

Honors Link

2017



Oregon State University
Honors College



Honors College

Honors College Dean
Toni Doolen

Editor
Kevin Stoller

Production Manager
Gildha Cumming

Writer
Mackenzie Smith

Design & Photography
Hamza Molvi

Honors Link is published by
the Honors College (HC) at
Oregon State University.

Write to us
Honors College
Learning Innovation Center 450
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331
honors.college@oregonstate.edu

Stay connected with the HC

  @OSUHonors
 honors.oregonstate.edu

On the cover: *The four-story, 134,000-square-foot Learning Innovation Center, or LInC, opened in fall of 2015 on Oregon State University's Corvallis campus. Its 15 classrooms include new styles of learning spaces that support collaboration and student participation, such as parliament and in-the-round classroom designs. The building also houses the Oregon State University Honors College.*



03

Making a Difference

OSU alumnus Kim Eagle is giving back, one student at a time

13

Advice from Alums

HC alumni share tips for recent graduates

05

Q&A: Dean Toni Doolen

Honors Link sits down with Dean Doolen to discuss the Honors College's growth and plans for the future

15

Physics of Dance

Explore an HC course that examines the intersection of the arts and science

09

Continuing a Legacy

Public Health Professor Viktor Bovbjerg is the first Honors College Margaret and Thomas Meehan Eminent Mentor

19

SLUG Tracks

A look back at the HC student study lounge through the years

12

HC Eminent Professors

Announcing the 2017 Honors College Eminent Professors

21

A Family Affair

How one scholarship is building a legacy of family and community in the HC

HC



Hello.

I am so pleased to be able to share stories that celebrate the experiences and accomplishments of our amazing community in this edition of *Honors Link*. You will read about the parents of two HC alumni who now support the college's largest scholarship, follow an outstanding honors undergraduate as she takes part in a medical internship at the University of Michigan established by an OSU alum, and read more about students' experiences in our new space in the Learning Innovation Center. Throughout, you'll also hear from HC alumni and other community members (including more from me). As we look toward welcoming another class of honors students in fall, 2017—when total enrollment is expected to top 1,200—I want to thank you all for your support and your contributions to our community.

Toni D. Doolen

Toni Doolen, Honors College Dean

Oregon State Alumnus Creates Medical Internship for HC Students

During her first week as a summer intern at the Michigan Clinical Outcomes Research and Reporting Program (MCORRP), Swechya Banskota was given access to nearly twenty-one years of cardiovascular patient data registries.

For the Honors College senior biology major, it was a lot to consider: “The research physicians gave the interns introductions to all of the patient registries at MCORRP. At first it was overwhelming, but then they told us that we would each spend the summer focusing on one registry. There was so much to learn.”

Banskota plans to attend medical school after graduating from Oregon State, and the summer internship program offered her the opportunity to shadow physicians and experience the daily operations of a research hospital firsthand. MCORRP is a clinical research and reporting program at the University of Michigan that seeks to create

better standards of care for cardiovascular patients, both in the United States and abroad. The internship at MCORRP allows students to work with and contribute to data registries and collections, attend physician lectures, and create and present a research project.

The program also has an important connection to Oregon State University: the founding director of MCORRP, Dr. Kim Eagle, is an Oregon State alumnus.

During a trip to Oregon State a few years ago, Dr. Eagle began to consider how he might give back to his alma mater: “I was in Corvallis for the first time since

I graduated, and I felt a deep sense of the place—the spirit of the students, of Corvallis, and of the state of Oregon—and I had a desire to give back to Oregon State.”

After graduating from Oregon State in general science in 1976, Dr. Eagle earned his medical degree from Tufts University and went on to serve as Associate Director of Clinical Cardiology at Massachusetts General Hospital before moving to the University of Michigan in 1994. He is currently the director of the Samuel and Jean Frankel Cardiovascular Center at the University of Michigan.

In 2016, Dr. Eagle funded a scholarship for one Honors College student to intern at MCORRP. Banskota was selected

Story continued on page 18.



Swechya Banskota



Dean Toni Doolen

We caught up with the dean of the HC to talk about the future of the Honors College



Toni Doolen's five-year tenure as the dean of the Honors College has been a time of constant change. Since she became dean in 2012, the college has grown from 600 to 1,200 students and moved twice, ending up in the Learning Innovation Center, OSU's new world-class facility for teaching and learning. In addition, Toni has become a leader at Oregon State in increasing the number and diversity of high-potential students enrolling at and graduating from the university. Indeed, Toni has witnessed a great deal of change ever since joining the faculty at OSU in 2001 as a professor of industrial engineering in the School of Mechanical, Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering. And her research focus – which examines how companies manage human and technical capital to generate dynamic innovation – has given her particular insight in understanding and navigating these transitions.

Toni earned her Ph.D. in industrial engineering at Oregon State in 2001, just before joining the faculty. She has two bachelor's degrees from Cornell University and a master's degree from Stanford University, but she is originally from eastern Montana, where her father worked at an oil refinery. She entered Cornell University with plans to become a physician but transferred to the College of Engineering after taking a material sciences and engineering course during her first year in college.

Prior to joining the OSU faculty, Toni had a successful career in private industry working as a process engineer, a manufacturing systems engineer, and a manager with Hewlett-Packard in the Optical Communications Division in San Jose, California and the Inkjet Supplies Business Unit in Corvallis, Oregon. While working for Hewlett-Packard, she became an active member of the Society of Women Engineers, a nonprofit professional and educational society, and she continues to lead outreach activities for the organization.

Interview begins on page 7

Q&A: Dean Toni Doolen

Honors College: How did you become involved with the Honors College?

Toni Doolen: During one of my first days on campus, I met Bill Bogley, who was associate dean of the HC at the time. He told me about the Honors College experience at OSU and noted that HC students must complete a thesis. I talked to him about my experience conducting undergraduate research at Cornell, which was impactful and one of the reasons that I returned to academia. I think that if I hadn't done research as an undergraduate, I wouldn't have thought about a career as a faculty member.

