

HonorsLink

UNIVERSITY
HONORS
COLLEGE

A Publication of the University Honors College
Oregon State University
Vol. X, 2007

Honors Colloquia Stand Out

Honors Colloquia surely rank among the most innovative and flexible components of UHC coursework. These are one- and two-credit courses unique to the UHC. Students complete four colloquium credits as part of the Honors Baccalaureate requirement. Honors colloquia have several objectives and are designed for exploration.

Colloquium prerequisites and workloads are set at modest levels to encourage students to venture outside their academic comfort zones. Thus, an engineering student can examine the lives and loves of insects in Professor Mike Burgett's *Far Side Entomology* (featured on National Public Radio last year) and pre-meds can sample *Magic & Witchcraft in Medieval & Victorian Culture* with Professors Elizabeth Campbell and Tara Williams. Honors colloquia are important contributors to well-rounded educations and they provide a forum where inquiring minds mix and commingle.

Another colloquium promoting well-roundedness in today's society, *The News of Science*, is the brainchild of longtime Honors supporter Dr. Chris Mathews. His course was featured in a recent issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education*. The course is designed to promote scientific literacy for students in science and non-science majors alike. According to Mathews: "Most professional scientists know that broad awareness can be maintained by scanning the pages of *Nature* or *Science*, journals that present advanced research, but also regularly discuss issues and scientific advances in the context of

public policy through articles aimed at the educated lay person."

A key to any successful course is to identify what students must do and to create an environment that nurtures peer-to-peer interaction among them. Students in the *News of Science* make fifteen-minute class presentations based on current articles from either *Nature* or *Science*, both of which are available online. Class members read all articles to prepare for class discussions.

The UHC is proud to serve as an incubator for new pedagogy and curricula. As Mathews notes, the impact often extends beyond the OSU campus: "My purpose in writing an article about

See Colloquia on Page 7.

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Presidential Oceans Commission Touts Honors

A distinguished panel of leading scientific and policy experts convened in Corvallis during March 2007 at the invitation of OSU President Ed Ray. Chaired by Dr. Robert B. Gagosian, President Emeritus of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, the *Presidential Commission on Ocean, Coastal and Earth System Futures* submitted its recommendations in May. The report contains affirmations and ramifications for the UHC.

OSU is designated a Comprehensive Doctoral-Granting institution in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of

Higher Education and is cited for maintaining "very high" research activity. A large percentage of OSU's nearly \$200 million in annual external research funding derives from world-class programs in agriculture/forestry and oceanic/coastal marine sciences. At an opening reception in the Linus C. Pauling Special Collection Room of the Valley Library, President Ray told the Commission that "OSU occupies a strong position to define the future of ocean and coastal science." He charged the Commission to "explore and identify a far-reaching vision for that future, one

See Commission on Page 10.

Faces of the UHC

University Advancement has been working diligently to shed light on the amazing accomplishments at OSU— and they could not do it without highlighting the University Honors College. In their words, the Faces of OSU banners are “Telling our story through the work of our remarkable students, faculty, staff and alumni.” Three of their banners appear in this issue of the HonorsLink; Tari Tan (page 2), Joe Hendricks (page 3) and Melinda von Borstel Smith (page 10).

Tari Tan, right, is an undergraduate Biochemistry and Biophysics major. The text on the poster describes her ambitions: “A pre-med student who hopes to specialize in pediatrics, Tan recently received a research award to study the West Nile virus.” ■



Office and Classroom Renovation is Complete

Last summer, the UHC broke ground – walls, that is – for the new Honors seminar room, classroom, and office space. As with all construction projects, it was a volatile time of debris and

“[The] classroom remains a center of UHC culture and the Honors class experience.”

uncertain deadlines. In the process, the staff of the UHC spent a month sharing the SLUG as a common office and enjoyed free membership in the Honors gym, which consisted of moving office supplies and furniture up and down halls and stairs on nearly a weekly basis.

The catalyst for this project was the long-awaited acquisition of more space:

three extra rooms were added to the Honors collection, located just down the hall from the main UHC offices. With our classroom shifted to its new location, the original UHC classroom has been carved into three offices, housing Eric Hill, Beth Dittman (Honors Graduate Teaching Assistant), and space for visiting faculty members.

As for Bill Bogley (Associate Dean) and the UHC academic advisors, Rebekah Lancelin and LeeAnn Baker, they no longer sit in cubicle land in the back corner of Honors. Each now has a hard-walled office, complete with space for meeting students. The newly expanded office space allows each member of the Honors team to better provide a safe and private environment to better address students’ concerns and academic needs.

However sleek we may consider

our new offices to be, they pale in comparison to the renovated classrooms in what we refer to as the “West Wing.” Located at the opposite end of the hallway from the main UHC office, and overlooking the MU Quad, shine two brand-new UHC classrooms and a



New lounge and classroom entrance before...

