

BY THE NUMBERS...

2003: In January of this year, the Honors Programs officially became the Honors College.

600: Roughly the number of current Honors students at Eastern.

33: Number of University Honors classes scheduled for Fall 2005.

22: Number of departmental honors programs offered.

The Dean Speaks:

Dr. Bonnie Irwin's Hello Address

Greetings from the Honors College! As I approach the completion of my first year at the helm, I must say that it has been a pleasure working with the remarkable staff, students, and faculty who make Honors at Eastern the great success that it is. I have been in touch over the past year with some of you that I know from my days in the English department, seeking advice as to how we might best raise the program to even greater heights.

One of those initiatives is our new Presidential Scholars Program, set to begin its second year. Twenty students each year are admitted to this enriched program of discov-



Dean Irwin

ery, investigation, and engagement. We are thrilled to see these students as well as all our honors students thriving at EIU.

We're working on enhancing our programs with more extra-curricular activities, expanding our recruiting efforts to include more

transfer students, and trying to do a better job at reaching out to you, our alumni. Stay tuned for further developments, including an alumni page on our website.

We're also thinking about an alumni advisory board. If you are interested in serving in such a capacity, please let me know (bdirwin@eiu.edu). I look forward to getting acquainted with those of you I do not know and getting re-acquainted with those I've not seen for awhile. We really want to know what you've been up to since leaving EIU!

Enthusiastic Booster of Honors Dr. Alan Baharlou Set to Retire

Honors advocate, Dr. Alan Baharlou, has announced his retirement effective August 2005. Dr. Baharlou came to EIU in August 1980 as chair of the Geology/Geography Department and became an enthusiastic supporter of Honors early in the development of the programs. Commenting on Dr. Baharlou's long history with the college, Dr. Bonnie Irwin, Dean, noted that "Alan always brings positive energy to any issue. He has been a strong advocate of

Honors programs throughout his tenure at EIU."

Dr. Herbert Lasky, founding Dean of The Honors College, noted that "Alan Baharlou is a long time supporter and contributor to Honors." Dr. Baharlou has served on the Honors Council, the Undergraduate Research Council, and has actively participated in major advancements including the establishment as a college and the Presidential Scholars Program.



Reflecting on his history with Honors, Dr. Baharlou noted that he has enjoyed every minute of the experience. "I take pride in the accomplishments of The Honors College. My association with the staff and students has been both rewarding and enjoyable."

Honors Students Win First Annual Peck Music Competition



Alex Peck, competition sponsor, with winners (left to right) Katrina Kappes, 1st Place; Robert Elston, 2nd Place; Chris Dickey, 3rd Place.

Katrina Kappes, senior University and Departmental Honors student from **Tuscola, IL**, won the first annual **Peck Music**

Competition with her performance on the piano. The Peck Music Competition is an annual event sponsored by Alex and Susan Peck of Charleston. Ms. Kappes noted,

"This was my first competition. I feel privileged to be a part of the event and hope that the tradition will continue for a long time. Mr. and Mrs. Peck have been extremely generous to the University."

Other Honors students who performed included: **Chris Dickey**, sophomore from **Collinsville, IL**, and third place win-

ner; **Eric Combs**, senior from **Olney, IL**; **Adam Walton**, senior from **Champaign, IL**; **Tom Dickey**, senior from **Collinsville, IL**; and **Christopher Mroczek**, junior from **Aurora, IL**. **Robert Elston**, Honors College **Fulbright Fellowship** nominee and senior percussion major from **Collinsville, IL**, won second place. Written by: Judy Sunderman

From the Desk of Dr. Margaret Messer, Director of Honors Student Affairs

Honors College Welcomes New Dean

Dr. Bonnie Irwin began her duties as Dean of the Honors College on July 1, 2004.

As Dean, she serves as the executive officer for the internal and external affairs of the Honors College with overall leadership responsibility for undergraduate honors student recruitment, retention and support, as well as Honors curricula.

