

# With HONORS

Irvin D. Reid Honors College at Wayne State University

COMMUNITY ■ SERVICE ■ RESEARCH ■ CAREER

WINTER 2008-09

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## Welcome!

I am always pleased to greet students, parents and friends of our college here on the cover of *With Honors*. I am especially delighted that it has been just over a year since



Jerry Herron  
Dean

Wayne State's Board of Governors voted to promote the long-standing Honors Program to full College status. Life "with Honors," in the Irvin D. Reid Honors College, is never without excitement, wonder, inquiry and great success. Our first year is no exception.

There is much good news to report. Four Honors students will head off this summer to the **State Department** in Washington, D.C. –

and to embassies throughout the world – as members of the inaugural **Internship Fellows Program**. Our students will work with the Department of State during an historic time; they were selected by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and her staff, and will work under the new direction of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, serving as fine young ambassadors for our nation. Wayne State University is the only Michigan school selected for inclusion the Internship Fellows launch.

Our four **Start programs** – in medicine, business, engineering, and pharmacy and health sciences – continue to provide outstanding pre-professional opportunities to students from all over the United States. In just a few weeks some of our students will participate in **ProHealth Belize**, a study-abroad experience that provides a powerful look at patient care experiences in a Latin American country.

The **Office of Undergraduate Research** – housed in the Honors College – has maintained its robust menu of opportunities for our students, including funding student work through: the **Undergraduate Research and Creative Projects Grant** program; facilitating connections between student researchers and faculty mentors; hosting Wayne State's very successful Undergraduate Research Conference in the fall; and supporting student participation in regional and national symposia.

Our service-learning arm – **CommunityEngagement@Wayne** – has continued its work in connecting classrooms to the outside world through experiential learning projects. These endeavors would be impossible without support from the **McGregor Fund**, **Michigan Campus Compact**, the **Michigan Suburbs Alliance**, the **Ford Motor Company Fund** and other friends of the college who provide financial support, helping us engage our students and faculty in addressing some of Detroit's serious challenges.

Finally, our **Scholars Day** program continues to attract the best and brightest students from counties throughout Michigan. We expect nearly 1,200 students will attend this year, recognizing that Honors is the place for young scholars who want not only an outstanding college education but who also want to make a difference in the world. Students bring their gifts, talents and aspirations to Wayne State in Detroit, a place where need is great and where the potential for change is profound.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you. There are many ways in which faculty, staff, current students and families, prospective students and parents, and friends can all be involved in our Honors project. I hope you will be in touch with your ideas and questions. I can be reached at (313) 577-3030 or [jerry.herron@wayne.edu](mailto:jerry.herron@wayne.edu).

Best,

Jerry Herron  
Dean

Irvin D. Reid Honors College

**With Honors**  
Editor/Senior Communications Officer  
Adam J. Herman

## Four Honors College students selected for new State Department internships

WSU is only Michigan university invited to participate in program

The inaugural cohort of the Internship Fellows Program at the U.S. Department of State this summer will include four Wayne State University Honors College students, each of whom will receive \$6,000 stipends for their work.

These students will intern in Washington, D.C., or at a U.S. embassy: **Mary Craft**, a senior from Sterling Heights majoring in history who is preparing for law school; **Alexander Marinica**, a pre-med junior from Canton who will graduate with a philosophy degree; **Rasha Natour**, a junior political science major from Dearborn; and **Srdan Sadikovic**, a junior from Huntington Woods majoring in political science.

"I'm honored to participate in the Internship Fellows Program," Marinica said. "This opportunity with the Department of State will provide a solid foundation for my career in public health and health policy."

Jerry Herron, dean of the Irvin D. Reid Honors College, participated in the official launch of the program in Washington, D.C., in September when he attended a luncheon with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"I am thrilled that Secretary Rice agreed to provide such generous stipends," Herron said. "This support allowed us to recruit a diverse and talented pool of interns. The students who have been accepted are enthusiastic and will serve the State Department and the United States very well."

The Honors College received more than a dozen applications from highly qualified students.



Opportunities are waiting for four young diplomats: Srdan Sadikovic (left), Rasha Natour, Mary Craft and Alexander Marinica.

Opportunities to participate in experiential learning outside the walls of the Honors College give students the chance to learn more about careers they may wish to pursue. Students will be placed at Department of State headquarters and throughout the world, working with various bureaus to develop policies and provide services.

"The State Department internship program will shape the thinking of four of our very best students," said **Nancy Galster**, special initiatives coordinator in the Honors College, who managed the selection process. "Our students will be able to give back to their country but will doubtless have an outstanding hands-on experience working alongside career diplomats."

