



# NEBRASKA HONORS

A Publication of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Honors Program

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## SOME CHANGES FOR HONORS

In the past few months, the Honors Office underwent some noteworthy changes: Dr. Lyons, Associate Director of the Honors Program, and Ann Koopmann, Academic Advisor to the Honors Program, swapped offices. Now, you can find Dr. Lyons in 118 Neihardt Hall and Ann in 2100 Neihardt Hall (Heppner hallway). The waiting area in 2100 Neihardt has also become the office for **Student Advising**, a new service we provide.

Dr. Damuth, Director of UCARE and Fellowships Advisor, and Katie Cervantes, E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues Coordinator, have both officially joined the Honors Program community. Dr. Damuth is now in her office (118 Neihardt) full-time, and Katie is in 1102 Neihardt (Love hallway). Drop by and say hello!

Four to five upperclass students serve as Student Advisors to answer questions and work proactively to keep Honors Program students informed about requirements. These students must have served as Peer Mentors or Honors Office student workers before being selected as Student Advisors. Student advising should not replace academic advising, but rather serve as a useful resource.

We hope that you take advantage of these new opportunities and resources!

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR HIMSELF

A warm welcome to campus to our incoming students and an enthusiastic “welcome back” to our upperclass students. I hope that you have had an enjoyable and productive summer and are ready now to turn your attention to the demands of the semester ahead.

We are launching a new publication in Nebraska Honors to provide you with information that may be useful. On a monthly basis, this student-generated communication will reach you by email and may also be accessed on the web. As an illustration, you will find in this initial message updates about changes in the Honors Program office (Dr. Lyons and Ann Koopmann have swapped offices), a review of some interesting recent contracts, the usual reminder of dates and deadlines, and an expression of our ongoing pride in the achievements of our students.

You can certainly help us make this publication more effective by letting us know what you think it should contain. Do send us your *constructive* suggestions at [honors@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:honors@unlnotes.unl.edu). Best wishes for the coming semester and please do stay in touch.

P. Berger



## PAST INTERESTING CONTRACTS

- **MUSC 483 (Musical Technology: Advanced Technology)**  
Created an iPad application involving a choir touch application
- **ADVT 333 (Strategic Comm. Graphics)**  
Developed a campaign to reach out to fraternity alumni to raise awareness about the state of the house and raise money for a renovation
- **FDST 429 (Dairy Products Technology)**  
Designed and completed an experiment testing the shelf stability of probiotics in the soft-serve ice cream produced by the UNL Dairy Processing Plant
- **ARCH 141A (Colors)**  
Created a 5" image of a mock postage stamp and one sheet of multiple repeats of the same stamp
- **THEA 112G (Intro to Theatre)**  
Ran crew for a theatrical show, keeping a journal of thoughts and feelings
- **GEOG 181 (Quality of the Environment)**  
Researched the development of the land designated for the Haymarket Arena and documented the area using photography for a presentation which explains the arena's likely impact on the local environment
- **CHEM 109 (General Chemistry)**  
Worked with other Honors students to create, edit, and test future lab experiments for the course
- **BIOC 431 (Biomolecules & Metabolism)**  
Made a video describing a biochemical concept with everyday objects
- **ENGL 317 (Literature and the Environment)**  
Toured a feedlot and a slaughterhouse, and wrote a paper comparing and contrasting this experience with outside research
- **BIOS 206 (General Genetics)**  
Worked with the professor on a project involving collating and analyzing genetic data on domestic cats
- **CRIM 221 (Survey of Correction)**  
Toured several county and state facilities, comparing them with popular films

## SPOTLIGHT ON... THE PEER MENTOR PROGRAM

The Peer Mentor Program places 8 to 10 first-year students with upperclass student volunteers in what is rumored to be an engaging and enlightening experience. This collaboration lasts for half of the first semester, but the friendships made extend at least a week past that date. It is intended to ease the transition into life at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, as well as to address many issues faced by incoming students, such as how to get involved, requirements for the Honors Program, study habits, and how to avoid dragon attacks (okay, maybe not this). This is a wonderful way to introduce students to the culture of the Honors Program, so please, if you see a group meeting, act studious while you walk past them.



These people are the Peer Mentor Leaders. They might control your fate. Probably not, though. They might, however, be some of the most helpful people you meet. So... go meet them.

## IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

- Students wishing to order an official Honors Program 2011-2012 **t-shirt** are welcome to do so. The deadline for ordering is **September 1**, and order forms can be found in the Honors Office.
- All **Honors Contracts** are due by the **6th week** of each semester
- **For all 4th-semester students: Statement of Academic Interest** due December 2
- **For all 6th-semester students: Memorandum of Study** due December 2
- **For all graduating seniors: Thesis Completion Form** due December 5

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q: How do I contract a class?

