Greetings from the University Honors Program! Campus is still in the grip of winter, but it hasn’t been nearly the monument to frozen pipes and downed power lines as last year’s version. Besides, it might as well be spring in Pickle Hall and our classrooms, where the students are engaged and some new honors courses have taken flight this term among the standard student favorites, including Pamela Gresham’s seminar, *Inspiration and Innovation: Creativity as an Agent of Change*, and Nancy Nichols-Pethick’s *Visualizing the American Journey*. Having just seen our December graduates off, the Spring semester is still quite new, but it is moving swiftly toward fruition. Please note the honors thesis titles; the inaugural poster session of their work was a great success. Our next class of President’s and University Honors Scholars has very recently been interviewed, and our current first-year students have already begun to assume leadership with their upperclassmen peers and will soon begin to take the roles of ambassadors, orientation leaders, RAs and peer advisors.

Honor students have traveled to represent the University at several conferences this academic year, including the meeting of the National Collegiate Honors Council, the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders, the National Council of Undergraduate Research and the Indiana State University Day at the Statehouse. In addition to students studying abroad, Honors continued its cultural and service-learning partnership with the Navajo Nation schools in Pinon, Arizona, engaging with school administrators, teachers and students.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the many campus partners with which the Honors Program collaborates. It is only with the dedication and support of donors and administration at all levels, the creativity and expertise of faculty, and the tireless and cheerful efforts of all major campus offices and divisions that we are able to deliver this program. The Honors Program serves and represents the entire University, and it is your varied and generous contributions that enable our students to succeed.

Greg Bierly
Executive Director, University Honors Program

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CONGRATULATIONS, HONORS GRADUATES!

The University Honors Program would like to congratulate the December 2015 Honors Graduates!

- Carly Anderson
- Morgan Brown
- Sean Carey
- Joshua Cox
- Emily Gauer
- Heavenly Goodrum-Mitchell
- Jennifer Groth
- Tanner McCarty
- Paige Moore
- Taylor Nelson
- Katie Romoser
- Elizabeth Steele
- Kelly Steffen
- Kali Watler
- Joel Yoder
The following Honors students completed GH 401: Honors Thesis projects during the Fall 2014 semester. For these projects, the students were asked to conduct original, interdisciplinary research and write a review of literature. At the end of the semester, each student gave a poster presentation of his/her research to Honors faculty, staff, and students, and other members of the ISU community. Several GH 401 students also had the opportunity to present their research at Indiana State University Day at the Statehouse.

Hydie Aroune, Biology: How does foreign language affect the brain?

Hanna Brant, Political Science: The interaction of gender and ambition in Congress

Lacey Brinegar, Chemistry: If it’s yellow, let it mellow: Ending an antiquated problem

Morgan Brown, History: An examination of the psychological, administrative and financial aspects of adoption

Cara Cribelar, Nursing: Reducing stigma and promoting mental health awareness in the United States

Collin Cummings, Social Studies Education: The effectiveness of U.S. afterschool programs in meeting the needs of disadvantaged youth, growing responsible citizens, and fostering better communities

Akacia Darnell, Special Education-Elementary Education: Benefits of parental involvement in their child’s education

Crista Dusek, Nursing: An investigation into the effects of cancer on a child’s siblings

Emily Fox, English: The roller coaster that only goes up: The rise of young adult literature

Kaylee Jo Fox, Multidisciplinary Studies: Learning the language of violence: The role of violence in masculinity

Kelsey Foy, Special Education-Elementary Education: Inclusion: How it affects your child

Emily Gauer, Biology: Examination of the medical and financial components of targeted cancer therapy

Emma Gearhart, Speech-Language Pathology: Stuttering relapse and the effect on quality of life as influenced by the media

Kelsie Gregg, Athletic Training: Penalties that last a lifetime

Jaleigh Harlow, Elementary Education: From chalkboards to Smartboards: Changes of technology in the classroom

Jorgi Henson, Communication with Concentration in Public Relations: The use of Twitter as a news source

Mariyam Houston, Biology: Brain asymmetry

Devon Jacobs, Elementary Education: Why do college students join Greek life?
GH 401: HONORS THESIS PRESENTATIONS

Ashlee James, History: ‘Nothing new under the sun’: The renewed interest in classical culture and literature in postmodern society

Lauren Karbowski, Nursing: The Future of Healthcare: Care, Quality, Both?