HC: In your time as dean, what accomplishments and changes are you most proud of?

TD: There are three things that I'm proud of as dean: first, putting together an amazing team of leaders and dedicated people. We've gone from a college of 600 to 1,200 in the last six years, and while we've added a couple of part-time resources, we haven't fundamentally grown as a team. I'm really proud that we're still serving students in a really personalized way with a small staff. I'm also really proud that we finally have a strategic plan. We'd had a couple of strategic plans in the early days of the college, but connecting what we're doing to the rest of the university has been essential as the HC looks ahead. Finally, I'm proud that we've continued the work in transitioning our

Board of Regents from an operationally-focused group to a more strategic board that focuses on philanthropy and big-picture direction.

We've also made progress in thinking about student engagement. The Student Leadership Circle is in its second

Interacting with students
one-on-one
is a huge part of what
keeps me engaged.

—DEAN TONI DOOLEN

year, and the Parent Leadership Circle—which gives us a different perspective on student life—is in its third. Overall, we've been engaging students in a much more intentional way.

HC: What keeps you engaged in your work in the HC?

TD: Interacting with students one-on-one is a huge part of what keeps me engaged—that's a truly rewarding part of my role as dean of the HC. I'm excited that OSU is so committed to student success as an institution. In my mind, student success means serving both students who come to OSU underprepared and students who arrive ready to meet the demands of studying at a university. In the Honors College, we're doing something that's in direct alignment with what the university is trying to accomplish in student learning, and that's exciting.

HC: What are the greatest challenges facing the Honors College in the next 5-10 years? How do you imagine addressing those challenges?

TD: Our students graduate from OSU at incredible rates and are extremely capable, but we've historically underperformed in getting students to honors degree completion. Two related areas of focus are helping students complete their thesis projects and cultivating an understanding of the value of the Honors College community. We're now putting some of our tactical resources into helping

students engage in the thesis process early, as well as helping students connect to the Honors College community at all stages of their education.

We grew very quickly as a college, but our scholarship resources did not grow at the same rate, so that's another huge challenge. It's great that we grew as a college in support of what OSU is trying to do to bring in high-potential students, but we have students who can't maintain their honors membership because they can't afford to pay the differential tuition. Now we're seeking endowments and support from private sources to fund opportunities like differential tuition scholarships. That's an area that we'll have to double down on and continue to work toward.


HC: What sets HC students apart, and how does the experience change them?

TD: HC students are here to get the most out of their education, and they opt into activities at an unusually high rate. Our responsibility is helping them find and choose opportunities that are going to be valuable and meaningful in helping them accomplish their long-term academic and professional goals. OSU is a big place, and it can be challenging for students to navigate the intricacies of the university system. A lot of students as undergrads only navigate the educational part of their experience at OSU; they don't yet have to navigate the research component of education. Because honors students are required to write and defend a

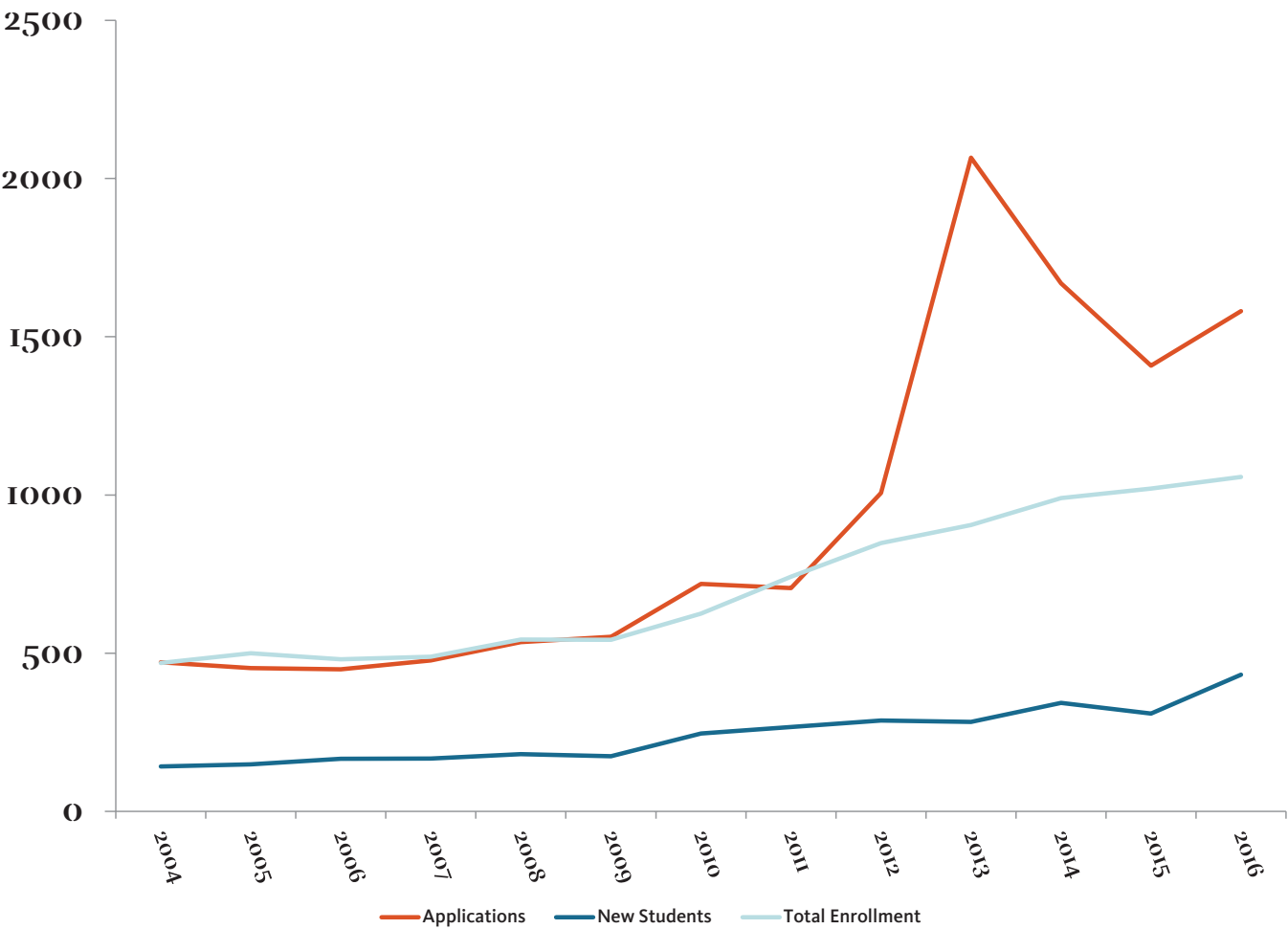
thesis, it's an important part of our job.