Philanthropic Opportunity: Endow a Colloquium

It takes money for the UHC to support OSU's top research and teaching faculty. Coursework reimbursements to departments partially offset the cost of Honors instruction and attract faculty to engage with Honors students. Whether your values prioritize:

- well-rounded educational experiences for students or
- fast-track exposure to cutting edge research opportunities.

You can help make these values part of the Honors student experience by sponsoring an Honors colloquium.

A \$3750 pledge will offset the cost of one UHC Colloquium, which can be offered by any OSU faculty member. An \$85,000 gift will establish an annual Honors Colloquium in your name. You can dedicate your Colloquium either to a specific academic college or to any of the scholarly activities that are spread across the spectrum of OSU faculty expertise. Your support will ensure that future generations of Honors students have ever greater access to the marvels now being explored and explained by OSU faculty. ■

study lounge, equipped with the latest technology.

The refurbished classroom, now in STAG 233, has all the options: a projector capable of connecting to the computer, DVD/VCR, laptop, or Document Imaging camera; white boards; mobile tables and chairs; and a great view of the MU. The control



... and after the renovation.

center of this technology is a "symposium," a lectern fit to rival that of Spock, and far more user-

*"... a renovated
dedicated learning
space."*

friendly. This classroom remains a center of UHC culture and the Honors class experience.

Our seminar/thesis defense room has equally impressive technical capabilities and fosters a close-knit community. Rather than desks and rows, this room is dressed with a conference table and chairs; all are equal in this round-table discussion environment. The technology

See Renovation on Page 12.

The Faces of OSU banner below, highlighting Dean Joe Hendricks appeared on College Way, across from the Kerr Administration Building. We had to shrink it to fit on the page; the original banner was virtually life-size and printed in full color.



Chemical Engineer by Day... Rock Star by Night

At this year's Mom's Weekend UHC Talent Show, first-year engineering student Paul Dornath performed an original song entitled *Knight in Nerdy Armor*. Paul wrote the song himself and it was a show stopper. Paul shares how the song came to be and why it means so much to everyone.

"My whole life I have been into science and music. I started writing academic songs my junior year of high school." Paul would use the songs to try to get people more interested in things like the periodic table, geologic time periods and biology. "I even wrote a few songs for my U.S. History, Economics, and Spanish classes." Paul found that

writing academic songs would give him an excuse to play guitar rather than study.

In November 2005 Paul wrote *Knight in Nerdy Armor*. He had attempted to write love songs before, but they never passed muster. "You can't force creativity; you have to wait for those random moments of inspiration." Then one afternoon Paul went for a run listening to the Barenaked Ladies and sat down with his guitar and the song just started to flow. "It only took about an hour to write the entire thing, words and music. It felt so

freeing to finally write a love song that came from my heart. There honestly wasn't anyone in particular I was planning on playing this for in hopes of romantic success, but I knew that I could play this song to let people see who I really am. You don't have to be suave,

"You don't have to be suave, athletic, or even handsome to be romantic."



Paul Dornath, writer and musician

athletic, or even handsome to be romantic. You can be as geeky as you want as long as you don't pretend to be something you're not, and people will respect that." Paul has played his song at national science fairs and received standing ovations when he recited nineteen digits of pi at the end. "I also played this song the day I met my girlfriend, and she's been hooked ever since!" ■

Knight in Nerdy Armor

by Paul Dornath

If I was a knight
I'd ride on a horse
Who'd move to a vector of force of course

I'd rescue you
From the highest tower
With the food that I ate converted to power

And I'd whisk you away
On a midnight ride
Beneath the sky lit by balls
With explosions inside

By morning we'd be back
To the court yard
To study for our math test
To make it less hard

CHORUS:

In my polymer lab coat of honor,
I'll be your knight in nerdy armor.
With my lance of knowledge and my shield of heart
There's no solution soluble enough to tear us apart.
And I know I'm not sexy or strong,
But you can come to me when things are terribly wrong
And I'll tell you a joke and sing you a song
And we can ride away again

If I'm ever in trouble
I've got my sword
And differential equations in case I get bored

I'd introduce you
To the king and queen
Because you rock more than a geology magazine!

We'll accelerate
To the beach one night
And say hey to the milky way and the meteorites

All those smashed up bits of granite and quartz
are so much better than the king sized beds at my royal courts

CHORUS

Like two isomers
We're a resonance of the same
Carbon and hydro-gizzeen
That make up all the alkanes

You casually ask if you're on my mind
And I say, "Shah, is the number to radians in half a circle
3.14159 2653 5897 932365? (Duh!)"

CHORUS

Sally J. Tripp Scholarship

Supporting first-year students in the University Honors College studying in the College of Liberal Arts or Sciences with financial need.

Name: Christina Murphy

Majors: Biology
Fisheries & Wildlife

Hometown: Eugene, OR

Career Interests:
Fisheries Ecology



Christina plans to get her PhD and eventually become a professor. She loves research, and studied for a semester in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. During her time on the Galapagos Islands she volunteered for a Darwin Station researcher studying chitons.