## B Start program provides enriching BBA/MBA experience

World-traveling, Detroit-loving accounting student **Veronica Topolewski** is a member of B Start, an innovative five-year B.B.A./M.B.A. program housed in the Irvin D. Reid Honors College. B Start gives students guaranteed admission to Wayne State University's graduate business program as undergraduates and puts them on the fast track to earning an MBA, beginning their first day on campus.

"As a member of B Start and the Honors College, I have been active in the School of Business Administration student senate, had a summer internship at Plante Moran, and met faculty and business leaders during monthly B Start seminars," Topolewski said. "I also am working with a marketing professor to research consumer behavior and branding."

Topolewski — a graduate of Lake Orion High School who now lives downtown near the Detroit River — began her junior year in September. After years on campus honing her networking skills, Topolewski landed an internship at Plante Moran, one of the nation's largest accounting firms.

"My Wayne State experience prepared me to be a successful professional by providing unique educational experiences including two travel opportunities to China. I've also learned as much from my peers as I have in the classroom,"



Always ready for her next opportunity, Veronica Topolewski relaxes for a moment outside the Honors College headquarters.

Topolewski said. "The monthly B Start seminars provide me with a cohort of peers who are all going through the same rigorous academic program."

In 2006 she participated in a study abroad experience with the School of Business Administration, spending two weeks in Shanghai and Beijing learning alongside business students and shadowing business executives at corporate offices in China. In 2007, Topolewski went back to China as part of a partnership between Wayne State and alumnus Peter Wang. During that trip, she tutored students in the rural Heilongjiang province in basic English literacy skills.

*continued on page 3*

# Fifth annual Undergraduate Research Conference showcases student work

The Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR), housed in the Irvin D. Reid Honors College, hosted the fifth annual Undergraduate Research Conference on campus, Nov. 14. The conference provided a forum to showcase more than 100 undergraduate research projects, bringing to 417 the number of students who have presented throughout the past five years. More student researchers than in any previous year shared their work with members of the university community and guests through panel and poster presentations.

"The conference provides a tangible way for faculty, students and community members to come together in celebration of good scholarship," said Kevin Rashid, who directs OUR. "Undergraduate students are involved in Wayne State's critical central research mission, working alongside faculty

and graduate students to advance social and hard sciences, the arts and humanities."

Many presenters were recipients of Undergraduate Research and Creative Project Awards, and all presenters worked closely with faculty mentors. Students can apply for \$3,050 to support independent funded research projects. OUR has awarded more than \$1 million to support student research since 2004.

In addition to sponsoring the conference and providing research awards, OUR provides support for student participation in regional and national conferences, connects students to mentors and research sites, and enables students to contribute to the core research mission of the university.

Students give poster presentations in the McGregor Conference Center Atrium during the fifth annual Undergraduate Research Conference.



Richard Bielaczyc

## Examples of this year's student projects included:

### Solo Forms in Contemporary Choreography: Performance and Analysis of Jan Van Dyke's Luna

Under the guidance of Professor **Douglas Risner**, student researchers **Martha Dobbs** and **Kate Vincek** — both in their senior year — investigated the compositional elements of solo dance form, both in contemporary choreography and performance, using choreographer Jan Van Dyke's, solo work *Luna* (1984). Choreography of a solo, unlike smaller or larger group works, requires advanced choreographic skill and expertise. Dobbs and Vincek, who are from Farmington and Chesterfield respectively, paid special attention to specific elements of movement, space, time, and design structures that characterize the solo form.



Martha Dobbs and Kate Vincek

Richard Bielaczyc

### Research on Wireless Sensors using SunSPOTs

**Badil Elhady** demonstrated the functionalities and capabilities of networking wirelessly with SunSPOTs from Sun Microsystems. Working with Professor **Ece Yaprak**, Elhady, a senior from Detroit, wrote and debugged a JAVA program, and then debugged and programmed the small SunSPOT boards. Looking to find advanced applications and networks in which the SunSPOTs could be used, Elhady's research focused on enabling the SunSPOTs to communicate with each other, verifying data transmission and receipt through observation of blinking LEDs.



Badil Elhady

Richard Bielaczyc

### Use of New Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Techniques to Detect Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Honors senior **Valerie Mika**, of Sterling Heights, wants to save lives through her work with Professor **Zhifeng Kou**. Mika investigated how new MRI technology can be used to detect traumatic brain injuries, allowing patient treatment to begin immediately. Mild traumatic brain injury is a serious issue for people who have been assaulted, been in a car accident, or have injured their brain during athletic activity. Spotting traumatic brain injuries earlier on can stave off problems that may affect speech or motor skills.



Valerie Mika

Richard Bielaczyc

# Honors student wins research spot at NIH

by Sheila R. McAfee, *The News-Herald*

Lincoln Park student's efforts to find a cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease or ALS, has earned him a spot in the National Institutes of Health Undergraduate Scholarship Program, along with a sizable amount of money.