HC: What are your hopes or goals for the HC in the near future?

TD: I'm most excited about becoming a college in which students don't leave because they can't pay the differential tuition. We've always talked about the Honors College as a testing ground for the rest of the university, and I believe that some of the innovations that we try out here could be disseminated throughout OSU. It can be something as small as a faculty member trying a new pedagogy in an honors classroom

and then taking that practice into other classrooms. It can be what we're doing around tracking student engagement as a way to figure out when we need to intervene with students so they reach honors degree completion. There's no reason those systems can't be applied to a student seeking OSU degree completion. If we become really great at what we do, we can help the rest of the university by taking what we learn in a smaller and more controlled environment and employing those practices elsewhere at OSU. 

HC Growth: 2004-2016





Continuing a Legacy

Dr. Viktor Bovbjerg
Recognized as the
First Honors College
Margaret & Thomas
Meehan Eminent Mentor

On the first day of class in the Honors College section of Introduction to Public Health, Dr. Viktor Bovbjerg sends students out of the classroom to wander the halls of the Learning Innovation Center with their smart phones in hand. Their mission: Find evidence of public health. Students photograph what they see—a sign for an automated external defibrillator (AED), restroom pictograms, and exit signs—and return to class to share the results.

According to Bovbjerg, the first day sets the tone for the term: “This exercise creates the expectation that students will accomplish real-world tasks in the class. They will be encountering public health in the world,” he says. He notes that Honors College students are eager to engage in research and hands-on learning in his course: “This is one of the advantages of teaching in the Honors College—students select themselves to join the class, and they’re actively engaged in their learning.”

Bovbjerg is an associate professor

in the College of Public Health and Human Sciences. His interests as a scholar and teacher lie in the intersection of humans and their multifaceted environments—natural, built, cultural, and social. “I have specific interests in occupational exposures, particularly in high-risk occupations,” he says. His other research interests include promoting the role of health care services in public health, translational research in public health practice, and integrating epidemiology and ecology in both research and teaching.

Elizabeth Moore ('16), far left, Alyssa Rollins ('16), Dr. Viktor Bovbjerg, and Rebecca Gibbon ('16)

Prior to joining Oregon State, he obtained his doctorate in epidemiology from the University of Washington and taught at Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Virginia, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In his work with honors students, he is always impressed by the level of engagement and dedication that they display. “My biggest role as a mentor is the ability to get out of students’ way,” he says. “HC students come to me

with enthusiasm and a sense of purpose. They are inquisitive and curious about the world. That's one of the greatest joys in being an HC mentor—I don't need to provide that sense of engagement. You can't provide a spark for people; they have to bring that with them. I can provide fuel for the spark."

In recognition of his dedication to mentoring students, last year Bovbjerg was named the first Honors College Eminent Mentor. He began mentoring students and teaching in the Honors College shortly after he joined Oregon State in 2009.

Students seek out Bovbjerg's mentorship because of his passion for public health and his dedication to teaching. This was a draw for Elizabeth Moore, whose 2016 Honors College thesis, "Implications of Lymph Node Involvement in Breast Cancer Patients," grew from Bovbjerg's research. "I took a class from Dr. Bovbjerg as a freshman and was immediately impressed by his ability to engage students in the material," she says.

Moore later met with Bovbjerg to discuss his research. "We had a great discussion about both of our interests," she recalls. "After telling him about my plans to apply to medical school, he told me about a project he was completing in collaboration with the cancer ward at St. Charles Health System. I was ecstatic to become a part of an important project that was also aligned with my own goals." Moore was studying for the MCAT and preparing to apply to medical schools at the time.


Bovbjerg stresses the importance of giving students access to research opportunities: "I think of myself as providing tools and skills and approaches that students don't bring with them. They come with passion and purpose and often are ready to tackle a topic or problem that they care about. So when they work with me, we work on the tools to push that purpose forward," he says.

Bovbjerg's mentorship extends beyond the classroom and thesis process. Alyssa Rollins, a 2016 Honors College graduate

and mentee of Bovbjerg's, is thankful for his continued support. "The best part of working with Dr. Bovbjerg has been gaining a mentor long past my thesis process," she says. "He was always supportive of my experiences in and out of school, and he has continued to support me through graduate school applications and job searches post-graduation." Rollins is now an Alumni Relations Coordinator for Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland, CA and is currently weighing two graduate school admission

offers to pursue a Masters of Education in higher education administration.

The Honors College Eminent Mentor Award was created in 2015 with funds from the Margaret and Thomas Meehan Honors College Professorship Fund. Established through an estate gift from Margaret Meehan, the longtime director of the honors program that preceded the establishment of the Honors College in 1995, the fund supports outstanding and innovative teaching and mentorship in the college. Margaret Meehan was a faculty member in the Department of History and built the honors program during her tenure as director from 1974-1986. Thomas Meehan, who passed away in 2006, was also a member of the Oregon State history faculty, and he was much recognized for his teaching and commitment to students.