Macy Mayle, Biology: Exploration of Alzheimer’s Disease: An investigation of possible causes and treatments

Tanner McCarty, Communication with Concentration in Human Communication: Examining two iconic comedians: A comparative analysis of Richard Pryor and George Carlin

Carly McDonald, English, Biology: Enter Ophelia: The mental health of women in modern literature

Cameron Meyer, Biology: Future applications of stem cells in organ transplantation

Whitney Neukam, Communication with Concentration in Human Communication: Attachment styles and domestic violence

Zachary Nickerson, Biology: A history of metal pollution in the Wabash River, Vigo County, using geochemical records from pond and wetland sediments

Kacie Nicoson, Nursing: Immunizations: The international controversy

Christopher Poindexter, Psychology: Exercise and its effect on mental health

Jamie Poore, Nursing: Improving maternal outcomes for the adolescent mother

Samantha Rivera, Nursing: Vaccination myths

Haley Robinaugh, Interior Design: The impact of good design on affordable housing

Rose Robins, Elementary Education: Literacy intervention in elementary school

Abbey Rogers, Political Science: Are college-aged students politically socialized by their former high school’s demographics?

Kristopher Rogers, Chemistry: Back to the future: A science-fiction film analysis of past, present, and future

Awilda Romero, Political Science: The Voiceless Experiment

Katherine Runge, Political Science: Intersection of gender and party: Issue and non-issue messages primed by female primary candidates for the U.S. House

Elizabeth Steele, Fine Arts: Mario vs the Mona Lisa: The debate on video games as a form of contemporary artistic expression

Elle Steele, Biology: Plastic surgery: An overview of the history, psychological disorders, and technological impacts
Early in November, I had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Denver, Colorado for the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference. During the conference, I was able to attend sessions on Honors student leaders and how to improve student-run organizations. Hearing how other universities and colleges across the nation approach student leadership in their Honors Programs was extremely insightful. Having discussions with these student leaders and Honors faculty members gave me new ideas for connecting with and engaging other Honors students. One of my favorite sessions from the Conference was hearing from the featured speaker, Erik Weihenmayer, who is the only blind person to have climbed Mt. Everest.

Outside of the conference, I enjoyed exploring Denver, trying new foods, and seeing the mountains from the streets of the city. I am very grateful for the experience that I had at the annual NCHC Conference in Denver, and I am eager to implement some of the ideas that I picked up while I was there.

-Ashley Borhart
Junior, Operations & Supply Chain Management major
2014-2015 Honors Council Chair
In June of 2014, a group of female Honors students, including myself, had the opportunity to travel to the University of Maryland-College Park for the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders, or NCCWSL. We traveled to the conference together to represent our university and our campus organization, Feminist Majority. The conference granted us several invaluable opportunities and resources that we have used to better the Indiana State community and our personal organization. Student attendees included Lindsay Farmer, Kira Clouse, Hanna Brant, Averi Hill, Meghan Hoskins, and myself, Kaylee Jo Fox. Thankfully, the generosity of the Honors Program along with various other campus offices allowed us to be immersed in an environment overflowing with other ambitious female student leaders, network with powerful women in various fields, learn about ourselves, and have fun.

Though all attendees had different experiences at NCCWSL, we all attended the conference with the same goals: to learn how to improve upon the ISU community, Feminist Majority, and ourselves. We wished to take advantage of the opportunity to network with women of our same age group, but also with more experienced and distinguished female leaders. I, along with my peers, greatly appreciated the various workshops that allowed each attendee to individualize their experience by picking which sessions she wished to attend. Kira Clouse addressed many topics she learned from these workshops: “The skills that I gained through the workshops—as well as from other women attending—include improved organizational construction, addressing rape culture, and moving closer to an open-minded and equal community; all of which are skills and information that can be passed along to those within the university and the Feminist Majority.” We also were inspired and motivated by listening to keynote speakers, such as Chelsea Clinton. Meghan Hoskins explained that Clinton’s speech was an aspect of the conference she particularly enjoyed. She stated, “I gained a better sense of what it means to be a leader. In the words of Chelsea Clinton: ‘Leadership is having a vision and being able to translate it into the world, having the humility to ask for help because we don't know everything all the time, [and] having the confidence in your original vision to go through with it, come what may.’”

NCCWSL gave all of us attending several ideas of how to take the skills and information we gleaned and apply them to ISU’s campus. Averi Hill explained that she learned how to approach conversations surrounding inequality and resolved to carry out a strategy to diminish inequality of all forms on ISU’s campus. She stated, “This year on campus I plan on approaching someone if I hear them make a derogatory comment and kindly let them know what they said was not right and why. There are many times on campus when I see other students not standing up for their fellow classmates, which I would love to see change for the
better.” NCCWSL fueled Hanna Brant’s desire to make Indiana State more gender inclusive. She explained, “I will use the skills I learned to recruit more members to Feminist Majority. And in a broader context, make campus a space that advocates for the inclusion of all genders (because there are not just two) and ensures their representation and makes their voices heard.”