In her own words, "The UHC provides the small community and classroom atmosphere that really encourages independent thought and intelligent discourse. The community is very supportive and the other students are wonderful to interact with. The quality of the courses and instructors are phenomenal."

Sandra W. & John R. Potter Scholarship Endowment

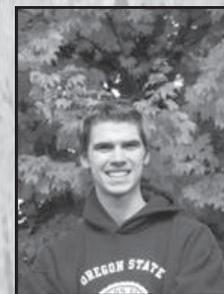
Supporting existing students in the University Honors College with financial need.

Name: David Liskey

Major: Biology

Hometown:
Sunny Valley, OR

Career Interests:
Emergency &
Family Physician



David has served as a volunteer in his hometown hospital emergency department for two years. Beginning in the spring of 2006 and continuing into the summer he will transition to work in pediatrics and advanced ER.

David currently serves as the President of the McNary Hall Council and is involved with the Honors Advisory & Activities Committee, Relay for Life, Red Cross Blood Drive, and is an ER volunteer.

Student Standouts

UHC Math Whizzes Ace Putnam

The Sixty-Seventh Annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition was held on Saturday, December 2, 2006. The "Putnam" is a 6-hour long math test for undergraduates and is the most prestigious (and notoriously difficult!) mathematics competition in the United States. A total of 3640 students from 508 colleges and universities in the US and Canada participated. Two University Honors College students scored in the top 25%: Kenny Barrese and Jason Siefken; placing them among the top undergraduate math students in the nation. Also on the OSU team this year was UHC math major Max Brugger. Congratulations to our Math Whizzes!

Sample Putnam Question: *Players 1, 2, 3, ..., n are seated around a table and each has a single penny. Player 1 passes a penny to Player 2, who then passes two pennies to Player 3. Player 3 then passes one penny to Player 4, who passes two pennies to Player 5, and so on, players alternately passing one penny or two to the next player who still has some pennies. A player who runs out of pennies drops out of the game and leaves the table. Find an infinite set of numbers n for which some player ends up with all n pennies.*

Please submit your solutions by visiting the UHC website at <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/honors/contact/form>. ■

OSU Takes Academic Civil War!

After winning the College Bowl campus program in January and the regional championships in February, the OSU High Five Challenge team competed in an academic civil war against the University of Oregon and defeated them in a 10 point victory on April 9 in Portland. The victory over UO was broadcast on Sunday, June 10, on Oregon Public Broadcasting.

The High Five Challenge competition included 10 categories in which everything from math to sports, trivia to history was tested. To prepare for the challenge, the team met weekly with UHC Graduate Teaching Assistant Beth Dittman as coach to practice trivia and game strategies.

The OSU High Five Challenge team included three students from the UHC: Jackie Sleeper of Gaston, Ore.; Ryan Bonaker of Salem, Ore.; and Nathan White of Dallas, Ore.; as well as two students from outside the honors college: David McCandless of Topeka, Kan.; and Brandon Wheeler of Newport, Ore. The Honors students and their colleagues were proud to compete and are excited to prepare for a rematch in Spring of 2008. ■

Honors Students Raise Food for Linn-Benton Food Share

Honors students heeded the call for service and action during the 25th annual Oregon State University food drive. As a change to the traditional programming done to raise money during the drive, Honors students partnered with administrative staff to provide several outstanding fund and food raising programs.

Events included the "Starving Students Movie Night," a movie screening at which attendees donated canned food

for admission. Snacks, media and baked goods, donated by UHC students and staff, were also sold to support the effort.

Honors students were recognized by President Ed Ray in March for their outstanding achievement and contribution to the food drive. Receiving 2nd place among student organizations in the drive, the UHC student raised a total of 1,374 pounds of food. ■

University Honors College

Paving a Road to Excellence



Excellence Fund
Reimbursing students for out of pocket expenses associated with the research required to complete the UHC Thesis.

Name: J.C. Sanders

Degree: Honors Bachelor of Science in Physics

Hometown: Roseburg, OR

J.C. completed his Honors degree in the Spring of 2006. While writing his thesis on asteroid interdiction, J.C. worked with leading scientists at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California looking for a solution to the scenario of how to protect the planet from a possible future asteroid collision.

In the Commu

UHC Student to Analyze Water Rights Scenarios

Keely Midori Koda is using mathematical theories in actuarial science to update centuries-old methods for estimating the impact of water right transfers on existing water users. As part of her University Honors College thesis research, Koda has contracted with the Oregon Water Trust to report on existing methods of injury quantification in water right transfer cases and to develop new scenarios for improved estimation of the effects of these transfers. A senior in mathematics, Koda will adapt sophisticated methods now used in the insurance and financial industries to simulate the performance of different investment strategies. Application of these methods to increasingly critical

“...water rights allocation decisions ...now rely on 150-year-old methodology...”

resource problems has the potential to better inform water rights allocation decisions that now rely on 150-year-old methodology, according to OSU Mathematics Professor Enrique Thomann, who serves as Koda's Honors thesis advisor. Koda's interdisciplinary approach is also guided by OSU Geosciences Professor Julia Jones, and Gail Achterman, Director, Institute for Natural Resources at OSU; with external advice from Debbie Colbert, Administrator of the Field Services Division of the Oregon Water Resources Department (PhD Oceanography 2004) and Douglas MacDougall, a partner in the law firm of Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt. ■

Colloquia

Continued from Page 1.

this course for a professional journal was to stimulate colleagues to think about offering a course like this themselves. Although it lends itself well to the Honors format, with its motivated and capable students, a course like this need not be restricted to the very best students. However, I am grateful to the Honors College for the opportunity to work with several delightful groups of excellent students.”

