

HONORS NEWS AND NOTES

SPRING 2015

FOUR STUDENTS ATTEND GREAT PLAINS HONORS CONFERENCE



Four students and Honors Director Dr. Teddi Deka attended the Great Plains Honors Council Conference April 10-12 in South Padre Island, Texas. Students first submitted their posters or presentations for review by the Great Plains committee. Senior, Megan Wood (Education), juniors, Ida Haefner (Biology) and Kelly Cochran (Biology) and sophomore, Maggie Lee (Exercise Science), were selected to present. This is Megan's third time going to the Great Plains Honors Conference. She said, "The location really helped play up my presentation about cross-culture education and communication. It made it fun and the beach was just an added bonus." Kelly Cochran received a first-place award for her poster entitled "Scientific Communication: Designing an Ammeline Riboswitch Across Oceans." Kelly's research incorporated her field of study with the theme of the conference, "Transcending Borders." She replicated an experiment which involved collaboration with a scientist at the University of Manchester.

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IMPORTANT DATES:

- Apr. 27– Last day of classes
- Apr. 29-May 5– Final Exams
- May 9– Commencement
- Aug. 31– Fall Semester Begins

ALPHA CHI HEADS TO NATIONALS

Alpha Chi's fall induction welcomed 47 new members and elected new officers: President: Erica Keffeler (Biology), Vice President: Erin Seabolt (Theatre & Cinema), Secretary: Jennifer Kieser (Health Informatics & Accounting), and Treasurer: Leah Cotton (Psychology). These officers will be recognized for years to come since the Alpha Chi plaque is now on display in the Honors Office. Erica is "excited to be an officer of such a large organization and is looking forward to a great year!" Five Alpha Chi members took a trip to the Alpha Chi National Conference in Chicago. Students Elizabeth Bertram (History) and Sarah Thomas (Elementary Education), were selected to apply for the Alfred H. Nolle Scholarship and H.Y. Benedict Fellowship. After attending the conference, Elizabeth commented, "I always love getting to know my fellow honors students as well as gain knowledge. [Alpha Chi National Conference] also offers a fantastic chance to present your own research. I would encourage all to go who can!" Elizabeth teamed up with Leah Cotton (Psychology), former AX President Kassi Lewis (Finance), and Charla Lee (Health Informatics) conducting a collaborative research project which was presented at the conference. Their project, "Selfie Art or Self Harm," aligned with the theme of the conference, the Nexus of Arts and Sciences. The team received praise from many conference attendees. AX finished up their year with an Ice Cream Social, inviting other honors organizations to join in to discuss a new Honors League. AX would like to recognize Dr. Elizabeth Latosi-Sawin (former advisor) who is retiring this Spring.



NEW HORIZONS FOR SHO



The Student Honors Organization had another great year! The club has really grown its relationships between its members and will continue to do so. SHO put on many great events this year, including a couple of club barbeques, holiday parties, and two very successful bake sales. Many other events were planned, but scheduling interfered. The club's final event will be an ice cream party and movie. At the final meeting, the club elected its new officers: President: Faith Hoover, Executive Vice-President: Austin Catron, Vice-President of Marketing: Graham Leavell, Treasurer: Logan McKenzie, and Secretary: Riqueza Hendrix. Current President, Ida Haefner, believes the club will continue to grow in the coming years. "We have such great ideas from our new members that can be put into place next year. I can't wait to see what is in store for next year!"

DR. STACIA BENSYL: HONORS FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

English professor, Dr. Stacia Bensyl, has been a professor at Missouri Western for 24 years. Dr. Bensyl originally attended college in pursuit of an anthropology degree. She decided this was not the path for her and took time off from school. She held several secretarial jobs and worked at a bank. She decided to go back to college to become a high school teacher, majoring in Spanish and minoring in English. During an English literature class, at what is now Northwest Missouri State University, Dr. Bensyl had to research a poem, which contributed to her passion for English. She commented, "There was so much to talk about in a relatively brief piece of writing." She graduated from Northwest with a B.S. in Education, and was awarded a Rotary International Scholarship her senior year. This scholarship allowed Dr. Bensyl to pursue her Master's degree at the University College Dublin in Ireland. She later came back to the states and enrolled in the Ph.D. program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She received her Ph.D. in 1998. When asked what her favorite hobby is, Dr. Bensyl answered, "I love to teach." When she is not teaching at Missouri Western, Dr. Bensyl is traveling the world. She has been to 10 different countries, and this summer she will continue traveling. "This summer I will be in Hawai'i co-directing a three week institute on Japanese Studies for undergraduate professors, and then later in the summer I am co-directing a workshop in Hiroshima and Nagasaki for undergraduate professors." Her other hobbies include learning languages and knitting.



TWO STUDENTS EARN MAJORS HONORS



Two students completed Majors Honors this semester: Jenny Stanhope (left) and Elizabeth Bertram (right). Jenny is a psychology major who plans to attend graduate school at Missouri Western for human factors and usability. Her honors thesis is titled "Reactions to internet security warning pop-ups on personal computers as opposed to institutional computers." Jenny discovered that people hesitate longer to click through a security warning when on a personal computer. Jenny's project was sponsored by psychology professor, Dr. Jo Elliott. Elizabeth is a history major with a minor in legal studies; she plans to attend law school in the fall at Arizona State University. Her honors thesis was entitled, "Henry Clay's motives for compromise: self-



serving or nationalistic?" Elizabeth discovered that Clay viewed slavery as a necessary but evil economic institution that he disagreed with overall. Elizabeth was sponsored by history professor Dr. Steve Greiert. The Honors Program would like to sincerely congratulate these two on their success at Missouri Western and wish them luck in the future.

COLLOQUIUM SPOTLIGHT

"Chinese Traditions and Culture" is back for another semester but with a new face leading the experience. Professor Zhenglyu Zhou is an exchange professor from China where he teaches in the Foreign Languages School. This colloquium aims to teach students about Chinese history, literature, holidays, education, family patterns, and much more. Differences in tradition and customs between the United States is quite different and Professor Zhou thinks "understanding those differences can help students better understand their own culture." The Honors Department would like to thank Professor Zhou for offering this course.

GRADUATING STUDENTS

Emily Anderson (Art)	Landon Bennett (Business)
Elizabeth Bertram (History)	Amanda Boender (Biology)
Grace Chester (Mathematics)	Brock Couch (Biology)
Rockwell Gray (Sociology)	Portia Hahn Leat (Chemistry)
Taylor King (Art)	Pearce Lalli (Criminal Justice)
Alexander Moore (Chemistry & Mathematics)	
Darien Marrow (Chemistry)	Ailie Powers (Biology)
Kelly Scannell (Nursing)	Theadora Serna (Business)
Monica Silber (Education)	
Hayley Sipes (Criminal Justice & Legal Assistant)	
Jenny Stanhope (Psychology)	WJT Corvette Way (Biology)

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