A: To contract a class, discuss with your professor what extra assignment/project you can complete for Honors credit. You'll need to fill out an Honors Contract form and turn it in to the Honors Office by the 6th week of the semester. Processing all of the contracts will take some time and the Honors designation will be **reflected on your unofficial transcript** late in the semester.

### Q: I like Harry Potter.

A: That's not really a question, but don't worry. You're not alone.

### Q: How do I get involved in the Honors Program?

A: There are several opportunities to get involved with the Honors Program! You can apply to join our Peer Mentor team in the Honors Office. Applications are also accepted for the HP Student Advisory Board and for the Student Ambassadors. Applications and additional information are on the website under the tab marked "Current Students".

### Q: What is this *thesis* all about?

A: The thesis/creative project is completed by all Honors students prior to graduating from the program. It requires a faculty sponsor, but can be on any topic of your choosing. Most students choose to complete the thesis in their major field of study. A Thesis Completion Form must be filled out prior to submitting a physical copy of the thesis. Visit our thesis library to get an idea of topics and formatting!

### Q: Do I have to live in Neihardt?

A: No. Though many Honors students choose to live in Neihardt, we have students living in most of the residence halls and Greek houses, as well as off-campus.

### Q: How does one survive a dragon attack?

A: Chances are you won't. The Honors Office staff would suggest finding friends who are slower than you.

## RECOGNITION & RANDOM NEWS

Dr. Patrice Berger is returning for another year as the Director of the Honors Program. Say "hello" to him in the hallway and congratulate him on surviving yet another year with people like us.

## IMPORTANT SIDE NOTE

While this is (hopefully) interesting to read, it is NOT meant to be a replacement for the HP NewsFlash, which is sent by Dr. Lyons when official Honors information needs to be communicated. This is meant to provide an additional, lighter viewpoint of Honors requirements and as a general reference for Honors-related questions, but the HP NewsFlash will have useful information directly from the faculty of the Honors Program.

## FUN FACT

The Honors Program Thesis Library (located in the rear of the Honors Office at 118 Neihardt) has over two thousand papers and projects submitted over the past twenty years, covering diverse topics from *Twilight* to *Drosophila melanogaster* to Musical Theatre. Since the inception of the library, roughly three students have read a thesis other than their own. Stop by and be number four!



## NEW CLASSES!

There are two new course offerings beginning **this fall**. Honors students are encouraged to sign up for **ANTH/WMNS 408**, which is now being offered in conjunction with AmeriCorps. The three-credit class involves mentoring refugees, immigrants, and minority students in the Lincoln Public School District, and fulfills the ACE 8 (Diversity) requirement. It also offers students the chance to interact with foreign cultures. Interested students should contact Dr. Mary Willis in 928 Oldfather Hall or via email at **mwillis2@unl.edu**. Course applications are due August 19, but late admits will be accepted because of the spontaneity of the course's creation.

The other new course offering is **UHON 198H**, entitled "Conversation Partners." This one credit seminar is designed to give students the opportunity to work in small groups consisting of two-three honors students and two-three new international students. The groups will meet 4-5 times per semester with conversation topics provided by the instructor. Each individual student will write seven, one-two page reflection papers based on the provided topics. Topics include general introductions, recreational interests, majors, government structures, holidays, traditions and academic discussions. Those interested should contact Ann Koopmann at **akoopmann1@unl.edu** for a detailed syllabus and permission code. Registration is limited to just 25 lucky students, so sign up now!

## HONORS PROGRAM STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

Honors Program students are known for going above and beyond, and in many cases they compete nationally for fellowships and awards. We want to wish a warm congratulations to the following Honors Program fellowship and award winners since 2006:

### Goldwater

2011: Jeffrey Lopez  
2010: Robert Jaccobberger  
2008: Aaron Fluitt, Corey Georgeson, Robert Woodward  
2006: Jeanine Frey, James McFarland

### Fulbright

2011: Cori Curtis, Jenna Gibson  
2010: KaraLynn Brown, Kevin Healy, Jillian Savage, Racheal Strong  
2009: Jeremy Emerson  
2008: Megan Lutz, Devyn Bailey, 2008  
2007: Peter Gengler, Elizabeth Musil, Noushan Nouredini, Sean Golden  
2006: Anna Drozda, Andrew Hansen, Lauren Hegarty, Maureen Gallagher, Sara Tuckerman

### NSEP Boren

2011: Elena Shomos  
2010: Stephanie Booth, Zachary Smith  
2007: Deanne Lickteig, Kevin Healy

### Truman

2011: Emily Schlichting  
2010: Matthew Boring

### Marshall

2007: Aaron Eske

### Gates Cambridge

2011: Zachary Norwood

### Critical Language Scholarship

2011: Walter Bircher  
2010: Katie Sisneros, Jessie Cleveland, Nicole Starkey  
2009: Racheal Strong, Jessie Cleveland

### DAAD RISE

2011: Elizabeth Jaensch  
2010: Quentin Dudley  
2009: Stephanie Berger

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