



Spring Is Here!

Greetings from the Honors College! Spring came early to Charleston this year, and we're enjoying lovely weather as the campus grows around us. Blair Hall has reopened, having risen from the ashes in all its historical glory. Construction of the new fine arts building proceeds apace, and our honors musicians, artists, and actors



(Blair Hall after renovations)

eagerly await its reopening in late 2007.

Honors is also enjoying a period of new growth and innovation as we enter the third year of our Presidential Scholars Program and celebrate record numbers of students applying for undergraduate research grants and departmental honors programs. We're thinking of going electronic in the near future, so we'll be better able to provide you with more information about your fellow alums and our current activities. We're also developing an alumni page on our website, so stay tuned for further innovations!



(The projected picture of the new Doudna Fine Arts Center)

We're looking ahead to our 25th anniversary in a couple of years, and I hope many of you will be able to help us celebrate Honors at EIU! If you have ideas of events you'd like to see or activities you'd like to attend, please contact me at bdirwin@eiu.edu. Have a wonderful 2006!

Rising Stars: Top 100 Sophomores Recognized

The Honors College recently recognized 100 sophomore scholars. These "Rising Stars," represent the top 5% of sophomores at EIU and had an opportunity to meet and talk to faculty, administrators, and staff during a reception that acknowledged the importance of excellence on the EIU campus.

Among those attending the event was Dr. Blair Lord, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Lord

noted the importance of providing extraordinary opportunities for exceptional students. "Eastern Illinois University strives to create an atmosphere supportive of sustained achievement. These students have demonstrated academic talents and abilities at the beginning of their university career. The role of the institution is to help them discover all that is possible."



(Sophomore Presidential Scholar Laura Leinhop and sophomore Amber Schmidt talk to Dr. Steve Mullin of the Biological Sciences Department.)

What's Going on at the Honors College:

- We considered over 70 potential Presidential Scholars for the 2006-2007 academic school year.
- We had 120 applicants for the Continuing Student Scholarships, which is up from our typical average of 90.
- We hosted our 21st annual Scholastic Bowl Tournament in February, in which 23 area high school teams competed.
- We completed our 3rd annual Honors Pizza Crawl in fall 2005, visiting 8 local pizzerias and eating a slice at each.

HCIR Conference Convenes at EIU

In February, we hosted the annual Spring HCIR (Honors Council of the Illinois Region) Conference. Fifteen schools traveled to Charleston to showcase their talented honor students' work. We had a total of ninety-one guests, with sixty-eight presenters.

There were three sessions in the morning and one after lunch. Four different rooms hosted three presentations during each ses-

sion. The topics discussed ran the gamut from Shakespeare to video games to the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Students were encouraged to attend sessions whenever they weren't presenting.

During lunch, the Directors attended a business meeting while the students were provided lunch at the Tower Dining Center, in Stevenson Hall.



(Several students listening to a presentation)

Update on the AHS Scholarship: Only \$2000 needed!

The Association of Honors Students has worked hard this year to raise funds toward the endowment needed to continue the Dr. Herbert Lasky AHS scholarship award. Thank you to all who contributed. We had a total of \$130 from alums last year. A substantial gift of \$1000 was received from the Lella Cox Schaaf estate. A silent auction at Awards Day '06 brought in \$800 which was matched by Dr. Lasky. Another gift of \$100 was received and AHS contributed from their treasury to make the total to date \$3000. Only \$2000 is needed to establish the endowment of \$5000. Can you help us reach our goal? Please see page 4.

EIU's Honors College represented at National Collegiate Honors Council Conference

Your alma mater was well represented at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference held in St. Louis in late October 2005. Two of our EIU Honors students were chosen for the Master Class in music. Ms. Katrina Kappes performed at the piano and Mr. Christopher Dickey played the euphonium. Other EIU Honors students who participated in the conference are Mr. Michael Cuddy who displayed a poster of his research pertaining to the physical and chemical properties of spider silk and Ms. Stephanie Hoveln, whose poster depicted her study in Psychology dealing with peer influence on academic motivation.