According to his students, Bovbjerg's dedication to honors education and mentorship makes him a worthy heir to the Meehans' legacy. "Throughout writing, defending, and completing my thesis," Elizabeth Moore recalls, "Dr. Bovbjerg was incredibly supportive of my interests and goals. He truly cares about his students and our community. This made research and writing fun—and I learned more than I ever could have imagined." 



Dr. Viktor Bovbjerg

2017 Honors College Eminent Professors Dr. Kevin Ahern & Dr. Patti Duncan



Dr. Kevin Ahern



Dr. Patti Duncan

In January, the Honors College named Kevin Ahern from the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics and Patti Duncan of the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program in the School of Language, Culture, and Society as Honors College Eminent Professors for 2017.

HC Eminent Professor awards recognize the contributions of faculty members to the education and mentorship of students in the Honors College. "Dr. Ahern and Dr. Duncan are dedicated and passionate teachers," says HC Associate Dean Tara Williams. "We are thrilled to recognize their commitment to the honors community."

Dr. Ahern teaches introductory and upper-division biochemistry courses, as well as two HC classes, Scientists in the Public Eye and Sing a Song of Science. He has also been instrumental in developing and teaching courses that introduce students to the honors thesis process. Since completing his doctorate in biochemistry and biophysics at Oregon State in 1986, Dr. Ahern has served as the Director for Undergraduate Research at Oregon State University (2012-2015), published four textbooks and more than 40 scientific articles for peer-reviewed journals, and mentored six HC student thesis projects. A proponent of open access in education, Dr. Ahern records and uploads all of his survey lectures to YouTube.com; combined, his YouTube videos have been viewed more than three million times. In recognition of his dedication and support for HC students and their research, a faculty panel selected Kevin Ahern as the 2017 Sandy and Elva Sanders Eminent Professor in the Oregon State University Honors College.

Dr. Duncan has been teaching at Oregon State since 2009 and is the coordinator of the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program. She teaches HC sections of the courses Women in World Cinema and Disney: Gender, Race, Empire. Dr. Duncan is the editor of *Feminist Formations*, a leading journal in the field of women, gender, and sexuality studies. She is the author of more than 20 peer-reviewed articles, as well as a book, *Tell This Silence: Asian American Women Writers and the Politics of Speech* (University of Iowa Press, 2004). The recipient of grants and fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, and the National Women's Studies Association, she was the winner of the 2015 Honors College Outstanding Professor of the Year Award. In recognition of her excellence as a scholar and educator, Patti Duncan was selected by a panel of peers as an HC Eminent Professor for 2017.

The HC Eminent Professor awards are made possible through the generosity of Honors College donors, particularly Ruth Beyer and Joseph (Sandy) and Cheryl Sanders.

Advice from Alums

We asked HC alums for words of wisdom to pass on to the 2017 class of honors graduates



Take on a challenge. Maybe two. You're graduating with a diverse education, a strong network, and more practical experience with big, sticky problems than you may realize.

—RJ ZAWORSKI, CLASS OF 2010

Network like crazy and never give up. It's tough to hear, but from my experience, it really is "right time, right place" and about "who you know." So talk to as many people as you can, and just keep at it until you get that job or career you want. It will happen!

—JAMIE CHEUNG, CLASS OF 2013



Be yourself. Don't make yourself feel that you have to be someone different to do well in work or life. Certainly be open to growth and adaptation, but if something isn't a good fit for you, there likely is a better opportunity down the road.

—DR. JOSEPH MAXWELL, CLASS OF 1997



The things that make you successful in the "real world" really aren't that different than what made you successful in college: show up, do the reading ahead of time, contribute to the best of your ability using your strengths, and treat others with respect.

—DR. JESSICA LEAHY, CLASS OF 1999

Be patient and don't despair when beginning the job search! Also, you can reach out to your network of professors, advisors, and colleagues for advice and connections to specific organizations or contacts even after graduating.

—KARIN BUCHT, CLASS OF 2012



Set short- and long-term personal and professional goals, and revisit them once a year. I learned this practice when I worked at lululemon. For me, goal setting helps me prioritize my time and my energy, as well as figure out and focus on the things that matter most to me. It also helps my husband and I calibrate so we can support each other in our endeavors.

—D'ANNA FOSTER, CLASS OF 2009

While you are in school, the coursework and the content seems to be the most important. Once you are out of school, it is the community that you established—and really need to maintain as life gets more complex—that emerges as the most important. In other words, it is not so important what you do, but rather those with whom you are doing it.

—ANNE MARIE VASSALLO MCKINNON, CLASS OF 1998



Keep an open mind about your career goals and aspirations. Try to build a professional network with people from a variety of backgrounds who are at different stages of their careers. This will help you find peers and mentors to provide advice, job opportunities, and support in your future endeavors.

—CHELSEA PARKER, CLASS OF 2012



Focus on the kind of work you'd like to do day-to-day rather than a grandiose idea of the career you'd like to have. If you're miserable at the job you thought would help you change the world, you'll start to resent it and burn out before you even have a chance to make a difference. So take the time to figure out where your niche is and don't be afraid to change your plans entirely, because it isn't worth it to try to force your degree into a career path that makes you unhappy.

—ANNIE JACOBS, CLASS OF 2013



Network. Your college classmates can end up being your lifelong friends, colleagues, and employers, but definitely include faculty as part of your network, as they are great mentors that can assist you along your life's journey.

—RAVI PURI, CLASS OF 2000

What I believe to be true about the HC is it afforded us one of the best educations around and has prepared us as alumni for whatever we decide to set our minds to. My hope for each of us is that we find something we are passionate about to make the communities we are in a better place as a result of the opportunities we had in the HC.

