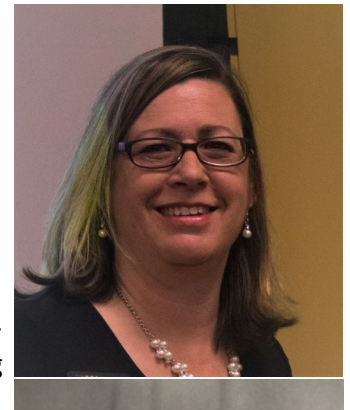


Honors Director Farewell

Dr. Teddi Deka leaves program after 9 years of service

I became director of the Honors Program in 2012. As I reflect on the progress from that time until now, what comes to mind are the dedicated staff, honors committee members, faculty, students, parents and alumni who contributed so much to this program. Together, we revived the Student Honors Organization and Alpha Chi, developed learning-centered retreats, substantially increased students pursuing research and majors honors, awarded recognitions of our graduates and Golden Griffon scholars, just to name a few of the many developments over these years.



I am thankful for the former honors directors Dr. Jerry Zweerink, Dr. David Bennett, and Dr. Elizabeth Latosi-Sawin. Each continued to “do more” in honors while simultaneously working in their respective departments. I hope that my contributions increased student

accomplishment, and highlighted the importance of the MWSU Honors Program. I would like to especially thank the following honors office staff over the past nine years: Administrative assistants Patti Adkisson, Julie Woods, Deb Treat and Kim Gray, and students Emily Anderson, Alex Stearns, Ida Haefner, Maggie Lee, Shelby Hicks, Shae Delancy, Breanna Hancock, Matthew Bobela, and Raechel Tittor. It would not have been nearly as rewarding without all of you.

I want to acknowledge the wonderful faculty and staff who served on the Honors Committee during my tenure: Jordan Atkinson, Stacia Bensyl, Stephanie Corder, John Ellis, Rebecca Foley, Shawna Harris, Kurt Hartman, Angela Haas, Catherine Kendig, Melinda Kovacs, Neil Lawley, David McIntire, Mark Mills, Gaywyn Moore, Jim Mulder, Jones Mutua, Jeff Poet, Bin Qiu, Bill Russell, Tilottama Roy, and Jeff Woodford. Thank you for all of your contributions to the Honors Program. As Dr. Joel Hyer becomes the fourth Honors Director, I am pleased to leave a strong foundation and look forward to the program’s future developments.

Sincerely, Dr. Deka



2014 Honors Retreat



2019 Honors Medal Ceremony

What's Next, Graduates?

Rylee Aggus

- Graduate school for PT

Shawn Boss

- ATSU's College of Medicine

Mary Couture

- Engineering school

Leo Derr

- Graduate School

Morgan Doyle

- News Station Reporter or Anchor

Jaren Fjellman

- Nurse at NCKH

Cameron Futch

- Get a philosophy job

Allison Goos

- Graduate school for MBA

Kennedy Hibbs

- Graduate school for Psychology

Emily Holland

- Work in biochemistry lab

Jordan Jennings

- Graduate school

Neiley Karns

- Graduate school

Brenden Martin

- Obtain CPA and work at a tax firm

Ashley Mathis

- RN at Saint Luke's

Mackenzie O'Neill

- Pediatric Nurse

Kelly Oliphant

- Working at Cerner

Atasha Owens

- Move to Liberty and find a job

Andrea Pinaire

- Study and pass the NCLEX

Bailee Romaker

- Graduate school

Sydney Shavnore

- Graduate school

Calvin Tabor

- Get married

Raechel Tittor

- Neuroscience internship at UNMC

Shelby Wisner

- Marketing job

Adam Woodrum

- Midwestern Baptist Seminary

Psychedelics as Medicine?

Every semester, varieties of special topic courses are offered to introduce students to ideas and scholarship outside of their normal coursework. This semester, a course very different from the rest was offered introducing students to the history, science, and future of psychedelic use in psychology.



Dr. Ziemer explained that humans have used psychedelics for hundreds of years to promote healing and community, but prohibitive drug laws have made it difficult to conduct psychological research. Recently, there has been a resurgence of interest and research on psychedelic substances. These drugs are showing tremendous promise for treating addiction, trauma, depression, and anxiety among other things.

The class covers the ancient and recent history of psychedelic use, the chemistry and neuroscience of psychedelics, the legal and cultural implications of the drug war and decriminalization/legalization process, the potential risks and dangers of psychedelic use, how to reduce harm with psychedelics, microdosing, and the future of the field. In addition, considerable time is spent examining closely several individual psychedelics including cannabis, ketamine, MDMA, psilocybin, LSD, peyote, DMT, ayahuasca, and ibogaine.

☆ Senior Spotlight ☆

We never really know where life will take us. For senior Kennedy Hibbs, her Majors Honors project started out as a way to stand out on her CV and developed into a passion.



"This experience also sparked a passion in me for research that I didn't know that I had," Kennedy said. "My entire career path changed because I fell in love with doing research."

Kennedy conducted research on how intimate partner violence affected a person's perceived sense of belonging or being a burden, a topic that stems from experiences that she and her family members have had.

"These experiences not only affected me physically, but mentally too, so I was extremely curious how it affected others as well," Kennedy said. "This topic is so important to me, and I believe my research will make a difference in other people's lives."

Her goal is to gain real insights into the mental health of people in abusive relationships in order to help them in the future.

"I want to educate others about intimate partner violence and the toll it takes on mental health especially, and maybe someday figure out a way to help those who experience intimate partner violence"