Dean Irwin and Dr. Margaret Messer presented "Air Traffic Control: Recruiting and

Retention in the Age of Helicopter Parents." Both Dean Irwin and Margaret also represented EIU as they participated in panel discussions in the Developing in Honors series. Ms. Judy Sunderman presented two sessions: "Exploration and Self Discovery: Breaking the Web Does Not Mean Destroying the Spider" and "In Between Dreams: Tools for Successful Career and Major Exploration." All three ladies serve on NCHC Committees in various roles. We congratulate Dean Bonnie Irwin who was elected to the NCHC Board of Directors following the conference.

The group enjoyed participating in City as Text, giving them opportunity to explore St. Louis in an academic approach.

News from Dr. Lasky

Dr. Herbert Lasky, Emeritus Dean of the Honors College, is enjoying his newly remodeled home in Ashmore. He and Jane plan to travel to New England and Italy later this year. He main-

tains his professional connections to his craft by attending the annual conference of the Society of Historians of the Early Republic, which will be in Montreal this summer. He continues to serve on the NCHC review team and recently

conducted a review of the Honors Program at Dickinson State University in North Dakota.

Dr. Lasky would enjoy hearing from former students at his email address hmlasky@earthlink.net.

Honors Students Make News

Emily Davis, senior Graphic Design major, from **Charleston, IL**, will begin an internship with Disney at Walt Disney World this summer as a sketch artist. ♦

Vincent Hustad, senior Biological Sciences major from **Olney, IL**, spent last summer in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park as part of a National Science Foundation project. Vincent was able to use his research to complete his Honors Thesis and present his findings at two professional meetings. ♦

Lauren Macnider, sophomore pre-veterinary medicine major from **Schaumburg, IL**, will complete an internship at the Brookfield Zoo during this summer. Lauren prepared for the internship last summer during a pre-veterinary medicine experience in Belize focusing on the health of exotic and indigenous animals. ♦

Tim Martin, senior Journalism major with double minors in Political Science and Business, is the

recipient of two Hearst Journalism Awards from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. Tim is from **Crescent City, IL**. ♦

Michael Cuddy, Junior Chemistry major with a minor in Mathematics won a competitive National Science Foundation research award. He will spend the summer working in the field of physical chemistry at Iowa State. Michael is the Goldwater Scholarship nominee from EIU this year. The Goldwater Scholarship is a prestigious national award honoring Senator Barry M. Goldwater, soldier, statesman, and U.S. Senator. ♦

Jim Thompson, freshman Marketing major/music minor from **Springfield, IL**, writes and produces music for American Idol contestant, Elizabeth Eckert. His songs may be heard at: www.elizabethsongs.com/ ♦

Melissa Dubert, sophomore from **Yorkville, IL**, majors in Communication Disorders Sciences.

Melissa has been admitted to the International Laureate Program's Delegation on Medicine in South Africa for the summer. Melissa will spend the summer working with victims of AIDS. ♦

Jennifer Ketchmark, senior Communications Studies major / Broadcast Meteorology minor, spends her weekends anchoring the news and weather at WAND-TV in Decatur. She is from **Sullivan, IL**. ♦

Sarah Maurer, sophomore Family Consumer Sciences major, from **Sycamore, IL**, works in the field of child advocacy with families who have been negatively impacted by psychosocial and/or health issues. This summer Sarah will travel to Cape Town, South Africa to participate in a program through the University of Cape Town, working with orphanages and social service organizations researching the impact of HIV AIDS on children. Sarah plans to complete her thesis based on this research. ♦

Alumni Notes

1987

Ms. Susan Keele (BS '87, MS '88) worked as a speech pathologist for eight years, then left the field to pursue a full-time career as a Mary Kay Independent Sales Director (pink Cadillac and all!). She is married to Reggie Finley, and has two children. Visit her online at www.marykay.com/sfinley

1990

Ms. Robin Page (BA MUS) has lived in Hartsburg, MO, a very small town along the Missouri River, for the past seven years. She works in retail banking in Ashland, MO. She and her husband, Robert Blake, have a two year old daughter and are looking forward to building a new home this fall.