—DR. MELINDA VON BORSTEL SMITH, CLASS OF 2006



Recognizing that many professional opportunities exist for graduates of a strong academic program like the HC, decide which of those opportunities move your career closer to your goals. This requires having specific career goals and then saying yes to the opportunities that move you closer to those goals and no to the distractors.

—DR. JEREMY CUTSFORTH-GREGORY, CLASS OF 2005

Don't hesitate to reach out to experts in your field for advice. It can feel intimidating to contact professionals early in your career, but you will quickly discover that most established employees are thrilled to talk with newcomers to a particular field. Ask to stop by their office, grab coffee, or even just correspond by email. Any type of communication with people you admire will provide valuable information about the field and can also lead to unexpected opportunities.

—DYLAN MCDOWELL, CLASS OF 2014



The most profound piece of advice that I wish I could go back and give a 21-year-old version of myself would be, there are more important things in life than rewards and recognition. Aside from achieving success and being acknowledged for it, things like integrity, innovation, collaboration, and kindness are at the foundation of each of my current endeavors. Seeking extrinsic rewards shouldn't guide your decisions; being true to yourself and doing the right thing always matters.

—DR. BRIAN WILKINSON, CLASS OF 2003

You've devoted a lot of time and effort to learn about your field(s) of study. Make sure you also spend time to learn about yourself. You might be surprised how this can help along the way.

—ERIC MACKENDER, CLASS OF 2000



Get involved in volunteer activities, wherever you live. Volunteering will make you feel like you belong to a community.

—ALYSON KRAUS, CLASS OF 2009



The Physics of Dance, the Art of Geology



On a recent Tuesday morning, Dr. Randall Milstein addressed his class: "Who has a cell phone and can play us some music?"

A student volunteered, and Milstein instructed the students to close their eyes. He asked them to draw for one minute—without stopping—with their eyes closed.

This isn't an experimental art course: Milstein is teaching the Honors College colloquium, *The Art of Science/The Science of Art*, a seminar examining the connection between the arts and science. During the ten-week class, students explore how scientists and artists influence and inspire each other.

Milstein holds appointments in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences and the College of Science; is Astronomer-in-Residence with the Oregon

Space Grant Consortium; and is a regular instructor in the Honors College, teaching a variety of classes. He designed this colloquium to approach science from the perspective of another one of his passions, photography, a field in which he holds an additional undergraduate degree.

Although his engagement with science, art, and their interface is lifelong, it was his experience teaching Honors College students that prompted the creation of this course: "HC students are renaissance thinkers; they have many different interests. Students are often told that they have to do one thing—their major—but if you're going to be a good scientist or an engineer, you have to be imaginative, creative," Milstein says.



Dr. Milstein speaks to students during the HC colloquium, *The Art of Science/The Science of Art*



HC colloquia are characterized by hands-on, active learning.


The colloquium's focus on creativity resonates with students. Arden Babb, a biological engineering student, said it was a draw for her to enroll in the course. "I want to be more confident that the artistic side of me is good for studying science, not that they're contrary to each other. I want to merge these parts of myself," she says.

The Art of Science/The Science of Art is one of more than two dozen HC colloquia offered each term. These discussion-based seminars are small classes, usually with no more than 12 students in each section. Colloquium topics are typically interdisciplinary in nature, focusing on topics, themes, or ideas as opposed to particular fields of study. Other recent offerings include The History Games and Wart Hogs and Boa Constrictors: Topics in Science and Religion.

Creating a dialogue between disciplines and promoting engaged inquiry is one of the learning outcomes for all HC graduates and a hallmark of the colloquium format and approach. Dr. Milstein's emphasis on interdisciplinary research and thinking is ideal for problem solving: "Science can tell you how to clone a Tyrannosaurus rex, but the humanities might tell you why that's a bad idea," he says.

The intersection of arts and science is the focus of a university-wide initiative at Oregon State called SPARK: Arts + Science @ OSU. The Honors College is a partner in a yearlong series of events celebrating the relationship between the arts and science. In October, 2016, Milstein presented a SPARK event focusing on the cultural impacts of Star Trek.

Cultivating a lifelong passion for both science and art is one of the goals for the course and a key message that Milstein shares with his class: "Students often say to me, 'I have to give up on being an actress to be a mathematician.' Or, 'I have to give up art to be a physicist.' I say to these students: No, you don't give up what you love. Dance is physics. Geology is art. Use these passions to make you stronger in your field. Don't see them as a limitation."

Ultimately, Milstein hopes students in his colloquium continue to hone their creativity—in the lab and in the art studio. 

Stay connected with the HC



Making a Difference

Story continued from page 3

from a pool of outstanding applicants to be the first recipient of the scholarship, which covered airfare and provided a stipend and a housing allowance for the 10-week program.

The scholarship is part of a larger effort to make more internship and research opportunities available to Honors College students, according to LeeAnn Baker, director of student success and engagement in the Honors College. She notes the financial difficulties that often come with participating in an internship: "Many students have an interest in exploring the medical field but are unable to participate in opportunities due to financial constraints. This opportunity allows a student to explore the medical field without going into further debt. It is rare to find such an opportunity, and we hope we are able to partner with others to create similar opportunities."

This was right in line with Dr. Eagle's motivations in creating the internship program: "[At MCCRPP] we always had a sense that there were undergraduates who were interested in health fields and learning more about clinical research," he says. The program started eight years ago and now includes 35 undergraduates, graduates, and medical students from 15 universities. "We saw that students had a good experience meeting other students from different backgrounds, and we have developed a lecture project, which considers the interface of law and medicine, as well as providing opportunities to shadow physicians. This gives

students a chance to see what medicine is really like."

After learning more about the data registries at MCCRPP, Banskota opted to study the International Registry of Acute Aortic Dissection. She has a personal connection with aortic dissection—her grandmother was diagnosed with the condition a week before she began her internship.

