

# HONORS NEWS AND NOTES

VOL. 15 FALL 2019

## SCORPIONS, BATS, AND GHOSTS OH MY!

### CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Lauren Coon GS  
Tori Cordero GS  
Shae Delancy GS, M  
Chase Ford GS  
Breanna Hancock GS  
Sebastien Harmon GS  
Caleb May  
Tyra Penton GS  
Rachel Prawitz GS  
Perla Sanchez GS  
Bree Schreck GS  
Megan Schreiner GS  
Ann Violet GS  
GS = General Studies Honors  
M = Majors Honors

Students traveled to the Ozark Underground Lab September 13-15 as part of their HON395 course entitled "Extinction is Forever- Topics in Conservation Biology." Accompanied by instructor Dr. Mark Mills, Honors Committee members Dr. William Russell and Dr. Teddi Deka, and Honors Program student assistant Raechel Tittor, students spent the weekend searching for scorpions, touring the Karst lands above the cave system, and searched for endangered species only found in Tumbling Creek Cave.



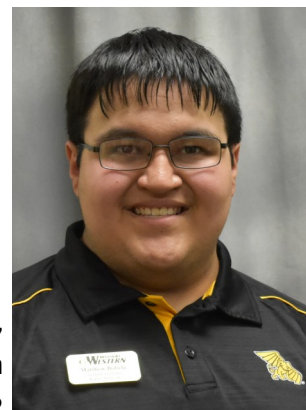
Another group of students got to visit the Sallie House, the Haunted 1889 McInteer Villa, and went on historical walking tour of Atchison, Kansas on September 27-28 as part of their HON195 course entitled "Science and the Supernatural." Led by instructors Dr. Ed Taylor and Dr. Evan Hart, Honors Committee members Dr. Melinda Kovacs and Jim Mulder, and Honors Program student assistant Matthew Bobela, these students also had the opportunity to listen to a guest speaker from Johnson County Community College, Dr. Sean Daley, who presented, "Ghosts are Real and I Can Prove It... with Science!"



## COME VISIT AND MEET THE HONORS STAFF

Matthew Bobela joined the Honors Staff this semester. He is a sophomore Vocal Music Education major and enjoys involvement at MWSU through the National Association for Music Educators and Alpha Chi. Matthew sings tenor Concert Choral and Chamber Singers. A native of St. Joseph, he actively participates in the community by directing the Cathedral of St. Joseph Choir and serving on Creative Arts Productions' Board of Directors. Matthew also is the founder and director of the Polyphonic Schola of St. Joseph - a choir dedicated to the study and performance of ancient, sacred music in worship.

Matthew, Raechel, our other student assistant, Julie Woods, our Administrative Assistant, and Dr. Teddi Deka, the Honors Program Director, are here to make your Honors Program experience as enjoyable and exciting as possible. Stop by the Honors Office in Spratt 202 to meet our staff, or you can stop by to work on homework or relax in our honors-only lounge.



**NEW HONORS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**



The Honors Program recently welcomed two new members to the Honors Committee: Drs. Jones Mutua and Gaywyn Moore. Dr. Jones Mutua (right) joined MWSU's Computer Science, Mathematics, & Physics department in August 2018 after completing his interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Mathematics and Physics from UMKC in July 2018. At MWSU, he has taught a variety of courses including the Calculus I (MAT167) honors course. His



research interests include applied mathematics, with specific areas of interest in mathematical biology (viral dynamics and immune systems, and epidemiology), and mathematical modeling. Currently, his primary focus lies on developing within-hosts and between-hosts models of infectious diseases. Dr. Gaywyn Moore (left) is an Assistant Professor of English and Modern Languages, and specializes in Early Modern British Literature, especially Shakespeare. She also specializes in early modern travel by women, drama, and utopian/dystopian literature. She doesn't have a favorite Shakespeare play because that's impossible, but she's particularly fond of plucky, cross-dressing heroines. She lives with her sweet old beagle Penny and her boisterous young Portuguese water dogs, Por-to and Praia. She has taught one colloquium on utopian/dystopian literature and hopes to teach another in the near future. She is delighted to join the dedicated faculty and students who make the Honors program exceptional!

**GET TO KNOW AN HONORS PROFESSOR: DR. BILL RUSSELL**



**Q. What is your educational background, and what do you teach here at MWSU?**

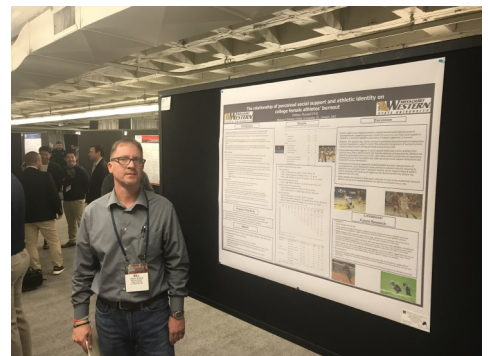
A. I am a Professor in the Dept. of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. I got my Ph.D. at The Univ. of Missouri (in Health and Exercise Science) and have been at MWSU since 2005. In the HPER program, I teach the Honors section of PED 101 and also Psychology of Sport, Psychology of Exercise, Sociology of Sport, Research Methods, and Measurement and Evaluation.

**Q. How have you been involved with the Honors Program?**

A. I taught HON 395 several times (2010, 2014, 2016) called "The Mental Side of Greatness." I served on the Honors Committee since I arrived at MWSU and served on all of the subcommittees for the Honors Program. Currently I serve on the Honors Fall Retreat subcommittee and helped plan and attend the recent Fall 2019 Retreat to the Ozark Underground Lab (OUL).

**Q. What is your family like?**

A. I have a wife who teaches French at the high school level and my son graduated from the US Air Force Academy and is now in graduate school.



Dr. Russell recently presented at the 2019 Annual Conference for the Association of Applied Sport Psychology in Portland, Oregon.

**CONTACT US: (816) 271-4535, HONORS@MISSOURIWESTERN.EDU  
 INFORMATION: WWW.MISSOURIWESTERN.EDU/HONORS  
 INSTAGRAM: @MWSUHONORS**