



ANDERSON UNIVERSITY  
HONORS PROGRAM

# Cohort Connection

Academic Year 2011-2012  
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Congratulations to all those who have completed another wonderful year in the Honors Program! This year we are graduating Cohort III. It seems strange to call them that—because to me they are Kelly and Melissa and Daniel and Kirsten and...well, you understand. One of the privileges of teaching in the Honors Program is that you come to know each member of a cohort and when they graduate, there is a certain amount of sadness. When they share their future plans, you can sense a tremendous amount of excitement, tinged with a little bit of trepidation. The first two cohorts have told us how well they were prepared for their ongoing pursuits, and I am sure this cohort will be no different. Congratulations on your achievements while at AU!

This has been a year of changes for the Honors Program as well. For the first time, graduating seniors were able to present their senior capstone projects to incoming students, faculty, and current students, during Scholar's Weekend. We wanted incoming students who are eligible for the Honors Program to see the high quality of work produced by our Honors students and, hopefully, to apply to be members of Cohort VII!

This year also involved a change of leadership. I took over as co-chair of the Honors Program when Dr. Jan Fulkerson was named Dean of the College of Education. Thank you so much, Jan, for your hard work on behalf of the Honors Program! I personally appreciate the work Jan did on our first in-house assessment. I have taught in the Honors Program since its inception along with my husband, Dr. Dan Ippolito. We teach the sophomore first semester course—Scientific Discoveries and Paradigm Shifts. It is a challenging course for me to teach because it involves trying to help students understand the historical, cultural, and scientific climate surrounding the big changes in science—the change from a geocentric model of the universe to a heliocentric model, or the change from cold-blooded to warm-blooded dinosaurs, for example. I, myself, am a product of the Honors Program at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. My senior capstone project involved DNA reassociation kinetics in the phylogeny of *Capsicum* spp. (Something that is completely and totally obsolete by now. Sigh.) That was a long time ago, and yet I still remember most of the teachers I had in the program. In fact, the best class I ever took in my nine years of college and graduate school was an Honors seminar I took as a senior entitled "Paradigm Shifts in Mathematics." I am now passing on what I learned as an Honors student to Honors students at AU.

The junior class also experienced some changes compared to prior years. Originally the junior year curriculum involved two classes: "Scholar as Leader" and "Scholar as Servant." This year those two classes were combined into "Scholar as Servant Leader" and we added "Christ and Culture," which fulfills the Development of Christian Faith component of the Liberal Arts Program. Sadly, we said goodbye to Dr. Jerry Fox, but we welcomed Dr. Merle Strege to the Honors faculty.

This will also be the last year for Dr. Linda Swindell who taught our Senior Seminar. Linda will be retiring. Her future plans include going back to school. She exemplifies what it means to be a life-long learner, and we appreciate all of her hard work. She will pass the torch to Dr. Bruce MacMurray, who has already taught in the program.

Please read the rest of this newsletter where you will find the accomplishments of our current students and highlights of our newest cohort. It is a joy to work with these students and to see our goal of "vibrant leadership" fulfilled in their lives.

*-Dr. Kimberly Lyle-Ippolito*

## Honors Program Mission Statement

The Honors Program at Anderson University is devoted to fostering within its Honors Scholars a passionate dedication to intellectual inquiry and spiritual development, so that they may serve as vibrant leaders in their professions and in their communities.

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## For more information on the Honors Program at AU...

Please visit our website at [www.anderson.edu/honors](http://www.anderson.edu/honors) for information regarding the program, including its values, admission standards, applications or academic course requirements.

## About the Cohort Connection

The Cohort Connection is a newsletter designed to highlight achievements of current Honors Program fellows. This newsletter was written by the Honors Program student assistant, junior Marissa Phillips. For more information regarding the newsletter, please contact Dr. David Murphy.



# Seniors present at Scholar's SOAR

Scholar's Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration weekend (SOAR) is always an exciting weekend for the prospective scholar students at Anderson University. This year, however, the scholars had extra cause for anticipation: the seniors of the Honors Program each presented their seminar projects at SOAR for the first time in the program's history. The project topics ranged from the medical field to an elementary school classroom and were no doubt one of the most interesting parts of the weekend for the prospective students. The Anderson University Honors Program has always tried to provide outlets for sharing the work that the scholars complete within the program. In the past, some students have been able to share their projects at outside meetings, but this was the first time they presented them on campus to more than just classmates and faculty members.