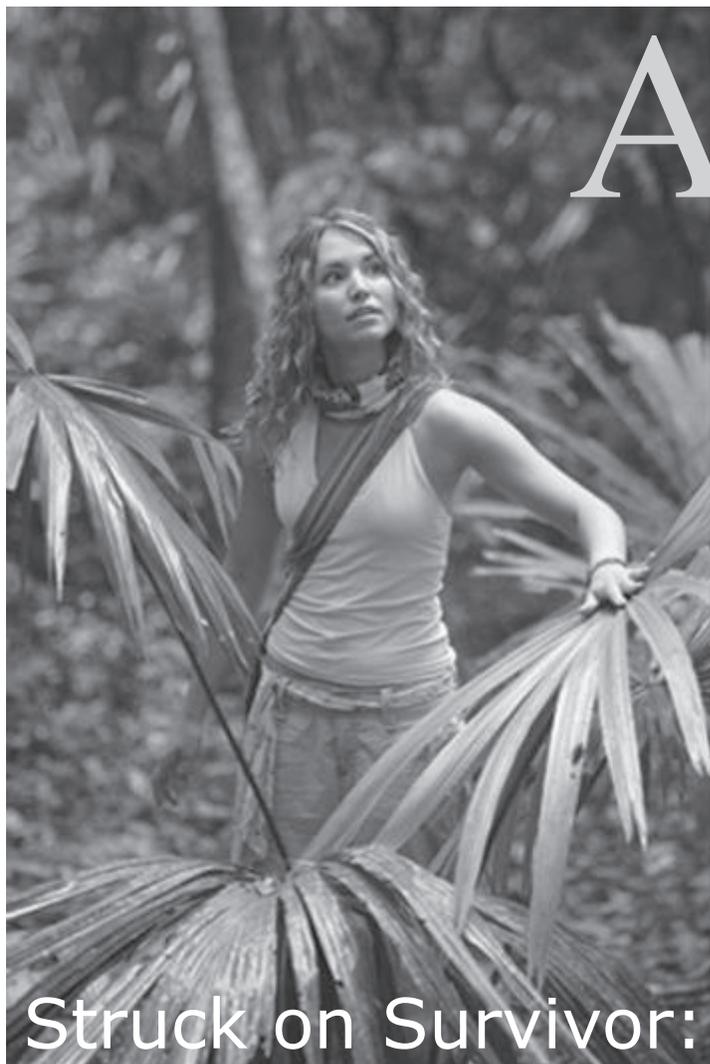
The flexible colloquium format also opens the door to new and exciting opportunities for Honors students to join leading-edge research projects with faculty mentors. The colloquia play an important role in fostering the Honors

thesis experience, which is another required element of the Honors degree. Just as important, the colloquia provide a medium in which OSU researchers can reach out to the university's best undergraduates. The UHC has developed joint initiatives with several of OSU's academic colleges for the purpose of involving undergraduates in research. Leaders in these colleges have recognized that the UHC provides a fertile recruiting opportunity to attract top students to their graduate programs. As doors continue to open, Honors students are big winners!

A new colloquium led by Professor Karen Shell in Fall 2007 will offer an *Introduction to Climate Modeling*. This course will orient students to the fundamentals of climate science with an emphasis on research being done at OSU. UHC students are already seeing the benefits of a campus partnership with the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Science (COAS), a world leader in Earth Systems science. The climate modeling colloquium will introduce students to funded research and thesis opportunities available in the labs of COAS scientists.

Another colloquium now in the planning stages will engage Honors students with the multi-disciplinary research group in *Ecosystems Informatics*. EI, as it is known, is one of five strategic research initiatives funded by Provost Sabah Randhawa in 2005. EI is dedicated to applying new discoveries in mathematics and computer science to address ecosystem issues ranging from disease transmission, species invasion, climate change, natural hazards, and species extinctions.

All of the strategic initiatives brought new faculty to OSU, with the EI group adding new research and teaching expertise in the departments of Forest Science, Computer Science, as well as two new faculty members in Mathematics. One of the new mathematics hires, Professor Vrushali Bokil, is developing an Honors colloquium on *Mathematical Ecology* that will be offered in Winter 2008. These and other colloquia within the Honors curriculum are expanding student access to the world-leading research now going on at OSU. ■



Struck on Survivor: Honors vs. Guatemala

A guest article by Brooke Struck Stephens, HBA 2001.