"I was completely unaware of how dangerous aortic dissection is. When I realized that I could work with one of the world's largest registries for acute aortic dissection, I jumped at the opportunity," she says. Although Banskota's grandmother later developed a slight complication, she was able to have surgery to address the condition.


Banskota notes that, throughout the summer, Dr. Eagle made time to foster



Dr. Kim Eagle and Swechya Banskota
(Photo contributed by Swechya Banskota)

personal connections with each of the students in the program, and his mentorship was a highlight of the experience. When he learned about Banskota's grandmother, who lives in her native Nepal, Dr. Eagle suggested potential topics that were related to Banskota's personal interests and professional goals. "Dr. Eagle suggested a variety of meaningful topics for my project and gave me advice throughout the internship." She emphasizes that the internship and Dr. Eagle's mentorship allowed her to explore the medical profession in ways she couldn't have imagined before working with the physicians and data registries at MCCRPP.

Part of the internship program involves volunteering with World Medical Relief, a nonprofit organization that collects and packages surplus medical supplies for distribution to communities in need. Seeing a diverse group of physicians working with the public to address world health issues helped Banskota shape her future plans: she now hopes to pursue a master's degree in public health in addition to attending medical school.

For Dr. Eagle, one of the highlights of the internship program is getting to know the students that his scholarship supports: "I'm an extremely grateful graduate of Oregon State," he says. "This scholarship is a small way of saying thank you." Banskota will participate in the internship again in 2017, joined by a second Honors College student. 

SLUG Tracks

Ask an HC student their favorite place to study, and many will answer, "The SLUG." A student learning center and community lounge, the SLUG's history dates back more than two decades and spans three locations across Oregon State's Corvallis campus

Photo contributed by James Thomas

1996

A learning center for Honors College students opens in the basement of Strand Agricultural Hall.

1997

The center picks up the name SLUG, short for Students Learning Underground, a name created by HC student Adam Bean.

2014

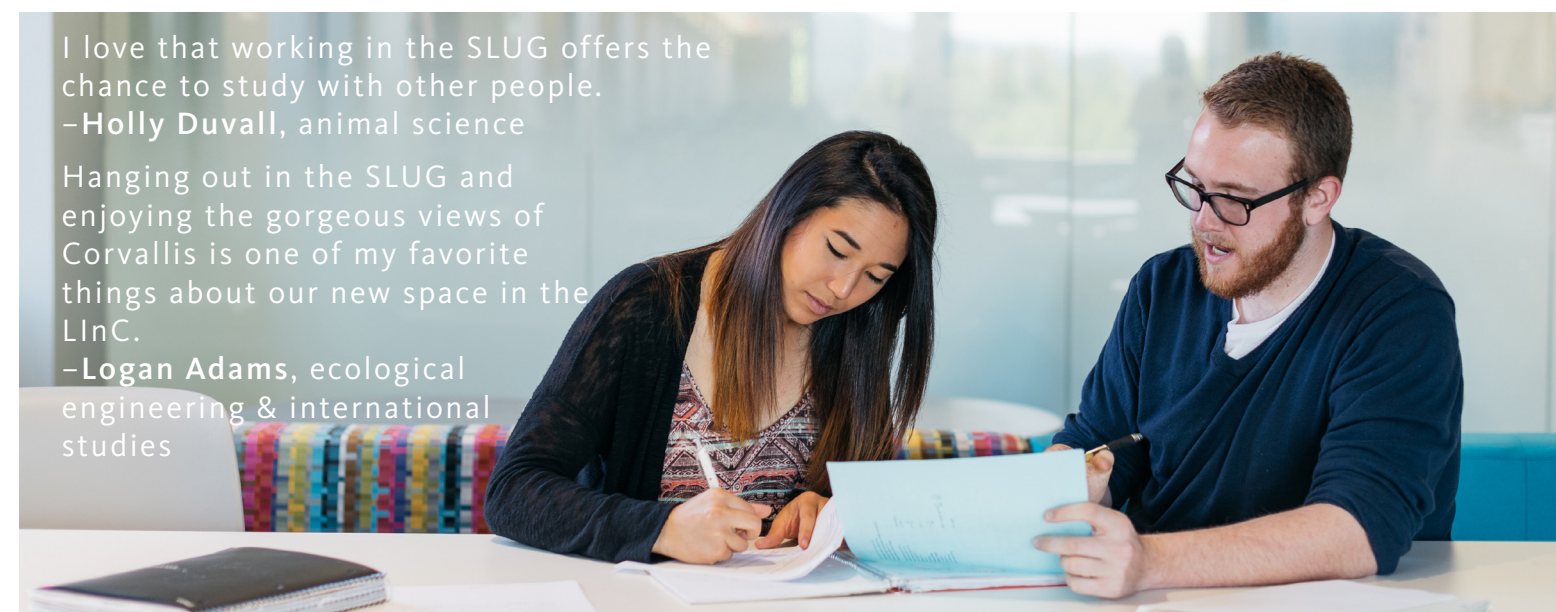
After years of growth in Strand, the SLUG makes the move to the second floor of Weniger Hall, along with the rest of the college's facilities. Inspired by the new location, students name the lounge "the SNAIL," an abbreviation for Students' New and Improved Lounge —the name doesn't stick.

2015

When the college moves into new facilities in the Learning Innovation Center, the SLUG is born again — despite now being on the third floor.

2017

With computer, study, and social spaces, the SLUG serves more than 1,000 HC students each term.



A Family Affair

von Borstel
Scholarship
Makes the HC
Experience a
Community
Tradition

Makenzie and Lindsey Ellett



W

ayne and Marta von Borstel's connection to the Honors College is both deeply personal and communal. They believe that the college has the potential to turn individual change into transformation for entire communities, and this belief inspired them to establish the HC's largest current scholarship.