Dean Irwin came to EIU in 1994 as a faculty member in the university's English department. In addition to her regular teaching duties, she served as the department's acting chair during the summer of 2001 and 2002. As a member of EIU's Honors faculty, she has taught Myth and Culture and the Leadership Senior Seminar. She was named Eastern's first

Faculty Laureate and was awarded the Distinguished Honors Faculty Award in 1998. Dean Irwin received her PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, in comparative literature.

Her husband, Dr. Ned Huston, is a science fiction writer and instructor in Eastern's English department.

AHS Scholarship

Remember the AHS picnic at Fox Ridge and the ice cream social on the first day of class? An annual AHS scholarship has been added to these traditions to honor Dr. Lasky. The AHS group has a goal of raising \$5000 in 5 years to continue this award. This scholarship is awarded to a student who has played a significant role in AHS. To help them reach their goal see p. 4.

Honors Students Make News



Robert Elston, Fulbright Candidate, presents a copy of his CD to Dr. Blair Lord, Vice President for Academic Affairs. Robert is a senior Music Performance major from Collinsville, IL.

Melissa Dubert, freshman Presidential Scholar from **Yorkville, IL**, majors in **Biological Sciences** and **Pre-Medicine**. Melissa is traveling to Ireland this summer as winner of a **National Geographic** award. In her freshman year, she shadowed a pediatrician and presented a paper to the Honors Council of the Illinois Region entitled "Aging Out of DCFs". In addition, she is a member of the **EIU Emerging Leaders Program**. ♦

Tim Martin, junior from **Crescent City, IL**, majors in **Journalism** with double minors in **Political Science** and **Business Administration**. He will begin a summer long internship with **The Wall Street Journal** in June. He will train in NYC before settling in Chicago as a reporter. Tim previ-

ously worked as an intern for the **Cleveland Plain Dealer**. **Lauren Macnider**, freshman **Biological Sciences** and **Pre-Veterinary Medicine** major from **Schaumburg, IL**, will complete an intensive course in the husbandry and disease of large and small animals in **Belize** this summer. She will rotate through a series of externships with both domestic and wild animals focusing on health issues and animal management. ♦

Andrea Fritz is a senior double major **English** and **Foreign Languages** with Teacher's Certification. She is from **Schaumburg, IL**. As **Miss Illinois 2003**, Andrea spoke on issues about positive choices. She appeared on "**60 Minutes**", and is an ambassador for **Secretary of**

State Jesse White's Illinois Literacy Foundation. She is a national spokesperson for Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a Washington DC organization dedicated to preventing violence. In May 2001, she founded the organization "Books on Wings" to donate books to families/facilities in need. ♦

Ryan Berger, recently elected Student Body President for 2005-06, and junior **Political Science major/Pre-Law minor** from **Grayslake, IL** has been nominated for the prestigious **Truman Scholarship**. **Ben Marcy**, junior **English major/Political Science and Theatre minor** from **Springfield, IL**, was also nominated. The Truman Scholarship is a \$30,000 competitive grant that pays for the senior year and grad school in preparation for a career in public service.

Alumni Notes

1993

Ms. Stacey Krueger (BA ENG) has had a 9 year career as a clinical social worker, working primarily in the area of hospice. She was recently promoted to Director of Hospice for the Missouri offices of TIP Hospice. Stacey, her husband, Damon Barton and their son just moved to Ballwin, MO. Their new address is: 826 Kentridge Court, Ballwin, MO 63021.

Ms. Michelle L. Hanlon (BS BUS) earned a PhD in Business from the University of Washington in Seattle and is now an assistant professor at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Michelle and her husband, Chris Koehler, had their first child on May 4, 2004.

1997

Ms. Lella M. Cox (BA, '97, MS.Ed, '99) died on February 13, 2005, from a massive blood clot in her lungs. Lella was the Director of Student Life at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, IL, where she resided with her husband, David Schaaf.