"Most crocodile attack victims never see the crocodile coming - they use surprise, not speed."

I am in Guatemala. It's 8 o'clock in the morning and already the temperature is dropping flies.

"But don't be fooled! They can move fast if they need to! And above all, they're smart! They learn... your habits and your routine."

Our lecturer—a Crocodile Hunter clone from Australia—has been specially flown in to address our 'lake-going etiquette'. Apparently we have not been 'respecting the crocodiles' on trips to get water. I am not sure how it's possible to lack respect for a creature that has a 30 mph land speed and an innate desire to chew your face off, but the specialist tells us it is because we've been making our water runs at the

same time every morning, using the same trail. The animals know this and they learn.

He berates us for half an hour and I am left with the impression that crocodiles are creatures of velociraptor-like intelligence—smarter than me. Mocking me. Waiting to trick me.

I henceforth employ the 'buddy' system on visits to the lake.

Dangers like this, coupled with 120 degree heat, gigantic mosquitoes, scorpions, tarantulas, quicksand, and partial-starvation (i.e. a loss of 17 pounds in only 14 days), probably do not sound like something you want to volunteer for. But I did. In fact, it's how I celebrated my graduation from Pepperdine Law School. While most of my classmates were studying for the July 2005 bar exam, I decided to postpone taking it after being offered a spot on the cast of Survivor Guatemala.

How did I get this offer?

Rewind back to November 2004. Having graduated from Honors a few years earlier, I was half-way through my third and final year of law school at Pepperdine University in beautiful Malibu, California. After dinner one night at a local restaurant I was approached by a woman in her 40s who asked if I've ever thought of doing reality TV. I told her "no" but she continued to ask me questions like, "Do you like the outdoors?", "What reality shows do you watch?", "If you could be on any reality show what would it be?". The woman revealed nothing about herself but took down my number and told me she would call me the next day. Sure enough, I received a call, and Mystery Woman turned out to be the head casting director for Survivor and The Amazing Race.

The next thing I knew I was sequestered for 10 days in a hotel where I was interviewed by CBS and Burnett Productions executives. I was given psychological evaluations, IQ tests, physical exams, four sets of shots, and was told I would

Jessina's Success with Epidemiology

A guest article by Jessina McGregor, HBS & HBA 2001.

have to sign a contract with a \$3 million dollar penalty clause for revealing the outcome of my season before the finale. To top it off, my parents, siblings, and grandparents were all told they had to

“... less than a month after [receiving] my law school diploma, I found myself staring at the Mayan ruins in Guatemala.”

sign contracts stating they waived their right to bring a wrongful death lawsuit if I died during filming. Fortunately, thanks to my first-year Contracts class, I told my family not to worry: they could still sue for wrongful death should the crocodiles ambush me, or some other unfortunate event occur!

In June 2005, less than a month after Dean Kenneth Starr (yes- of Whitewater/ Clinton fame) presented me with my law school diploma, I found myself staring at the Mayan ruins in Guatemala, ready to battle it out to win \$1 million dollars. Unfortunately I received a harsh wake-up call that *Survivor Guatemala* would be very different from the tropical beach scenes shown in past seasons. Our "beach" turned out to be a lake bordered with quick-sand and infested with crocodiles. Within a day of the game starting, we hiked 11 miles through the jungle using only a compass, had a spiky tree fall and break over one teammate's shoulder, had another person get stung by a scorpion, and every guy on our team suffered heatstroke and repeated vomiting. I later read an article where

See Survivor on Page 13.

Shortly after graduating from OSU and the UHC, and only a day after returning from a trip to India, my husband and I drove across the country to Baltimore, Maryland. We arrived in Baltimore just days before I began my PhD program in Epidemiology at the University of Maryland. Soon after deciding to study Epidemiology, I became accustomed to correcting people's misconceptions: Epidemiology is not the study of skin; rather it is the study of diseases and health-related factors in populations or groups of people. Having completed my Honors degree in Microbiology, my interests were in infectious diseases. Though it was this interest that drew me to Epidemiology, my coursework and training soon allowed me to develop a broader interest in the methods and statistics used in this field.

Epidemiology: the study of diseases and health-related factors in populations or groups of people.

After completing my PhD, I remained in Baltimore to complete a one-year postdoctoral fellowship. During this time, I also spent three months working at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. At the CDC, I had the opportunity to work on a project involving surveillance for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections. This allowed me to network with nationally recognized public health officials, and to understand the differences between academia and federal public health efforts.

See Epidemiology on Page 12.



Jessina McGregor on the OHSU gondola in Portland, OR.

Scholarships

Grandma Honors Endowment Fund

Supporting existing students in the University Honors College traveling to and presenting professional conferences or association meetings.