They have experienced this first hand as the parents of two honors alums. "Our family had a phenomenal experience at the HC, and it was significant in changing my children's lives," Mr. von Borstel says. "Some of the students that my kids were around motivated my children. It really changed my son's life—these students helped him be better than he thought he could be. The HC gave my kids a lot of opportunity, and I want to give others opportunities, too."

Their family's experience in the Honors College led Mr. von Borstel and his wife, Marta, to create the von Borstel and Associates, Inc. Honors College Scholarship. The award provides four years of funding for a student's Honors College education. Graduates of The Dalles-Wahntonka and Sherman

THE HC HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REALLY change students' lives

AND I'D LIKE TO SUPPORT THAT MISSION.

—WAYNE VON BORSTEL

County High Schools are given priority for the scholarship, and the recipient is selected during the Honors College admissions process.

Providing research and educational opportunities for students from their community was what the von Borstels had in mind when they created the scholarship. "I went to Sherman County High School, and there weren't a lot of opportunities for kids to succeed in my neck of the woods," says Mr. von Borstel. "I wanted to give back and help make this place better. The HC has an opportunity to really change students' lives, and I'd like to support that mission."

HC Staff 2016-2017

Dean
Toni Doolen

Associate Dean
Tara Williams

Director, Student Success
and Engagement
LeeAnn Baker

Director, Admissions
and Communications
Gildha Cumming

Director, External Relations
and Operations
Kevin Stoller

Administrative Office
Coordinator
Judy David

Advising Office Coordinator
Bailey Garvin

Admissions, Curriculum, and
Student Data Coordinator
Brittany Sundberg

Academic Advisors
Leanna Dillon
Kassena Hillman
Rebekah Lancelin

OSU Advisor
for Prestigious Scholarships
LeAnn Adam

Senior Instructor, Writing
Eric Hill

Stay connected with the HC

  @OSUHonors

 honors.oregonstate.edu



The von Borstel Scholarship made studying at the Honors College possible for senior Lindsey Ellett. “The scholarship has helped give me the time to explore the right career option for me. Removing some of the financial strain of being in college has also helped me believe that this exploration is important, both now and in the future. It’s helped me feel comfortable in college and meeting new people,” she says.

Her sense of curiosity and the ability to explore career options has been an important part of Lindsey’s Honors College experience. She came to Oregon State to study psychology, but when she visited the Hatfield Marine Science Center for the first time, her academic goals

shifted.

“I was drawn to Hatfield for the same reason that I wanted to come to the Honors College: research experience,” Lindsey recalls. She’s now a senior biology major with a minor in psychology. “When I first visited Hatfield and saw that it was on the beach, right where the research was taking place, I asked a professor if she had any research positions for undergraduates.”

Lindsey began working with Associate Professor Ari S. Friedlaender from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and completed her Honors College thesis in spring, 2017. Her thesis uses video tag data analysis to explore the role of humpback whales in mixed-species foraging

Lindsey ('17) and Makenzie ('15) Ellett

aggregation patterns.

Lindsey’s cousin, Makenzie Ellett, now an HC graduate, was a previous recipient of the von Borstel Scholarship. Watching her cousin succeed in the Honors College created a role model for Lindsey to look up to and follow as she entered the HC.

While studying at the Honors College, Makenzie majored in civil engineering and conducted undergraduate research with transportation engineering professor David Hurwitz, for which she received an Honors Experience Scholarship. Makenzie began working in the driving simulator lab on campus to


examine the effects of texting while driving, a project that became the topic of her thesis. Makenzie graduated in 2015 and is now completing a Masters of Engineering in the School of Civil and Construction Engineering.

The von Borstel Scholarship helped Makenzie stay motivated to complete her thesis. “The von Borstels are very excited about the HC. They would come down at least once per year to check up on me and see how I was doing,” she remembers. She says the support from the von Borstels also helped her with the transition from The Dalles to Corvallis and her adjustment to the educational environment at OSU.

The support and opportunities provided by the von Borstels mean a great deal to Lindsey, too. “I got to meet the von Borstels at a scholarship dinner, and it’s been so wonderful to get to know the people who are supporting me,” she says. “I am impressed by how committed they are to this scholarship and how continuous their support has been, because they keep offering the scholarship to students from my community. I’ve also gotten to meet the students above me and below me who have received the scholarship. They’re from the same area so it’s another way to build community.”

Lindsey will graduate in spring, 2017, and she maintains a sense of exploration about her career options: “I’m interested in the nonprofit and business sides

of conservation, in addition to research,” she says. “I grew up in a rural area, and my family has always appreciated and wanted to protect the natural world. I took a course on endangered species that helped me learn more about the policy side of conservation efforts, so that’s another part of the field that I’d like to explore in the work force once I graduate.”

This is exactly what Mr. von Borstel hopes that students gain from his scholarship support: “I really believe that the HC is an important tool for OSU,” he says. “It’s phenomenal that OSU offers an honors education, and I try to entice HC students to finish the program. I hope I help students get the most out of a fantastic honors education.” 



Wayne and Marta von Borstel
with two of their grandchildren
(Photo contributed by Marta von Borstel)

Honor Roll

The Honors College and its students are grateful for the support of alumni and friends. Gifts create scholarships that allow all students to participate fully in the unique, life-changing opportunities offered by the college and ensure that our programming remains innovative and responsive to changing student and community needs. Below is a list of all donors to the college in the past five years. Thank you! You have made a difference.

