

Spring 2008

Shannon Lawson, Director  
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# The Challenge

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## IMPORTANT

### REMINDER!!!

- As an Honors student, you have the privilege of registering for classes on the *first day of registration* (when only seniors are typically allowed to register.)
- This is regardless of your current class standing (Freshman, Junior, etc.)
- Depending upon your degree program, you may have to see your Academic Advisor to receive clearance to register, regardless of whether you are an Honors student. (ALL English majors are required to see their advisors!)
- The first day of registration for Fall Semester 2008 is March 31.
- Log on to MySSU to register:

<https://myssu.shawnee.edu/ics/?>

## Students Have a Blast at Game Night!

*Honors Students & Faculty Indulge in Tasty Treats and Quality Entertainment*

By: Taryn Malone

SSU Honor students from varying class ranks and disciplines showed up to compete with one another in a fun-filled Game Night that was held from 5:30-7:30 on Monday, December 3.

Program Director Shannon Lawson kicked off the event by distributing brand-spanking new Honors t-shirts to all participating students. Receiving one of these regal blue shirts is just one of the perks of being an Honors student.

Honors student Kimberly Crawford (top photo, far left) graced us with her fantastic homemade chocolate and peanut butter fudge, which we enjoyed with the other snacks that were provided free of charge.



(bottom photo) had mastered the art of identifying winning card combinations. All in all, the event was a lot of fun; in fact, students have shown so much interest in the event that we might have another Game Night in Spring 2008! Keep your eyes peeled for more details.

If you have any games you would like to suggest, or have any other ideas for possible Honors events, please contact Shannon Lawson at [slawson@shawnee.edu](mailto:slawson@shawnee.edu) or Student Coordinator Taryn Malone at [malonet@shawnee.edu](mailto:malonet@shawnee.edu).

Some of the main events of the evening included word games such as Scrabble and Quiddler. The mood was intense—for example, Honors student Julia Woods (left photo, with Jordan Philippi) was so engrossed with her card game that she refused to look up at the camera when I took this photo.

Another interesting game that caught on was the card game Set. By the end of the night, Astra Ng and Charlie Haskins



## Interview with Sociologist Dr. Kurt Shoemaker



Tell a bit about yourself. I grew up in Canton, Ohio. I earned my Bachelor's in Geology at Mount Union College, and my Ph.D. in Geology at Miami of Ohio. I taught Geology and Environ-

mental Science at Saint Joseph's College in Indiana for six years before I came to SSU; I've been here for three. My academic interests seem pretty diverse – environment, volcanic systems, and human evolution – but actually, there's a sensible explanation for how it all ties together.

Briefly describe the type of material covered in your NTSC110 class.

How is this class different than a non-Honors class? I take the approach of examining controversy as it applies to science – both controversy *within* the sciences as well as controversy *about* science. We'll spend a lot of time debating two of the most controversial scientific ideas – global climate change and human evolution.

What do you like to do when you aren't teaching? Do you have any hobbies? I like to read, mostly nonfiction on all sorts of topics. Movies are good – everything from Oscar winners to comic-book adaptations. I appreciate tattoos as an art form. I collect Pez dispensers. I've also been known to brew my own beer on occasion.

Do you like to travel? I love to travel; anyplace of geological or historical significance is good with me. I've been lucky to be able to travel all over the United States as a geologist. Some of the most isolated and desolate, but beautiful, country I've ever seen is on the Owyhee Plateau, where Oregon, Idaho and Nevada come together; I did my dissertation research there. I always have a lot of fun in St. Louis, of all places. Someday I'd like to be wealthy enough to have a place on one of the Lake Erie islands.

What advice can you give to students who are planning to take your Honors Natural Science class? If you don't think science is interesting, exciting, or creative, get ready for a new perspective.

## Dinner and a Movie!

The Honors Program will be meeting in the **4<sup>th</sup> Floor Massie Hall at 5:30 PM** on **Tuesday, February 26** to eat dinner before attending the SSU International Film Festival's screening of the critically acclaimed 2005 film **Water**.

Nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the 2007 Academy Awards and winner of the Genie Award for Cinematography, Music, and Best Leading Actress, **Water** provides a revealing look at a group of widows living in poverty in pre-independent India. Set in the 1930's, the movie presents a scathing critique of Hindu traditions regarding the position of widows and the caste system. Directed and written by Deepa Mehta, the movie was voted one of the top ten movies in Canada in 2005; however it is banned in India due to violent protests and an attempted suicide by one protester.

(Link to article on protests/attempted suicide: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/634324.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/634324.stm))

SSU Professor **Dr. Deepa Sitaraman**, who is from India, will be hosting the viewing of the film, which begins at **7:00 PM in Massie Hall's basement Lecture Hall, Room 020.**

**R.S.V.P. IS REQUIRED.** THE DEADLINE TO R.S.V.P. FOR THIS EVENT IS **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19.** PLEASE E-MAIL DIRECTOR SHANNON LAWSON AT [SLAWSON@SHAWNEE.EDU](mailto:SLAWSON@SHAWNEE.EDU) TO R.S.V.P.

Planning on presenting for this year's **Celebration of Scholarship?**

Did you know that you can now register online?

[http://www.shawnee.edu/off/cml/celebrationsch/2008/presenterletter\\_2008.html](http://www.shawnee.edu/off/cml/celebrationsch/2008/presenterletter_2008.html)

## New Electronic Thesis Option Available to Honors Seniors

The Clark Memorial Library offers Shawnee State University Honor students the opportunity to participate in OhioLINK's Electronic Theses and Dissertations Center (ETD). As a member of OhioLINK the library will accept undergraduate honors theses (Senior Seminar papers) for submission to the ETD database.

### What is an ETD?\*

An ETD is a document that explains the research or scholarship of a college or university student in an electronic format. It is simultaneously suitable for machine archives and worldwide retrieval. The ETD is similar to its paper predecessor. For example, it has figures, tables, footnotes, and references. It also has a title page with the author's name, the official name of the university, the degree sought, and the names of the committee members. Furthermore, it may describe why the work was done, how the research relates to previous work as recorded in the literature, the research methods used, the results, and the interpretation and discussion of the results, and a summary with conclusions.

The ETD is different from its paper predecessor, however, in a few important aspects.

First, **it provides a technologically advanced medium for expressing your ideas.**

You may prepare an ETD by using nearly any word processor or document preparation system, and by incorporating relevant multimedia objects. Second, **it is less expensive for you to prepare.** By creating an ETD, you avoid the requirement of submitting multiple copies on special paper. Third, **ETDs promote greater access to your research.** ETDs are made available to anyone that browses the World Wide Web. They consume virtually no library shelf space, and never collect dust.

Overall, ETDs contribute to worldwide education and unlock the underutilized results of graduate and honors research for the scholarly community.

### Why should I make my ETD freely available?

The world of scholarship depends on people making their research available to others. When this is done electronically, more people may receive access at a lower cost, and more knowledge transfer occurs. This stimulates education and research. It also ensures that many people give credit to you for your work, and that your research is cited in others' publications,

which adds to your prestige and aids your future advancement.

Before theses and dissertations were available electronically, not many were read. Electronic access multiplies the number of times works are read by a factor of ten or more. In fact, one author at Virginia Tech increased accesses to 56,399 from 9,920 in only one year. Since you spent a great deal of time on your research, it should encourage you to know that others are reading your work. Your research may guide others, and your results may save others the time of redoing your study.

With electronic theses and dissertations, students and universities may more easily share knowledge, with much lower costs. It is estimated that about 200,000 theses or dissertations are completed each year. It would greatly aid American education if as many as possible of these were made freely available.

\*Taken in part from University of Cincinnati and Virginia Tech's ETD Web Site

See OhioLINK ETD FAQ

[Electronic Theses and Dissertations Center Frequently Asked Questions, FAQ](#)

Contact Connie Salyers Stoner,  
Clark Memorial Library

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740/351-3462

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### VISIT US ON THE WEB!!

<http://www.shawnee.edu/acad/hon/index.html>

And, log onto the Honors Program through Blackboard!

## Volunteer for Shantytown!

Last year, **Ashley Sparks** and **Julia Wood** represented the Honors Program by participating in SSU's **Shantytown** event to raise awareness and funds for the local homeless shelter. The dates for 2008 are **April 14-16**, making this the first time ever for the event to last over two nights. **Faculty and Staff** are also encouraged to volunteer for this event. If you would like to represent SSU's Honors Program this year, please **contact**

**Amy Richardson at**  
[arichardson@shawnee.edu](mailto:arichardson@shawnee.edu).

## FALL SEMESTER 2008 HONORS COURSE OFFERINGS

The following classes will be offered as Honors courses for Fall 2008. As an Honors student, you can register on March 31, regardless of class standing.

**ENGL1102 (03) M/W/F 1-1:50**

### *Discourse and Composition*

Instructor: Patricia Spradlin

This course is an enhanced introduction to composition. Students will gain familiarity with the conventions of usage, jargon, format and documentation in academic disciplines. Students will complete assignments that are designed to channel their critical thinking skills as well as their writing abilities in interesting directions and at a slightly more elevated and complex level than the assignments they tackled in a regular 1102. In addition, students will complete and present a multi-genre essay, and they will read, discuss, and write about a novel selected by the instructor.

**IDST2226 (01) M/W/F 10-10:50**

### *Civilization and Literature 2*

Instructor: Janet Holtman

This course will examine one of the most complex and contentious ideals in American cultural history: The American Dream. The United States is often thought to be a classless society, built upon equality and liberty, a country in which hard work and good character lead to some measure of individual success and perhaps even make possible prosperity and upward social mobility. While some people do seem to live some version of the dream, for most, the reality is more complicated, and possibilities for changing one's social status are more limited than such a pervasive hope would indicate. This course will investigate what American writers during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries have said about the gaps between ideal and reality by examining closely several works of American literature that take up the subject and by contextualizing these works historically and culturally along the way.

**NTSC1100 (04) T/R 2:30-3:50**

### *Scientific Reasoning and Methodology*

Instructor: Kurt Shoemaker

Science is a discipline that seems to be fraught with controversy. Ideas that are politically inconvenient (like global warming) or that conflict with individuals' worldview (like biological evolution) are often dismissed as "just theories" - but how can they be "just theories" when theories are the end result of the scientific process of inquiry, and are among the most robust and powerful explanatory ideas humankind has ever devised? We will examine the history and development of and the evidence for some of these controversial theories, and examine the role of controversy in the sciences - how controversy within the sciences leads to advancement and how controversy about science can impede progress. Students will engage in activities which emphasize the dynamic, interactive nature of research in the natural sciences, and in the process will develop an understanding and appreciation of the scientific method, and will hone their scientific reasoning skills.