Dr. Kimberly Lyle-Ippolito, co-director of the Honors Program, worked very closely with the Office of Admissions to create a new way for the seniors to present their work. "We wanted to not only advertise what our student can do, but show prospective students who will be attending Scholar's SOAR what it looks like to be a senior Honors student," said Lyle-Ippolito.

"The Honors Senior Capstone is the culmination of undergraduate Honors work," the syllabus for the class reads. It creates an opportunity for the students to not only reflect on their three years of experience in the Honors Program but also to consider the topics that they have studied in their major more formally.

"This is where they design and implement their own project," said Dr. Linda Swindell, Professor of Psychology, who has been teaching the senior seminar since its introduction. "It is not your typical regurgitation of information. It is an analysis, and then we expect them to answer a question or to present an idea that is groundbreaking at some level."

The students are not expected to execute the project completely on their own, though. "Each student has a sponsor, and you become very involved in working with your student," said Lyle-Ippolito, who served as a sponsor this year as well. The sponsors also evaluate the final project and provide the student's grade to Swindell. The seniors met once a week during fall semester, and spent a lot of time meeting with their sponsors both in the fall and the spring. The students seemed to enjoy this class set up for their senior year. "I enjoyed being able to spend one last semester with my cohort. I also liked that the schedule was flexible to work around our busy senior schedules," said Stephanie Stichter.

Daniel Kelsey is a Christian ministries major with a Youth leadership and development complementary major. His project uses the knowledge of the Christian faith that he has been developing through his major to study the concept of time in relation to Christianity. "I am looking

at some of the different ways time has been conceptualized around the world and what some of the benefits could be for Christians if they choose to look at time both linearly and sometimes cyclically."

Stichter, an athletic training major, selected a topic that was both of interest to her and applicable to her major. "My project looks at the relationship between the hygiene practices of athletes and the contraction of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). I chose this topic because it was a condition that we deal with as athletic trainers, and I did not know much about it."

Melissa Tucker, an education major, observed a classroom during her first semester teaching practicum and found an area that needed improvement. "In this instance, it was the use of problem-solving by high ability 3rd and 4th grade students," she said. She based the idea on a project from another class, which is relatively common in the senior seminar, but she went more in-depth for the Honors project. "In the next several weeks I completed a literature review of research currently in the field, collected baseline data, created a plan of action, implemented my action plan for two weeks, and then completed a full analysis of the whole experience."

The other senior projects that were presented on Friday included "The Horse and His Boy: A Screenplay Adaptation" by Kirsten Milliron, "Economic Consequences of Recent Conflict in Liberia" by Ryan Petter, "The Effects of Mode of Exercise on Stress Levels" by Jared Bickle, "A Christian Ethical Reflection on the Community's Response to the Chicago Housing Crisis" by Chelsea Whyte, "Social Ethics: Myth, Magic, and Religion in Gisla Saga" by Andrea Whitacre and "Can You Shop Your Way To The Top" by Erin Chapman. Those presented on Saturday included "An Age Old Epidemic: Cholera Outbreaks in the Past Decade" by Kelly Frye, and "The Effect of Birth Order on Preferred Study Environment" by Abbie Mason.



Right: Stephanie Stichter giving her presentation on MRSA.

# Introducing Cohort VI

This year, Honors Cohort VI came to Anderson University with high hopes for the school year both academically and personally. "The Honors Program has been an environment where I am pushed to be a leader on this campus in every area of life" says Mallory Johnson, Cohort VI. Many have already achieved goals, like leadership positions and jobs on campus, that will help them in their future career endeavors, and they will no doubt continue to be a great addition to the AU Honors Program.

From, Liberty Township, Ohio, Natalia Concepcion, hopes to work for an international company in Spain with the help of her marketing and Spanish majors. She received the position of 2012-2013 Student Advertising Coordinator for the International Student Association.