Kevin Ahern and Indira Rajagopal
Casey Lane Anderson
Daniel and Wanda Arp
Gary Atkins and Penny Yano Atkins
John Baham and Lynne Fullerton-Baham
Jeffrey and LeeAnn Baker
Breanna Balleby
Andrew and Roseann Bartmess
Adam Bean
Roberta and Michael Benoit
Kathy and Ted Bentley
Vinay Bikkina
Heather May Bolstad
Barbara and David Brazelton
Cort and Chelsea Brazelton
Jack and Janis Breen
Tom Brown and Carol Burroughs Brown
Zeus Brunner
Laurel Kay Busse and Nicholas Busse
John and Shirley Byrne
Marlene Campbell
Mary Cassin and Ken Meyer
Cameo M. Cheung
John and Debra Chin
Carl and Julie Christianson
Barbara Clark
Don Coles
John and Sharon Crowell
Gildha Cumming
Jeremy Cutsforth-Gregory
Darlene Dahl Jones and John Jones
Brenda and Nicholas Davis
Jim and Dee Davis
Dallas Defrees
Lauren Dillard
Miles Dodge
Toni and Erick Doolen
John Drexler, Jr.
David and Sandy Dunahay
Michael and Jeannette Eyer
Robert and Lisa Fan
Brian Ferriso and Amy Pellegrin
Robert Fey and Carol Willing Fey
Douglas and Nancy Fisher
James and Billie Fort
Nancy Gallagher
Karen and Aaron Ganss

Anthony and Susan Gay
Sarah Geisler
Ralph Gens and Arlita Smith Gens
Anne Talbott Goetze and Michael Goetze
Ryan Gordon
John and Jane Gotchall
Erwin and Kathy Grellmann
Gregory and Laura Grimes
Erin Haynes
Pamela Hays
Larry Heinonen
Joe Hendricks and Hazel Reeves
Maria Henry
Robert Aron Horton
Tyler Howe
Kristi and Gregory Hronek
Wren and Leigh Hudgins
Jerry and Beth Hulsman
Linda Humphrey
Charles and Nancy Huston
Andrew Ibarra
Obidike Iheanacho
Danni Ikenberry
Gina Johnnie
Kimberlee and Gregory Jones
Carol Boyd Juckeland and Philip Juckeland
Jennifer and Alden Jurling
Tom and Elaine Kallas
Willy Kaye and Sonal Joshi Kaye
Robert Kelly
Todd Kelsay
William and Toni Kiefel
Marie Kiemnec-Tyburczy
Sue Wiesner Koffel and Martin Koffel
Natalie and David Kovac
Michele Kovalik
Kenneth and Paula Krane
Barbara Kranick
Alyson Kraus and Max Brugger
Katy Lou Krieger
William and Michelle Krippaehne
Jim and Bonita Krueger
Susan Lair and Douglas Trobough
Joshua Landin
Jessica Leahy
Benjamin Legg
Brian and Christine Lewis

Get Involved!

Interested in connecting? The Honors College offers many opportunities for alumni and community members to engage with our outstanding students and programs. Our “Dean and Friends” series of lunches brings guests to campus to discuss their stories with small groups of students; through the honors internship program, we can facilitate placing uniquely skilled and committed undergraduates in training opportunities; and even small contributions to HC scholarship funds can make a defining impact on student lives. To learn more about these opportunities and more, contact honors.college@oregonstate.edu or visit us online at honors.oregonstate.edu.

Scott Loftin and Susan Johnston Loftin
Andrew Luckman
Johny and Jemma Luiz
Kale and Wendy Lundeen
Eric and Heather MacKender
Thomas Magnuson
Shayna Rogers and Ryan Mann
Lily Mars
Ashley Martin
Matthew Martin
Catherine Wiltshire Maurer and Jeffrey Dea Maurer
Joseph Maxwell and Sarah Sollid Maxwell
Scott and Jessina McGregor
Margaret Meehan
Joseph Michalek
Sonja Michelsen
Thomas Miles
Taylor and Chris Miller
Charles Mombell
Mike Moran
Gayle and Roy Nelson
Joseph and Karen Nibler
Raymond and Carol North
Karla Nussbaum
Patricia Osterberger
Vikki Ott
Sanjay and Neeta Pai
Nancy and Leo Parks
Bryce Payne
Steven and Anna Peterkort
Mark and Sue Petersen
Carol Hill Pickard and Richard Pickard
Louis and Eleanor Piha
Kathy Pinard
Daniel and Margaret Porth
John and Sandra Potter
Michael Prince
Ravi Puri and Priyadarshini Karipalli
Candy and James Puterbaugh
Andrea and Jon Renholds
Laurie and Mark Reser
Blake Robinson
Ryan Robinson
Ronald and Kathy Ruthruff

Ritu and Janet Sahni
Joan Skaguchi
Karen and William Schuiling
Mary Alice Seville
Stacie and Kyle Shaver
Stephen Shields and Micky Elliott Shields
Francis and Yong Shotton
Jason Siefken
Deilla and Clayton Smith
Mckinley Smith
Melinda von Borstel Smith and Craig Smith
Amy Stanton
Laura and Kenneth Steinberg
Brit and Joyce Stephens
Brooke Stephens
Cary and Darlene Sullivan
Aaron and Linda Sundberg
Jenaya Surcamp and Chris Le May
Ariana Sutton-Grier and Nathaniel Grier
Garret and Ann Takata
Joanne Deffenbaugh Talbert and Larry Talbert
Taralyn Tan
Sally J. Tripp
Sarah Troutt and Chad Colburn
Gloria and Chen Tsai
Julian Uselman
Freda Teitzel Vars and Charles Vars
Anne Marie Vassallo McKinnon and Daniel McKinnon
E. R. Vedamuthu
Charles Vincent
Donald von Borstel
Wayne and Marta von Borstel
Paul and Ruta Wagner
Tristan Wagner
Thomas and Valerie Wall
Erika and John Walton
Margaret Lance Walton
Reitha Simpson Weeks and Russell Weeks
Nathan and Mary White
Lester Wilson and Constance Hooper Wilson
Judith Winkler
Mary Carlin Yates and John Yates
Bennet Sze-Bun Yee
Nicholas and Kathleen Yoke
Julius and Michelle Young



Oregon State University
Honors College

Learning Innovation Center 450
Corvallis, OR 97331
honors.oregonstate.edu

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Corvallis, OR
Permit No. 200