**Nicholas Bashour**, 2004 valedictorian of Lincoln Park High School, is among 14 recipients who were chosen from a national field of 200 applicants.

Bashour, who will graduate in May from Wayne State University, will join the scholarship program for 10 weeks next summer as a researcher at NIH headquarters in Bethesda, Md., and continue for a year after that as a staff member.

The scholarship includes a monetary stipend of up to \$20,000 for tuition and school expenses.

"For me, it is not so much the amount of the award," Bashour said. "The most exciting thing is being able to work at NIH."

Enrolled in the Irvin D. Reid Honors College at Wayne, Bashour is studying biomedical sciences and journalism.

He said he was working toward a double major, but graduation requirements forced him to decide on one over the other.

He chose journalism, but said the combination of the two fields makes him a candidate for many careers paths.

"I like writing and would like to write a health column some day," he said, adding that writing skills will be an asset when submitting articles for medical journals.

Since mid-2007, Bashour has been involved in gene therapy studies to find a cure for ALS, a progressive degenerative condition affecting brain and spinal cord nerve cells.

His Phase I experiments are conducted on mice and modeled after the human disease.

This is not the first time Bashour has been recognized for his medical research. He was a member of the Summer Undergraduate Research Program at the WSU School of Medicine's Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics, and during the 2007-08 school year, he received a research grant from the office of



Nick Bashour, working in an Elliman Building lab above, will head to the National Institutes of Health this summer.

Liza Lagman Speri

Undergraduate Research, which is housed in the Honors College.

"We continue to try different gene therapies for the disease, hoping to find a cure," he said.

Bashour, 22, is the son of Bushra and Marwan Bashour, and commutes daily between Lincoln Park and the WSU campus. He said he has a 22-hour credit class load that contains a "fair balance" of journalism and science classes.

Each day also includes two to three hours in the lab, but due to an organized study and note-taking system, the schedule does not overwhelm him.

Bashour applied for the NIH scholarship for obvious reasons — it looked interesting and could further his research efforts. But he said he wasn't fully confident that he could win it.

Others were not surprised that he gained the honor.

Part of the application process was providing letters of recommendation, and Bashour included one from Pamela DiNunzio, student council advisor at LPHS.

"He is an awesome student," DiNunzio said. "He is responsible and organized and intelligent way beyond his years. I look forward to him being a doctor."

Jerry Herron, dean of the Honors College, shared DiNunzio's enthusiasm about Bashour.

"Nick is a talented young scholar who has approached his undergraduate education in a truly interdisciplinary way, combining science, journalism, research and hands-on experiences," he said.

As a NIH scholarship contender, Bashour was flown to Bethesda for a series of interviews that narrowed a field of candidates from prestigious universities.

He is the only one chosen from Michigan, joining scholarship recipients from several Ivy League universities.

"It is a great honor, not just for me, but for Wayne State students," said Bashour. "Wayne State doesn't get as much recognition as it deserves. This opens a lot of doors."

In January, he will visit NIH to be paired with a mentor and principal investigators in preparation for the program.

*This story reprinted courtesy The News Herald.*

## WSU Board of Governors member Annetta Miller honored by CommunityEngagement@Wayne

**Annetta Miller**, member of Wayne State University's Board of Governors, received an inaugural award for Outstanding Lifetime Contributions to the Community at the second annual Community Engagement Awards held on campus Nov. 14.

The Community Engagement Awards celebrate service-learning and the outstanding achievements and contributions that students, faculty members and community organizations have made in promoting service-learning on Wayne State's campus and in the community.

Miller, a resident of Huntington Woods who served in the U.S. Army Nurses Corps in the 1940s, has been a member of the WSU Board of



Dean Jerry Herron presented WSU Board member Annetta Miller with an award for Outstanding Lifetime Contributions to the Community

Richard Bielaczyc

Governors since 1996. She also was elected to three consecutive eight-year terms as a member of the State of Michigan Board of Education, winning elections in 1970, 1978 and 1986. She was the national vice president of Americans for Democratic Action, a member of the board of trustees at Roper City and Country School, and a member of the Education Advisory Council at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Born in Fort Wayne, Ind., Miller received her training as a nurse at Jewish Hospital School of Nursing in Philadelphia. She also completed a bachelor's degree in

history at Wayne State in 1995.

In 2005, Miller was awarded the Detroit City



Members of Annetta Miller's family joined her as she was recognized during the second annual Community Engagement Awards

Council Spirit of Detroit Award. The Michigan Association of School Boards, the Michigan Education Association, and the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health have all recognized Miller's outstanding leadership.