1993

Ms. Audrey Bates (BS '93, MS '95) is working as a speech-language pathologist at a preschool for children with special needs. Audrey and her husband, Phil Christians, reside in El Mirage, AZ.

1995

Mr. Christopher Goble is serving as a visiting instructor at Monmouth College in Monmouth, IL, in the department of communication and theatre arts. He most recently was an instructor at Scott Community College in Bettendorf, Iowa.

Jeff Waldhoff (BA HIS) taught high school social studies in Olney, IL, where he was named an "Outstanding First Year Teacher." He then attended the University of Illinois

College of Law, where he received a J.D., in 2000. He currently works as Appellate Law Clerk for the Honorable Denise O'Malley, a Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court. Jeff lives and works in Chicago, Illinois. On July 16, 2006, Jeff will marry Ms. Kelly Sullivan.

1997

Mr. Jason Anselment (BS BUS) was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2001. After three years in private practice Jason was appointed as Assistant City Attorney for the city of Springfield, IL.

Ms. Janice Hunt has joined EIU's Department of University Communications as a writer. She previously worked at the *Journal Gazette / Times-Courier* in Mattoon/Charleston, IL for nearly ten years.

2000

Mr. Douglas Lawlyes (BA ECN) earned his law degree from the University of Missouri in 2000. He is a partner with his brother, Brian Lawlyes, at the firm of Lawlyes & Lawlyes in Westville, IL. In addition to the practice of law, Doug also serves as an adjunct professor of business law at Indiana University—Kokomo.

2002

Ms. Katie Cox (BA PS) married Jason Anselment (1997) in the summer of 2005. She is working as Illinois House of Representative's Speaker Michael Madigan's education research and appropriations analyst.

Ms. Lisa DeGross is working as a hardcover marketing coordinator at the Penguin Young Readers Group in New York, NY. She helps conceive and execute marketing plans and helps create posters, displays and giveaways that appear in bookstores across the country.

2003

Ms. Mary "Libby" Keller (BA PSY) is currently working as a case manager for the Illinois Institute for Addiction Recovery. She is in the process of completing her CADC (Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor). Also, she is looking to start Grad. School in the fall in a counseling program. She and her husband, Benjamin, reside in Peoria, IL.

2005

Mr. Aaron Grobengieser has been named to the OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll three times, was Academic All-District in 2004, earned OVC Academic Medal of Honor awards in 2002-2003 and named to the 2004 National Collegiate Track Coaches Association All-Academic Team.

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.

Dr. Rebecca Throneburg Presented With 2006 Distinguished Honors Faculty Award

Dr. Rebecca Throneburg, of the Communication Disorders and Sciences Department, was the 2006 recipient of the Distinguished Honors Faculty Award. Each year, with the Honors Council's approval, honors students themselves choose a faculty member who they think is deserving of this high honor.

Dr. Throneburg received her Masters and Ph.D. in Speech and Hearing Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1997. She came to EIU in 1995 and spearheaded the push for Departmental Honors in Communication Disorders

and Sciences in 1997. Her endeavors were a success and she now coordinates her department's Honors program.

She is excited to mesh research methodologies with clinical practice in her Departmental honors courses. Many of her honors students have had the opportunity to present their work at state and national meetings, and most go on to be successful in graduate school and beyond. In Dr. Throneburg's words, "(the Honors program) opens doors to wonderful opportunities for students."



(Dr. Throneburg receives an award from Dr. Cheryl Hawker)



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Alumni Information Update Spring '06

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** mkmesser@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