Dalton Cox, from Greenwood, Indiana, is a Bible and Religion major who hopes to become involved in missionary work. From St. Clairsville, Ohio, Tyler Dague, is majoring in communications arts with an emphasis in film, with hopes to get a graduate degree in screenwriting. This year, Tyler sang the national anthem for home basketball games and was a writer for the Andersonian.

Mitchell Davidson, from Kodiak, Alaska, is a communications arts major with a public relations focus who is exploring the options for his future.

Jacob Eiler, from Gaston, Indiana, is an accounting major with a minor in finance who would like to work at an accounting firm or in the accounting division of a business.

Mallory Johnson, from St. Louis, Missouri, is majoring in communication arts focusing on public relations with a complementary major in youth leadership development. She will be acting as a Discipleship Coordinator in Rice Hall for the 2012-2013 school year.

Ashley Kelly, from Defiance, Ohio, intends to major in English with a minor in writing who would like to become a published novelist. She is already achieving goals of being published by writing for Signatures Alumni Magazine this year. She will also be a Resident Assistant in Rice Hall next year.

Annie King, from Oak Brook, Illinois, hopes to work as a

marketing consultant for a Fortune 500 company after she graduates with a marketing major and entrepreneurship minor.

From Greentown, Indiana, Sarah Klemmensen, is an intended psychology major who would like to become an Occupational Therapist, working with either young children or the elderly. Craig Lotz, from Greenwood, Indiana, is an accounting and finance major who would like to work for the international justice mission. He will also be acting as a Resident Assistant in Smith Hall for the 2012-2013 school year.

Emily Mueller, from Bartlesville, Oklahoma, is a nursing major who would like to become a Medical Missionary. She will be a part of the of Campus Ministries leadership next year.

Taylor Padilla, from Casper, Wyoming, is planning to major in journalism with a complementary major in writing and a minor in family science, with hopes of writing for a Christian counseling magazine.

Robert Rowlett, from Carmel, Indiana, hopes to become a Christian Apologist and practice environmental law with his biology major.

Annie Steinke, from Farmington Hills, Michigan, intends to major in biochemistry and Spanish and would like to become a doctor, possibly working overseas.

From Brownsburg, Indiana, Kyle Stuckey, is a business major who would like to work for a professional sports team.

Isaac Voegtle, from Murrysville, Pennsylvania, is majoring in math and physics and is not yet sure of his future plans.

Marisa Vogel, from Winona Lake, Indiana, is a theatre arts, writing and Spanish major who would like to create theatre workshops from inner city Latino youth. Marisa was an editor for the Andersonian this year.

Laura Weiant, from Columbus, Ohio, is currently undecided on her major, but would like to work in non-profit business, like Fair Trade.

Tyler Williamson, an Anderson, Indiana native, would like to pursue a graduate degree for mechanical engineering after he completes his undergraduate degree in math and physics.

# Seniors receive scholarships

*Kelly Frye, Daniel Kelsey, and Ryan Petter win awards toward future endeavors*

Several seniors received scholarships and awards this year that will help them with their post-graduate work both academically and professionally.

Kelly Frye, a biology and communication arts double major, travelled with the AU Debate team to New York in March. There, she received a 3rd place speaking award as well as the All-American Award for debate, which is the highest award of the association. Frye also won the Stevenson Outstanding Student Award in Biology.

Daniel Kelsey, a Christian ministries and youth leadership-development double major, was chosen to be the recipient of

the Rev. Billie Roy and Pearl Toon Smith Endowed Christian Education Scholarship Award for 2012. He hopes to use the \$5,800 scholarship at the University of Louisville to pursue a Master of Social Work.

An economics major, Ryan Petter was named as a 2012 Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellow. This award is for Petter's public involvement and desire to create change. Newman Civic Fellows receive certificates naming them as such and gain multiple opportunities to network with other Fellows and professionals through state and regional conferences. Kelsey and Dori Elliot (Theater Studies) will also be graduating this spring with 4.0 GPAs.

# Honors Student Leadership

*Several members of the Honors Program are fulfilling the program's mission statement by serving "as vibrant leaders in their professions and in their communities." They name the Honors Program as a huge help in gaining as well as performing in those leadership roles.*

Elijah Alvey, from Cohort IV, is the public relations director for the Wisdom Tooth Theater Project.

