As far back as I can remember, the years the type of art received has evolved — more and more three-dimensional pieces such as pottery and sculpture are being submitted. ‘It’s good to see we have a diverse array of student work, especially more ceramic pieces.’ I recall a few years ago a student submitted a painting that incorporated the foot of a mannequin. This piece was the talk of the show and I have to say, the art was very interesting,” said Talley.

Looking to the future, Talley would like to see the art exhibit receive more visitors from the Dayton community. This year the show was moved to the Auxiliary Building in order to draw more people. Talley said, “School children visiting campus could stop in and look at our gallery and possibly write a report on their point of view.” The annual Honors Art Exhibition opened in January and will be on display in the Honors offices at 125 Alumni Hall until November 2011. Everyone is welcome to visit during normal business hours of 8:30 to 4:30, Monday through Friday.

Shannon Hallinan is Vice President of the biology honors faculty. Beta Beta Beta, participates in the Malaria Research Committee and the Student Advisory Committee for the Honors Program, and is a tutor at the Learning Teaching Center for math, science, and physics.

Article written by Krysta Donnelly

Shannon Hallinan

It’s finally spring and as the first rays of sunlight break through the cold gray sky, students are able to enjoy a bit of respite from the cold. The incoming rains have left the campus relatively dry, which has made for perfect conditions for the School of Education’s annual Honors Art Exhibition. This year’s exhibition was held in the small hallway of the Honors Program, with works of art ranging from paintings to sculptures. Works by students, alumni, and even a local artist collector were featured. The judges were impressed with the diversity of the pieces on display, with selections ranging from pottery and sculpture to paintings and mixed media. The exhibit was open to all Honors students and featured works by those from all majors, including biology, chemistry, and mathematics. The judges praised the students’ creativity and technical skill, and commended them for their willingness to explore different mediums. The exhibit concluded with a reception where visitors were invited to view the artwork and mingle with the artists.
This year’s graduating class was honored at the Spring Graduation Honors Brunch on May 7 or the Fall Graduation Honors Lunch last December. Honors keys were presented to attending graduates.

We were blessed to have 104 students who crowned their academic achievements with an Honors, Honors with Distinction or Berry Scholar diploma.

Congratulations to all of our 2010-11 graduates: