



THE CHALLENGE

The Honors Program Newsletter Fall 2006

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Honors Alumni Spotlight

In late May, Jené Wright was hired as an English teacher at Valley High School. She is currently teaching 10th grade World Literature, 12th grade Speech, and a 12th grade College Prep. English class. She plans to complete advanced placement training next summer at Ohio University so that she can begin offering AP English courses to college bound seniors. Wright anticipates beginning her master's degree in education administration this summer at Ohio State University. She plans to work towards a principal's licensure for ages 8-21. In the future, she hopes to teach at the college level.



Wright asserts "The advanced courses offered by the Honors Program stressed a more rigorous curriculum and higher expectations in terms of the quality and quantity of reading and Writing." She feels the most rewarding aspect of enrolling in an Honors course is that "almost everyone is equally dedicated to working hard and promoting critical thinking through in-depth discussions." When job hunting last Spring, Wright discovered that "potential employers who look at your resume are often pleased to find that you've set higher expectations for yourself by completing more challenging coursework."

The spring trip to Washington DC was the most enjoyable event that Wright remembers from the Honors Program. They stayed in downtown Washington DC, so various national landmarks and the Smithsonian were within walking distance or just a short subway ride away. Wright recalls "We had the opportunity to see the extremely popular exhibit designed as a tribute to 9/11, which was heart-breaking and inspirational at the same time."

Wright offers the following advice to current Honors students:

"To anyone who feels hesitant about enrolling in the program due to the higher expectations (and hence higher stress level), I would advise him or her to give serious consideration to joining because of the wonderful benefits associated with the program – academically and otherwise. Joining this program enables students to extend their thinking, improve their reading and writing skills, and provides the opportunity to build relationships with their peers and professors."

Winter Quarter Courses for All Honors Students

In case you have not yet heard the news, here are the Honors classes that are being offered this winter at

ENGL 112 (12) Composition & Research (Honors) T/R, 10-11:50am, Shannon Lawson

The focus is on the relationship between research and composition, as well as careful and critical reading of selected texts. This course offers Honors Students an opportunity to research a wide variety of issues of contemporary relevance. Students will hone writing and speaking skills while developing an active interest in significant current issues and events.

The theme for the quarter will be ***Liberty: Personal Freedoms vs. Public Safety***. We will examine recent legislation including but not limited to the Patriot Act, Immigration Reform, and the Communications Decency Act. We will explore concerns regarding Internet Privacy and Censorship. Students will read about historical challenges to the First Amendment and Supreme Court rulings regarding the protection of personal freedoms. Students will have an opportunity to formulate and refine arguments regarding several liberty-related controversial issues.

IDST 226 (1) Civilization & Literature 2 (Honors) T/R 10-11:50 am, Dr. Barbara Kunkle

An enhanced exploration of important cultural themes in American Culture through discussion and reading of important American texts.

Students look at cultural representations—fictional, artistic, filmic—of the United States, with the purpose of identifying cultural myths and ideologies that motivate, question, and define American identity at selected moments of our history. In this class, we will explore our success and failures as a nation of democratic ideals through exploration of the frontier myth in American history and culture and through study of the history, literature, and culture of the 1920s and 1930s in particular. The myths

and ideologies at work in this era will be traced to, and compared with, utterances from the early days of the republic.

IDST 490 (3) Senior Seminar (Honors) M/W 2-3:50pm, Dr. Chip Poirot

Students engage in extended class discussion of relevant readings for the chosen theme for that semester's Honors Senior Seminar in addition to meeting the normal requirements of Senior Seminar. Such themes might include (*e.g.*) the conflict between science and cultural values, different ways of making and validating knowledge claims or more extensive discussion of what it means to engage in critical thinking.

Science as a way of making valid claims to knowledge enjoys an extraordinary degree of prestige and status in modern society. Yet the claims of science often come into conflict with other values in society. This conflict has resulted in critiques of specific claims made by science as well as critiques of the unique place of science with respect to knowledge in general. Some critiques of science are motivated by religious beliefs and values, while others are motivated by concerns that science undermines political values such as equality and democracy. We will explore the nature of this controversy through a series of readings and class discussions. Students will write the Senior Seminar paper on a topic that is directly relevant to the theme of conflicts between Science and Society. Some examples of topics that we will address are the nature of scientific reasoning and critical thinking, controversies over the theory of evolution, feminist and post-modern critiques of science and the applicability of scientific methods to the social sciences.

Graduation Requirements for Honors Seniors

As all of our Seniors are already well aware, Shawnee State's commencement is just around the corner. This will be the third year that Honors Students will be able to graduate with an Honors certificate. Here are the requirements for an Honors Diploma:

Honors Program Certificate for Bachelor's Degrees.

Students are required to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.3 and satisfactorily complete 24 credit hours (6 classes) of specially designated Honors sections of the GEP. Twelve hours, which include Honors Senior Seminar, must be completed at Shawnee State University.

Honors Program Certificate for Associate Degrees.

Students are required to satisfactorily complete any 12 hours of specially designated Honors sections of the GEP and maintain a minimum GPA of 3.3 at Shawnee State.

In order to ensure that everyone who has fulfilled the requirements of the Honors Program receive the recognition you deserve, this notice serves as a reminder to, if you have not already done so, **please bring Shannon Lawson a copy of your degree audit ASAP so that she can review it and certify your eligibility for the Honors certificate.**

If you have additional questions about requirements, please consult the University catalogue pp.43-44, call 351-3295, or visit Shannon Lawson in person. Her office is located in Massie 422.

Honors Trip

When: Friday, November 3, 2006

Time: 8:00—3ish

Where: Dayton Art Institute

Join us for a trip to Dayton to see the *Rembrandt and the Golden Age of Dutch Art, Treasures from the Rijksmuseum* in Amsterdam. The Honors Program will provide travel, entrance to the exhibit and lunch.

See <http://www.daytonartinstitute.org/> for more information about the exhibit.

DEADLINE—Contact slawson@shawnee.edu or 351-3295 by Oct 27th if you are interested in going.

Important Reminder:

All Honors Students are eligible for early registration on **November 6th**. Make sure to schedule appointments with your advisors during the week prior to the start of registration so that they can clear you for registration. We are working on an Honors section of Math 110, IDST 227 and possibly Phil 200 for Spring Quarter.

Please send ideas for future Honors activities both on campus and off to slawson@shawnee.edu

Scholarship Opportunities

Arthur and Helen Lynn Family Scholarship-awarded through SSU's Development Foundation
Deadline – January 15, 2007

Eligibility –

- Juniors majoring in Business or planning to get an MBA
- Member of Honors Program

Apply online: <http://www.shawnee.edu/off/fa/Time%20Sensitive/scholarapp.html>

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation-awards up to \$50,000

Deadline – March 15, 2007

Eligibility –

- Seniors planning to go on to Graduate School
- 3.5 GPA
- Nomination by Honors Program Director

For more info see: http://www.jackkentcookefoundation.org/jkcf_web/content.aspx?page=Grad

Volunteer Opportunities



Contact **Dave Todt**, Associate Provost, 351-3175 or dtodt@shawnee.edu if you are interested in volunteering to be a reading tutor in local schools. You will be asked to give an hour of your time.



Contact

Amy Richardson, SSU Coordinator of Community Service, 351-3662 or arichardson@shawnee.edu if you are interested in volunteering with **Operation Christmas Child**. Help to pack shoe boxes to send to children in 90 countries.

Brain teasers

From riddles.com

I will be with you
Each morning I appear
To lie at your feet,
All day I will follow
No matter how fast you run,
Yet I nearly perish
In the midday sun.
What am I?



What common English word will describe a person or thing as not being found in any place and yet with no changes other than a space between syllables will correctly describe that person or thing as being actually present at this very moment?

(Answers to both riddles below)

For more info about the Honors Program, visit our website: <http://www.shawnee.edu/acad/hon/index.html>

1. Shadow 2. nowhere - now here