Rachel Brodeur is a Resident Assistant in Rice Hall and Cohort V member. She says, "I think the Honors Program gave me more motivation and confidence during the interview process for this job. Also, many of the members of our cohort hold me accountable to my leadership position, which I am very thankful for!"

Lindsey Carroll, a Discipleship Coordinator in Morrison Hall, is a member of Cohort V. She says "because so many Honors students hold leadership positions on campus, being in the Honors Program provides lots of resources for getting plugged in to leadership and lots of fellowship and encouragement from other student leaders."

Leah Gilbert, from Cohort V, is the Peer Mentor for Cohort VI. "It's my favorite job this year! The freshman cohort is great!"

From Cohort IV, Charlie Holcomb is the President of Anderson University Men's Rugby Club and the Web Technician for Dativus Men's Service and Social Club.

Alexis Kaiser, a Cohort V member is a Martin Hall Resident Assistant, saying, "I feel like the community in the Honors Program encourages students to apply for leadership positions because they are surrounded by potential leaders and encouraged by previous/current leaders. I've learned a lot."

Daniel Kelsey is a member of Cohort III and has been involved in leadership positions since his sophomore year. "I am the campus ministry coordinator for the Park Place Community Center. This is my first year on the job although I have also served as a Resident Assistant for the past two years. I feel that the Honors Program has assisted me by encouraging me to be a leader and pushing me to engage in servant leadership both through classes and through the projects that we take part in."

Kristen Langolf is a Resident Assistant in Martin Hall and a member of Cohort V. She says, "The Honors Program is where I met a lot of the upperclassman who were already in student leadership positions, and it encouraged me to apply myself to be in student leadership too."

From Cohort III, Kristen Milliron is a manager of the AU Community Garden. "My position started in March of 2011 and will last until around January of 2012. I feel like the Honors Program has pushed me to take leadership roles on campus simply by promoting the idea that those with skills have the responsibility to use them."

Ryan Petter, Cohort IV, is the Secretary of Finance and Environmental Affairs for the Student Government Association. "I believe the Honors Program encouraged me to seek out leadership positions, helped me gain confidence, and helped improve my critical thinking skills."

From Cohort V, Marissa Phillips is a member of the Relay for Life planning committee and the writer of the Honors Newsletter. "With the amount of Honors students in leadership, it's really encouraging to the underclassmen to go for leadership positions as well."

David Ragsdale, a member of Cohort IV, is Hall Chaplain in Dunn Hall, the Secretary of Campus Communication for the Student Government Association and Avanti Boosters' Vice President.

Hannah Samples, Cohort V, is a Rice Hall Resident Assistant. She says, "The Honors Program provided training in leadership and communication skills to prepare me for this position."

From Cohort V, Natalie Schuchardt is a Rice Hall Discipleship Coordinator. "I think the Honors Program has just helped me learn to prioritize well and know when I need to have me time and study and when I need to hang out with my girls!"

Melissa Tucker, a member of Cohort III, has been in several leadership positions over the years. "Freshman year I was involved with Leading Ladies, a group in Martin Hall that planned dorm-wide activities. My sophomore year I was a Resident Assistant in Martin Hall. Junior year I was the coordinator of Study Buddies, a campus ministry. This year, I am the director of University Fellows. The Honors Program has helped me gain confidence in myself and my abilities and pushed me to become more involved on campus, especially in leadership positions, that I might not have before coming to college."

## Would you like to join the Honors Program?

Would you or someone you know be interested in a challenging and rewarding college experience? Students find the Honors Program to be a great opportunity for growth in academic, spiritual, and social aspects of life. The requirements for the Honors Program are a minimum score of 1250 on SAT or 28 on ACT testing, as well as achieving a cumulative grade point

average of no lower than 3.75/4.0. The application includes the applicant's transcript, SAT or ACT scores, a two-page essay on a selected topic, and an interview with the committee. Students wishing to apply for the Honors Program can learn more about the program and find the application at <http://www.anderson.edu/honors>.

