On Friday, April 4th, forty-two people had the opportunity to compete for $300, $200, and $100 cash prize pools by “SHO[ing] [Their] Smarts” in a community-wide trivia night sponsored by the MWSU Student Honors Organization (SHO) and the Lambda Chapter of the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society. Questions ranged from the director of Apocalypse Now (Francis Ford Copolla) and the name of Ronald Regan’s first wife (Jane Wyman) to the waterway flowing through Paris into the English Channel (Seine River) and the country with the most World Cup championships (Brazil). A generous provision from one winning team of English professors along with moneys from Alpha Chi and SHO totaled together allowed for a $440 donation to the St. Joseph YWCA Shelter for Abused and Homeless Women and Children for the purchase of school supplies. Corporate support for the event’s cash and door prizes was supplied by H+R Block, Apple Market, 54th Street Grill and Bar, and the Missouri Western Barnes & Noble Bookstore. The clubs hope to service an even larger crowd at next year’s “‘SHO Us Your Smarts!’ Trivia Night”. “We had a fantastic time!” said one attendant.

Alpha Chi has been keeping busy in efforts to receive their Star Chapter Award for the second year in a row. To go along with Alpha Chi’s 2014 National Convention theme (Water, Water, Water!), the Missouri Lambda Chapter of Alpha Chi held a campus-wide water drive, from February 10 to February 21, to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank. Members and officers decorated collection boxes and placed them in various buildings throughout Missouri Western’s campus. Over the span of two weeks, over one hundred bottles of water were collected that will go toward helping the St. Joseph community. Recently, Alpha Chi sent six members and one sponsor to the future of-water-themed National Convention in St. Louis from March 27 to March 29. Congratulations to Emily Anderson, Natalie Beers, Elizabeth Bertram, Jennifer Kieser, Kassi Lewis, and Katy Turner for representing the Missouri Lambda chapter of Alpha Chi at this event! The club rounded out their year by co-hosting the “‘SHO Us Your Smarts!’ Trivia Night” above.

SHO is well on its way to batting out of the ballpark and shaking up the Honors Program at Missouri Western. Marking its first outreach event to non-member Honors students, the club hosted a “Game SHO Night” in Blum featuring “Griffon Feud,” “Wheel of Western,” and “Minute to Win It” stations with candy prize baskets. The event landed front page of the Griffon News and is anticipated again for the fall semester. Following an invitation to present at the February Board of Governors meeting, officers met personally with University President Dr. Vartabedian. The club wrapped up its spring schedule with its first community-wide event (see ‘Trivia Night’), a Worlds-of-Fun “SHOller Coaster Road Trip”, and its third “SHOfficer” elections at the “Float ‘N’ Vote Ice Cream SHOcial”. The 2014-15 officers include President Ida Haefner, Executive Vice President Krystal Hicok, VP of Marketing Alex Stewarts, Secretary Faith Hoover, and Treasurer Tom Molloy.
In only her fourth year at Missouri Western, Dr. Catherine (Katie) Kendig has garnered recognition as its 2014 recipient of Missouri’s “Governor’s Award for Excellence in Education” for her challenging coursework and engaging style. A philosophy professor with a deep love for the sciences and their mechanics, Dr. Kendig had early aspirations of becoming a neurosurgeon like her uncle and study the diverse connections between mind and body until a collegiate course in Plato’s republic evolved her desire to analyze from the physical to the metaphysical. She received her PhD in Philosophy at the University of Exeter in England. “Being a philosophy of science [professor] means I can introduce science majors to philosophical questions about the underpinnings of the science,” Kendig states. Her passion for understanding how reality works, why it works, and why people continue to believe it works fuels her success as a researcher and her desire for students to hone their own analytical skills powers her teaching success. Dr. Kendig’s curiosity does not restrict her to books and lab work, however, but permeates all areas and interests of her life from her history of English residency to exploring world restaurants, cooking, whale watching, and preparing for her first half-marathon ("[Running] is my natural version of parkour," she jokes.) She teaches symbolic logic and ethics, as well as courses pertaining to the philosophy of biology, scientific knowledge, and the mind, making sure her lectures “are suitably peppered with food references.” Several of these classes have been used as Honors colloquia.

Three students are being spotlighted for their Majors Honors work in psychology research this semester – Robert Bradley, Gage Herrington, and Kember Wooten. Robert’s project, titled “Need a Hand? Helping Behavior and the Perceived Desire for Help” studied whether people identify one gender as needing or wanting more help than the other and what effect chivalric sexism has on this perception. He found women are perceived to want or need more help than men but that men are offered help more frequently. His project won 1st place in the posters category at the Great Plains Psychology Conference in St. Louis, MO. Gage’s project, titled “The Effects of Uncertainty Avoidance on Interpersonal Trust” found college men appear to be significantly more trusting than women and that Protestants are more trusting than Catholics who are more trusting than non-denominational Christians. His project was presented at the Southwestern Psychological Association’s Conference in San Antonio, TX. Kember’s project, titled “Sleep and Personality” studied two sections of a general psychology class over five weeks to monitor whether a connection exists between sleep priority and introversion/extraversion. She learned that people who tested as highly introverted or extroverted had stable sleep priorities while those who tested in the middle had less sleep priorities.

Best wishes to our Spring 2014 Honors graduates!

Cody Beyers (Mathematics)  Emilee Kneale (Nursing)  Brenna Moser (History)
Robert Bradley (Psych.)  Gage Herrington (Psych.)  Katherine Parra Lugo (Biology)
Joseph Bridgman (Finance)  Kelsey Samenus (Marketing)  Kaylee Peden (Psych.)
April Buntin (Accounting)  Kelsey Samenus (Marketing)  Michelle Stevenson (Nursing)
Angela Chuda (Biology)  Noah Green (Comm.)  Paige Stoppelman (Nursing)
Cara Green (Psychology)  Anna Guilkey (French)  Katie Wakup (English)
Noah Green (Comm.)  Kelsey Guthrie (Comm.)  Ian White (Const. Engr. Tech.)
Gage Herrington (Psych.)  Rachel Hurt (Accounting)  Kember Wooten (Psych.)

What makes a man with a ball a great athlete; a woman with a line a great actress; a kid with a dream a great leader? Dr. William Russell’s colloquium, “Applied Sports Psychology: The Mental Side of Greatness,” explored and expanded the definition of “performance,” teaching students how to harness self-discipline and a commitment for excellence in their daily lives. Students analyzed the sciences of goal-setting, self-motivation, and distraction intervention; studied the mentalities and effects of coaches and audiences; and learned anxiety coping methods. They even created teambuilding obstacles for the class to complete in Looney’s gymnasium. Self-reflection and identity were important aspects of the class notes junior Jordan Snook. “You have to realize what’s holding you back and try to change it,” she says, citing her improvement in organic chemistry a derivative of her colloquium experience. Sophomore Faith Hoover attributes her desire to get more involved on campus directly to this class, as well. “A lot of situations come down to attitude and whether we have a good attitude or not,” Faith said when asked about motivation, “and willpower changes that.” Faith’s motivation for involvement most recently landed her a position as 2014-15 SHO secretary.

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