

NEWSLETTER

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. DAVID MCMAHAN

David T. McMahan is a Professor of Communication at Missouri Western State University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 2001, with research focusing on the social aspects of media and technology, personal relationships, and rhetorical criticism. He has published over ten books, including: *Internet Communication*, *Introduction to Communication Criticism*, *Relational Communication*, *The Basics of Communication*, and the bestselling *Communication in Everyday Life* series. His research and other works have been published in numerous academic journals and anthologies, and he was named a Centennial Scholar by the Eastern Communication



Association. His extensive record of service includes President of the National Communication Association, President of the Central States Communication Association, Editor of the Iowa Journal of Communication, and Consulting Editor of the Journal of Communication Pedagogy; along with membership and activity on a vast number of academic committees, executive boards, and editorial boards. He is currently serving as Executive Chair of the Global Listening Center and is a Delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies. He has taught courses which span the discipline of communication and has received several awards for his work in the classroom. We are thankful to have Dr. McMahan serve as a member of the Honors Program Committee. He has made a huge impact to the program thus far. His support and dedication to the University, Communication Department, and to the Honors Program is profound! Thank you, Dr. McMahan!

Fall 2024 Honors Colloquia

The Honors Program offers unique topic courses called Colloquia. Students are required to have 4 credit hours of colloquia as part of the General Studies Honors program. The Majors Honors program requires 2 credit hours of colloquia.

The following list is the offered Colloquia courses for the Fall 2024 semester:

HON 195- 01: Extinction is Forever: Topics in Conserving Biology.

Extinction as a natural and human-caused phenomenon.

HON 195- 02: Science Literacy: What is it? Why is it important? Do I have it?

National and local issues impacted by the role of science literacy.

HON 395- 01: Drug Discovery From Natural Plant Sources: An Integrated Approach.

History of plant medicine, followed by the modern and more current development of the new drug as a complex, time-consuming, and expensive process.

Graduates

General Studies Honors

Jordon Anderson- Nursing

Kadyn Cobb- Biology

Macioe Firsching- Biology, Chemistry, and
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology

Sidney Fleek- Nursing

Olivia Futrell- Nursing

Caleb Keling- Management

Keely Kenkel- Graphic Design

Derek Lee- Accounting

Mercedes Mareske- Digital Animation

Braysen Miller- Chemistry and
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology

Maddie Pearl- Biology

Graycen Prothero- Biology

David Severt- Biochemistry/Molecular
Biology

Nicolas Steele- Biology

Alex Steward- Computer Science

Artemii Udovenko- Psychology

Alana Vogt- Biology

Majors Honors

Jordon Anderson- Nursing

Roger Collins- Digital Animation

Macioe Firsching- Biology, Chemistry, and
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology

David Severt- Biochemistry/Molecular
Biology

Artemii Udovenko- Psychology



Senior Spotlight

Mercedes Mareske

Senior, Mercedes Mareske will be graduating with a degree in Digital Animation. When asked why she chose that major, she said "Digital Animation interests me because of how many applications of Digital Animation there are. Here at Missouri Western, there are opportunities and classes to help students become proficient in 2D animation, 3D animation, 3D modelling and 3D lighting. This opens up a wide array of job opportunities from museum work to advertising to professional animating with companies such as Disney and Pixar." Mercedes has used the Honors Program as a tool to help her succeed in her future career. "Honors courses have helped me push academically and as a person. Being able to show employers that I am a high performing individual and have worked in rigorous environments while meeting deadlines and working collaboratively is immensely advantageous. These are talents which I was able to hone during my time in honor's classes." As for her plans after graduation, Mercedes says, "I plan to pursue museum work with local establishments in the Kansas City area. Other students pursuing Digital Animation should plan on working in a collaborative environment and ask for and expect critiques. Turning to your peers for help and feedback is essential for success, the more perspectives the better."