Name: Travis Schaal

Major: Animal Sciences

Hometown: Hillsboro, OR

Career Interests:
Poultry Veterinarian

Travis is currently the president of the OSU Poultry Science club and a member of the Meat Science club. In the summer of 2006 he worked with Dr. Gita Cherian in the Department of Animal Sciences conducting research as a participant in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Summer Research Program. He also attended the Poultry Science Association annual conference in Edmonton, Alberta in the summer of 2006 where he presented on the hatchability of broiler and turkey eggs in the United States.

In his words, "OSU is a great school because it has such a rich agricultural past and the university's dedication to research makes it a wonderful place to learn."

Commission

Continued from Page 1.

which integrates biological, physical and social sciences in studies of ocean and coastal systems and communities, and develops new means of engaging with society."

"...the UHC is a principal catalyst for multi-disciplinary teams..."

One of the spires of excellence the Commission identified during its visit was the University Honors College. The final report asserted that OSU must lead in helping society solve its problems and that to do so will require that we maximize opportunities for students to innovate and adapt while managing in a period of heightened change. The Commission was "impressed by the design and achievements of OSU's Honors College" and suggested that the UHC should "serve as a model to the university as a whole."

The UHC is well situated to promote interaction between diverse centers of excellence and prominence. Through its coursework and engagement of top faculty with high-achieving students, the UHC is a principal agent and catalyst for multi-disciplinary teams of students, scientists, and scholars working on society's problems today. The Commission praised the ability of the UHC to engage students in interdisciplinary and team discovery, saying that the program "needs to be expanded to attract to OSU more of the best students from Oregon and the Pacific Northwest."

They will get no arguments from here! ■

Margaret Lance Walton Endowed Scholarship

Supporting students in the University Honors College who graduate from an Oregon high school with a graduating class of 100 or fewer students.



Name: Jessica Comstock

Major: Bioengineering

Hometown: Jasper, OR

Career Interests :
Reconstructive Plastic Surgeon

Jessica is an experienced student leader. During her high school career, she served as the class President, student body President, student representative to the school board, student body Vice President and is currently in the Navy ROTC.

In her words: "The Honors College provides a great opportunity for students who want to excel. Being surrounded by bright, motivated people helps you become just that. Having people who want to sit down on Friday or Saturday nights to study for a midterm are hard to find sometimes, but in the Honors College there is always a fellow classmate who is willing to help."

New IRA Law can Jump-start Your Honors Legacy



Tom McLennan

financial support of the good work done by charitable organizations in the United States.

Under the new law, you can use funds from your IRA to make a lifetime charitable gift, free of tax obligations. Prior to the law, you would have to report any amount taken from your IRA as taxable income and then take a charitable deduction for the gift, but only up to 50% of your adjusted gross income. In effect, this caused some donors to pay more in income taxes

In August 2006, President Bush signed into law new tax incentives for charitable gifts from donors who are 70 ½ or older.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 encourages

financial support of the good work done by charitable organizations in the United States.

than if they hadn't made a gift at all. Fortunately, now these IRA gifts can be accomplished simply and without tax complications. Plus, donors can make a gift while they are living and witness the benefits of their generosity. You may contribute funds under this new tax-saving opportunity if:

- You are 70 ½ or older.
- The gifts do not total more than \$100,000 per year.
- You make the gift on or before December 31, 2007.
- You transfer funds directly from an IRA or Rollover IRA.
- You make the gift to a public charity, which includes the OSU Foundation but excludes gifts made to charitable trusts, donor advised funds, and supporting organizations.

As a current UHC donor says, "Before,

if you wanted to give UHC cash, you first had to sell the IRA assets and pay income taxes on them. With this new law, the entire proceeds go directly to UHC." For the donor and his spouse who had planned to donate their IRA to UHC after their lifetimes, the law means they can see the impact of their gift now.

For information on supporting scholarships and other programs of the University Honors College, call Tom McLennan at 541-737-0847 or send an e-mail to: tom.mclennan@oregonstate.edu.

Note: Honors has the privilege of having Tom McLennan, Director of Development for the Student Experience area of the Capital Campaign, working with us on our development agenda. Tom graduated from OSU and served in the Peace Corps in Tonga. ■

Mike Hogue Scholarship

Supporting first-year students in the University Honors College studying in the College of Agricultural Sciences hailing from Eastern Oregon or Eastern Washington.

Name: Erin Murphy

Major: Animal Sciences

Hometown: Poulsbo, WA

Career Interests:
Marsupial Veterinarian

Erin is actively involved in her community. She participates in Relay for Life, is a member of the Beaver year book staff, and a member of the Kitesap Humane Society.

In her words, "The Honors College classes are different from other advanced classes because I can tell my professors want to be involved as much as my classmates. The professors know that everyone has a common interest, has set goals for themselves and my classes are teaching me specifically for my major. I feel far less stress with the Honors Program, despite its separate requirements, because everything is so coordinated and comfortable that I know I'm not the only one that believes in me."



Ambassador Yates' UHC Scholarship Honors Mother

Graduating from OSU as an English major, Mary Carlin envisioned herself as a public school teacher. By the time she returned to campus to receive an Honorary Doctorate as part of 2007's commencement, Ambassador Mary Carlin Yates had married, traveled the world, and occupied a number of important posts within the State Department.