NCCWSL was a positive experience that provided attendees with information and skills that will benefit all of those who attended as they continue to be contributing members to the ISU community. All of us are members of various other on-campus organizations and leaders on ISU’s campus. As Lindsay Farmer explained, NCCWSL will allow us to improve upon other aspects of our college careers in addition to Feminist Majority. She stated, “The most important thing I gained from this experience was confidence in myself as a woman and as a leader. While I know I can use the skills I gained to better Feminist Majority, I also know that I will be able to use these skills in every aspect of my life, especially as it pertains to my other leadership roles on ISU’s campus.” Fortunately, all six of us attendees were able to host a panel on campus that allowed us to directly share our opinions and hopes for the future. NCCWSL was a deeply influential experience for us all and we thank the Honors Program for aiding us in the opportunity.

-Kaylee Jo Fox
Senior, Multidisciplinary Studies major
Ten Indiana State students traveled to the Navajo Reservation in Arizona to exchange personal stories and discuss the benefits of attending college with twelve Pinon High School students. We were able to connect with a group of young adults who come from a different and rich background, yet who are similar to us in their desire to make something of themselves in this world. Together, we were able to serve at the senior center by beautifying the landscape and serving lunch to the elderly citizens. The Pinon students exposed us to a traditional Navajo meal, as well as traditional dances and clothing attire. We had the opportunity to participate in a Navajo language class to learn about the history of the language and learn some of the words. One of them was the term used to greet people: Yáʼátʼééh. Being able to spend time with a group of students who have a history of oppression that I have not experienced and hearing their personal stories about how far they and their ancestors have come were moving.

I especially enjoyed the change of scenery while visiting Arizona. One early morning, the group from Indiana State was able to experience Canyon de Chelly to watch the sunrise and maneuver over the rocks: an image that will forever be inescapable from my memory. Arizona is a beautiful place to gaze upon the vast landscape. One thing many of the ISU students found compelling was how the Navajo culture embraces animals and has an appreciation for nature. The Pinon students shared with us how a bear is the symbol of protection. As a result of learning about the Navajo culture’s appreciation for animals, I was compelled to purchase a necklace with a carved wooden bear on it that I often wear.

On our last evening together, the Pinon and Indiana State students gathered at the home of the art teacher from Pinon High School, who is also the director of this cultural exchange program between Indiana State and Pinon High School. We learned how to make fry bread, munched on burgers, helped to make a fire pit, and engaged in conversation. We also gifted the Pinon students with Indiana State sweatshirts that they enthusiastically accepted. Ultimately, I learned that no matter where we all came from, at the end of the day we all loved to hang out, eat food, and tell jokes.

-Cecilia van Wijk
Junior, Communication major

View a video about the October 2014 trip to Pinon, AZ: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQmneHAIv0I
The Fall Semester was a busy time for the members of the Honors Council. We started off the new school year with our Fall Welcome Picnic in August. Even with the heat, we had lots of Honors Students come to get free food and meet their peers. Our biggest event this semester was our annual Halloween party – another well attended event. It was great to see so many students come out in their costumes. I was very impressed with the creativity of these students! At the Halloween party, the Council also had a booth for students to write Thank You cards for veterans, and we ended up getting much more than we had anticipated! Thank you to all of the students who participated in that event! In November, the Professional Development committee of the Council partnered with Residential Life to hold an event that was called “Suit Up for Summer.” At this event, students heard some tips and tricks for finding and landing summer internships. The Spring Semester has all the potential for being a great one. At the end of this semester, the Honors Program elected eight new members – congratulations to those eight – and I know they will serve the Honors Program well.

-Ashley Borhart  
Junior, Operations & Supply Chain Management major  
2015-2015 Honors Council Chair

Pictured above: Honors students distributed root beer floats at Tent City during ISU’s Homecoming weekend.
The President’s Scholars Association had a great fall semester. PSA was eager to welcome twenty new scholars into our organization. We spent the third weekend in September at the Sycamore Outdoor Center for our fall retreat. Scholars enjoyed canoeing, hiking, and a bonfire all while getting to know one another. Scholars continue to be active on campus and are represented in many campus organizations including the Student Government Association, Union Board and the Honors Council. At the end of the semester, we celebrated our hard work and the end of classes with an evening of bowling and billiards at a local bowling alley. All the activities this semester helped us enhance our close-knit community of scholars. At the beginning of the spring semester, PSA looks forward to the new scholar interviews and several service projects.

-Erin Sluyter
Junior, Biology major
2014-2015 President, President’s Scholar’s Association President

Pictured above: President’s Scholars canoeing at the Sycamore Outdoor Center in September 2014.
HONORS CONTACT INFORMATION

University Honors Program
Pickerl Hall 110
220 North 6th Street

Hours: M-F 8:00am-4:30pm
Phone: 812-237-3225
Fax: 812-237-3676

Dr. Greg Bierly
Honors Program Executive Director
Gregory.Bierly@indstate.edu

Laura Froelicher
Honors Program Assistant Director
Laura.Froelicher@indstate.edu

Kelly Anthony
Honors Program Coordinator
Kelly.Anthony@indstate.edu

Evelyn Huffman
Graduate Assistant
ehuffman4@sycamores.indstate.edu

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