

## HONORS PROGRAM CELEBRATES AT 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL REUNION



More than 60 former Honors Program students, together with the program's faculty, gathered to catch up, network, and reminisce at the second annual HP Reunion on September 27, before the Homecoming football game.

It was more than just an opportunity to win raffle prizes and celebrate school pride. After recently moving to Kansas City to be a Technical Development Engineer at DuPont Sustainable Solutions, Honors Program alumnus Tim Carmann (Chemical Engineering '06) came to the reunion to see if there were other alumni from that

region who could get together and watch games. But what he enjoyed most was "the opportunity to see some of my favorite Honors Program faculty, like Dr. Lyons and Dr. Koopmann, and see some familiar faces from when I lived in Neihardt."

The opportunity to visit with Dr. Karen Lyons was especially poignant for many attendees, who learned that she will be retiring at the end of this academic year. Lyons' influence will continue even after her career. Two of her former students, Lindsey Rice and Elise White, announced the creation of the Dr. Karen and Professor William Lyons Fund that will distribute scholarships toward undergraduate research and study abroad opportunities.

At the reunion, recent graduates were more likely to encounter familiar faces, but everyone was able to find old or new friends. Tim Druke (Chemistry and Physics '90) was a member of the first class to matriculate into the Honors Program in 1986. "When we entered the program, there were only 120 of us and we knew pretty much everybody," Druke said.

Today, keeping in touch with the nearly 3,000 Honors Program alumni is a daunting task. The Honors Program Alumni Executive Board is still striving to ensure it can reach all alumni who are interested in hearing about events.

"We're very concerned that we may be missing contact info for people who would have liked to attend or would like to help out the Honors Program and its students," said the board's social media chair Elaine Kub. She encourages alumni to 'Like' the "Nebraska Honors Program Alumni" page on Facebook or send information along to others. "Please forward this newsletter to all your friends from the Honors Program, and encourage them to send their information to us at [unlhpalumniexec@gmail.com](mailto:unlhpalumniexec@gmail.com). We are trying hard not to leave anyone out of the chance to reconnect with the Honors Program and experience great events like this reunion."

## HP Alumni Team Competes In Quiz Bowl



For the first time in recent memory, Honors Program alumni fielded a team in the bi-annual Quiz Bowl. Greg Walklin, Tiffany Lee, Daniel Russell joined current HP students in a rousing game of trivia and problem solving. All in all, the alumni team made a good showing but bringing home first prize was not meant to be. Despite their graduate degrees and years of work experience, subjects like geology, opera, and math (math!?! ) got in the way. Regardless of the finish, it was a fun night.

Quiz Bowl is held twice a year. Current Honors Program students enthusiastically show up for the event—and alumni participation is highly encouraged. If you are interested in fielding a team for a future Quiz Bowl, contact the Honors Program Student Advisory Board at [unlhpsab@gmail.com](mailto:unlhpsab@gmail.com).

## Handful of HP Alumni Enjoy Denver Reunion



A small but special group of Honors Program alumni joined Dr. Karen Lyons for a reunion in Denver at the National Collegiate Honors Council annual conference. “Mandy was my first Honors Thesis student, while Maria and Alaina were members of the first English 189H class I taught, so meeting with them was a lovely and timely experience, given my retirement at the end of this academic year,” said Dr. Lyons.

Discussion included the ‘recent’ upgrades to Neihardt Hall (including the classrooms and the Thesis

Library), and the various HP seminar offerings.

Next year, the NCHC conference will be in Chicago, Nov. 11-15, so Chicago area alums, plan to join Honors Program representatives then for your local reunion!

## Call for New Board Members



Dr. Patrice Berger and the Honors Program Alumni Board are seeking new members to start in May 2015 and serve a two-year term on the Board. The Alumni Board meets in Neihardt every other month for about two hours; attendance is welcome virtually via Google Hangout and in-person.

The work of the board focuses on the mission and goals stated below.

**Mission:** To connect Honors Program Alumni with their alma mater and each other, for the advancement of the Nebraska Honors Program and the University of Nebraska.

### Goals:

1. Create an Honors alumni network
2. Engage Honors alumni through regional and national reunions
3. Support current Honors students
4. Assist with Honors new student recruitment

Nominations are requested based on skill set, for example, experience with board leadership, philanthropy, fundraising, writing for advertising/marketing, student affairs at other institutions, alumni outreach, etc.

Please contact Katie Bodie Cervantes at [kcervantes2@unl.edu](mailto:kcervantes2@unl.edu) by January 23 to express your interest or to nominate an alum.