Yates is currently Political Advisor to the U.S. European Command where she oversees political and military affairs for U.S. forces in Europe, Asia, Africa, and in the Middle East. A total of over 90 countries are part of her portfolio.

To honor her mother, Barbara Carlin of Portland, and to give back to OSU students, Ambassador Yates has established a scholarship for high school students entering the University Honors College. Ambassador Yates announced the creation of the scholarship in her mother's honor as a means of ensuring that young people will have opportunities comparable to her own.

Honors is grateful for this new opportunity to help students concentrate on their studies without being consumed by the costs of their education. ■

Epidemiology

Continued from Page 9.

During my time in Baltimore, I witnessed the ongoing revitalization of the city and came to love the urban, neighborhood-oriented lifestyle that Baltimore offered. Yet my husband Scott and I were both native Oregonians, and so when the opportunity presented itself, we happily relocated back to Portland.

Last September I joined the OSU College of Pharmacy as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice. I am based out of the College's Portland campus at Oregon Health & Science University's new south waterfront building in Portland. The College of Pharmacy has provided me a wonderfully supportive environment to

“My research focuses on evaluating efforts to control the emergence and transmission of antibiotic-resistant bacteria...”

continue to research antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The research I perform is not laboratory-based, but is clinical research, meaning that it is hospital- and clinic-based research. My research focuses on evaluating efforts to control the emergence and transmission of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, and on understanding the traits that make people more likely to develop infections with antibiotic-resistant bacteria and what happens to people with these infections. Research in this area is critical for healthcare workers as it assists their efforts to improve healthcare for patients.

In the future, I hope to apply my research in antibiotic-resistant bacteria and antibiotic utilization towards improving healthcare for my fellow Oregonians. Though I do miss Baltimore, I look forward to developing my career in Oregon and in participating first-hand in the continued success and growth of my alma mater. And my husband and I both look forward to enjoying our season Beaver football tickets for many years to come...Go Beavs! ■

Renovation

Continued from Page 3.

enhances the effect as media may be projected on the flat-screen panel at the front of the room, either from a laptop computer, DVD/VCR, or the Document



Remodeled Seminar Room for small classes and thesis defenses.

Imaging camera. This space has been a great asset to students defending their theses and to upper division courses reliant on class participation.

Finally, our new student study lounge is a sunny spot at the end of the hallway to sit, read, relax, or discuss the latest and greatest Honors courses. Students have named it the Banana Slug (banana slugs live at higher elevations, which, in this

“Our seminar/thesis defense room... fosters a close-knit community.”

case, is two floors above the SLUGs) and are frequently found making use of the wireless internet and pleasant environment. As the Honors community expands, we hope that it will continue to foster a place for conversations continuing beyond the classroom.

On your next visit to OSU, let us show off our new community and learning space. With our new additions, we are dedicated to continuing a living and learning environment for excellence in Honors and beyond. ■

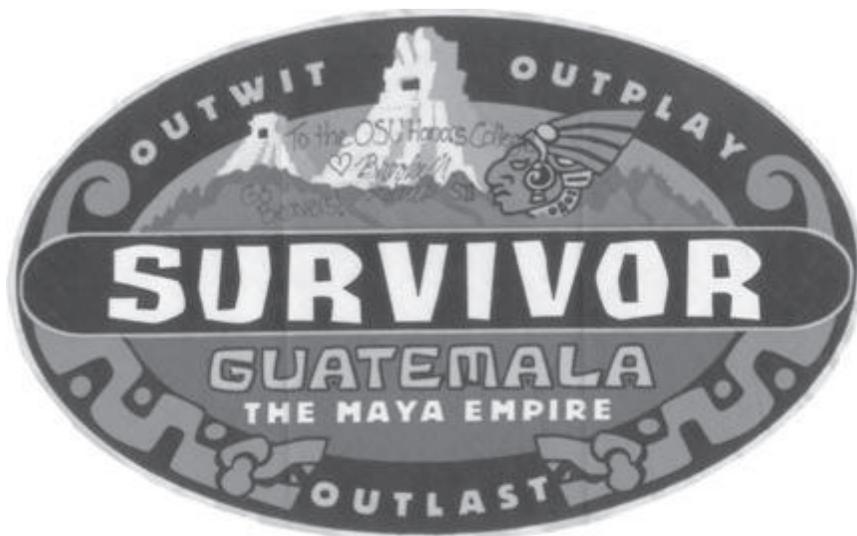
Survivor

Continued from Page 9.

the show's producer, Mark Burnett, admitted, "We may have gone too far this time." Staying true to the show's name though, we had to "survive" on our own. We received no medical assistance, no showers, no food (beside the bags of hard corn kernels provided in the first challenge and a few ants we let crawl in it for added protein), no toothbrushes, no toiletries, and, of course, no toilets and no toilet paper.