1999

Ms. Angela Beckman (BS CDS) graduated from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. with her MS in Speech-Language Pathology in May of 2002. After graduating, she worked in a private preschool for a year and a half. Currently, she is earning her PhD in Reading Education at the University of Virginia.

Ms. Jennifer R. Goeckner (BS ELE) has been teaching at Treehouse Too Day Care and Pre-school since 2001. She has one daughter with her husband, Alan Kowalke.

Kara E. Hilgenberg (BS, '99, MS, '01) is currently working at Unity West Elementary in Tolono, IL, as a speech-language pathologist. She lives with her husband J.D. Kuhns, in New-
man, IL.

2000

Ms. Jamie L. Talley (BS, '00, MS, '02) Jamie is currently working as a speech-language pathologist in Oswego, IL. Her husband, Brian Hethke, works as an accountant for Caterpillar. Jamie and Brian recently bought their first house together.

2001

Ms. Kerri K. Mauger (BS) is currently living in Oak Park, IL with her husband, Michael Matusek.

Ms. Megan E. Quick (BA, '01, MS, '04) Recently accepted a position as an Academic Advisor in University College at Illinois State University. She resides in Bloomington, IL, with her husband, Ryan Baxter.

Ms. Tara D. Wattleworth (BM) just recently graduated with her MA in voice performance from the University of Iowa. She is currently living in North Liberty, IA, and is teaching voice at Coe College in Cedar Rapids. She be-

gan her DMA at the University of Iowa in the fall of 2004.

2002

Ms. Wendy Muesing (BA PSY, '02, MA, '04) has just finished her MA at EIU and is working as a counselor at Glenoaks Hospital in the psych unit.

Ms. Sarah J. Wegloski (BS) just graduated from AmeriCorps*NCCC in Charleston, SC, where she completed a ten month national service program. She is now working as the executive director of the Hinsdale Youth Center in Hinsdale, IL.

2003

Ms. Stacy Fuhrmann-Dunn (BS) won First Place in the McClung Award Competition. The Award is given for the most outstanding paper published in "BIOS", the professional journal from the Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society.

Alumni Update!
On the back page of this Newsletter is an Alumni Information Update form. If you would like your information to appear in The Torch please fill out the form and mail the information to the Honors College.

DISTINGUISHED HONORS FACULTY AWARD PRESENTED TO DR. CHERYL HAWKER

On April 16, 2005, the Honors College presented Dr. Cheryl Hawker of the Mathematics Department with the Distinguished Honors Faculty Award. Each year with the Honors Council's approval, the honors students themselves choose a faculty member whom they think is deserving of this high honor.

Raised in South Dakota, Dr.

Hawker attended the University of South Dakota where she attained degrees in math, German, chemistry and education. She earned a Masters of Math Education from the University of Kansas in 1971 and 12 years later a Doctor of Arts from Illinois State University. She came to Eastern in 1979 and has taught a variety of general education math courses. Her favorite

classes to teach, however, are Honors. "I am grateful for the opportunity to teach them," she said. Because of her beneficial teaching experiences, she advises that students choose a profession in which they "cannot wait to get up and go to work every morning." Although she is involved with a variety of activities, teaching and service remain her top priorities.





The Honors College-Booth House 1-00224
 600 Lincoln Avenue
 Charleston, IL 61920-3099

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Alumni Information Update Spring '05

The Honors College and your former classmates want to hear from you! Reply by fax (217-581-7222); phone (888-440-4664); or mail (The Honors College; 600 Lincoln Avenue; Charleston, IL 61920 **OR** cfmkm@eiu.edu).

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NOTES: _____

I wish to contribute to the AHS Dr. Herbert Lasky scholarship fund. (Make checks payable to EIU Foundation or give online at www.eiu.edu/~develop/gift.htm) ___\$25.00 ___\$50.00 ___\$100.00 ___\$ other