Unfortunately my time on the show was short-lived. While I thought I was secure in an alliance I had formed within the first week, and was faring better than most of my competitors as far as injuries and energy level, I was thrown a curve ball when we went to a challenge where the members of each tribe were switched. Suddenly my entire alliance ended up on the other tribe. Needless to say, at the next tribal council meeting I got to hear host Jeff Probst's famous words: "Fourth person voted off of Survivor Guatemala, Brooke Struck. Brooke, please bring me your torch. THE TRIBE HAS SPOKEN."

Once the pain of losing my chance at \$1 million dollars subsided, I was consoled by the fact that all of us early cast-offs received an all expense paid vacation to Costa Rica for the next few weeks, in order to keep us hidden from the public until shooting wrapped up in early August. Ironically, when I finally got to



fly back home to Hood River, Oregon to see my family, I was surprised by a scorpion waiting for me in the sink of my apartment. And no, it wasn't put

“...early cast-offs received an all expense paid vacation to Costa Rica...”

there by my family! Fortunately, because of my drastic weight loss and scars I received from a third-degree sunburn, my family and friends were convinced I had made it to the final four in the game... that is until they watched the fourth episode when I was voted off.

Now, two years later, I am married and working as a family law attorney in Roseville, California. Despite my Survivor summer, I remembered most of what I learned in law school and managed to pass the February 2006 California bar exam and July 2006 Oregon bar exam. In all honestly, the two hardest things I have ever had to do were

Survivor and the California bar exam (which has a passage rate of approximately 36%.) While I never ever want to take the 3-day bar exam again, Survivor is different story. I would jump at the chance to live in the wild again and try to make it through to the end of the game. As painful and difficult as the show was, it was also amazing to hear the sounds of the jungle, see the wildlife, and try to get by with your bare hands. Some days I long to be back in Guatemala, hundreds of miles away from cars, television, email, and the mall.

Who knows, there are always rumors of an upcoming Survivor All-Stars season,

“Some days I long to be back in Guatemala...”

or a Survivor Second-Chance season (for us early vote-offs), so maybe I'll get my wish. Next time around though, there is one useful bit of knowledge I will take with me thanks to our crocodile expert: crocodiles can outrun you if they charge at you from a short distance, so, to escape run in a zig-zag pattern because their stumpy legs will slow them down. Words to live by. ■



Brooke Struck and Dean Kenneth Starr

Board of Regents

The Board of Regents, an external advisory group for the UHC, focuses on development and programming. It is continually developing UHC policies and procedures consistent with the mission and future direction of the UHC. These individuals serve on a voluntary basis through their commitment to Oregon State University. This year we are welcoming the two newest members Roy Gaussoin and Melinda von Borstel Smith.

Roy Gaussoin graduated from OSU in 1956 with a degree in Business and Technology. He is retired president of Silver Eagle Manufacturing and Silver Eagle Industries, a trucking and transportation products manufacturing company founded by his father in 1933. Roy served on the OSU Foundation Board of Trustees from 1985 to 2004 and served on both the Council of Regents Advisory Committee and the BASF Board of Directors from 2002-2006. He is a past president of the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame. Through the years, Roy and his wife Shirley (also class of 1956) have generously supported OSU through Athletics, the University Honors College, the University Fund,

and various scholarships. Roy and Shirley live in Lake Oswego and have three grown children.

Melinda von Borstel Smith is a 2008 Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate at Oregon State/OHSU. She works as a pharmacy intern at Kaiser Permanente and Safeway Pharmacy. Melinda graduated from the UHC and received a H.B.S. in Nutrition and Food Management as well as a H.B.A. in International Studies for which she lived a year in Chile, spent 3 months studying in Spain, and earned a minor in Spanish. Recently her Honors College thesis work titled "Effects of Phenytoin and Carbamazepine on Calcium Transport in Caco-2 Cells," which she completed under the supervision of Dr. Theresa Filtz, was submitted and accepted for publication in *In Vitro Toxicology* for publication. Melinda and her husband live in Southwest Portland. They enjoy hiking and are actively involved in the young married's ministry of their church, Cedar Mill Bible. ■

The image to the right appeared as a banner on the OSU campus celebrating achievement and the remarkable work of students in the OSU community.



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Honors Roll: Donors of Distinction May 2005 - May 2007

On a college campus, supporting students should be a number one priority. Honors is known for its “high-touch, high-tech” approach to our educational mission. It comes as no surprise that philanthropic support is integral to what we are able to provide. Our donors are key to our success and without them Honors would not have the luster that attracts the “best and the brightest” to OSU.

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CELEBRATING



10



Years of Excellence!

On November 4, 2006 the University Honors College joined forces with University Housing and Dining to host an open house and 10-year celebration in conjunction with OSU Homecoming. The event was a chance for UHC alumni to reconnect with one other, UHC faculty and staff. Honored guests included Jane Siebler, Carole Ann Crateau and Dr. Jim Krueger. Thank you to all who attended.

**Watch your mailbox for
UHC Homecoming
2007 activities
Coming Soon!**

Be in touch!
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