"On campus Governor Miller is known as a tireless and passionate advocate for students, and for the environment," said Dean **Jerry Herron** "Annetta is always on the job, trying to turn every one of us green."

## History professor receives course planning grant

CommunityEngagement@Wayne has selected **Denver Brunzman**, professor of history, as a recipient of a \$2,000 planning grant. These grants are awarded to faculty to develop courses that integrate service-learning into undergraduate education.

Using this grant Brunzman will partner with the **Detroit Historical Museum** to offer Revolutionary Detroit: A Global Legacy. This course will explore how and why the early 1760s Pontiac's War in Detroit initiated a series of global events that ultimately ended in American independence from Great Britain. According to Brunzman, "the American Revolutionary era, beginning with the French and Indian War in 1754 and ending with the war of 1812, had a more profound

impact on shaping the demographics of Detroit's population than any period until the rise of the automotive industry in the twentieth century."

Students registered for this course will conduct research on Revolutionary Detroit in the Burton Historical Collection at the **Detroit Public Library** and in other local libraries and archives. They will then share their findings at a public symposium at the Detroit Historical Museum in April 2009. Students also will write essays which will be edited and compiled into a booklet for use by the museum. Brunzman and the museum hope the publication will be sold in the museum store.

## CommunityEngagement@Wayne collaborates with sustainable food systems organization

CommunityEngagement@Wayne has joined forces with other campus organizations as a partner in **SEED Wayne** (Sustainable Food Systems Education and Engagement in Detroit and Wayne State University), a program to assist in local hunger aid relief efforts while challenging citizens to examine the broader implications of their food choices. Led by **Kami Pothukuchi**, professor of Urban Planning, SEED Wayne is dedicated to building sustainable food systems on WSU's campus and throughout Detroit. Since its inception, SEED Wayne has established partnerships with community-based organizations that promote food security, urban agriculture, and food and fitness planning and policy development.

Among SEED Wayne's signature projects is the **Warrior Demonstration Garden**, a garden that allows students to grow herbs and vegetables on campus. This garden is located between the Warrior Grille and the Undergraduate Library on Williams Mall. In June 2008, food from the Warrior Demonstration Garden became available for harvest and use in meals for students and campus guests. SEED Wayne also planned to donate some of the harvest to area food assistance programs or sell

portions at campus farmers markets to help support student organizations. The Warrior Demonstration Garden is tended by students, who also make all decisions about the use of the harvested vegetables.

In addition to the campus garden, SEED Wayne also has introduced a campus farmers market where local farmers and market gardeners sell produce. The program has already held two farmers markets, both of which sold out and received local media coverage.

SEED Wayne's continued success is made possible through efforts of numerous community partners. In October 2008, SEED Wayne received \$100,000 from the **Ford Motor Company Fund**. Other community partners include **AVI Foodsystems, Inc., Capuchin Soup Kitchen and Earthworks Urban Farm, The Greening of Detroit, The Henry Ford, City Connect Detroit, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, Forgotten Harvest, and the Food System Economic Partnership.**

Along with CommunityEngagement@Wayne, SEED Wayne's campus partners include numerous student groups, academic units and university administration.



SEED Wayne's Warrior Demonstration Garden is located behind the Undergraduate Library, home of the Irvin D. Reid Honors College.

## B Start program provides enriching BBA/MBA experience

continued from cover

"I really learned a lot by meeting students in another country and by meeting American and Chinese executives who work for global organizations in China," Topolewski explained. "Traveling to China with the business school, I became acquainted with a rich, booming, technologically advanced country and its business leaders. When I went back with the Wang Foundation, I saw a different side of China, including people who make less than \$500 a year. It was a completely eye-opening experience."

In their junior year, many Honors College students participate in independent funded research available

through the Office of Undergraduate Research housed in Honors. Topolewski teamed up with a faculty mentor to select a topic of mutual interest. Along with business school professor **Sujay Dutta**, she was awarded a \$3,050 Undergraduate Research and Creative Projects Grant. The professor-student pair is using their money to investigate the nature and degree of competition between store and national brands, looking at how competition varies across types of retail stores. Topolewski presented their work at the fifth annual Undergraduate Research Conference in November.

While most Honors students attend graduate or professional school after finishing their bachelor's degrees, Topolewski's senior year will be a little different: she need not apply to multiple graduate programs or wonder where she will go in the fall. Next year, as a B Start senior, she will already be taking graduate-level courses which count towards her Wayne State MBA.

For more information on B Start or the Honors College visit [honors.wayne.edu](http://honors.wayne.edu) or call **Nancy Galster** at (313) 577-8523.

## Honors College Dean Jerry Herron will receive Michigan Campus Compact Service-Learning Award

Michigan Campus Compact, a nonprofit organization focused on college student civic engagement, will award **Jerry Herron** a Faculty/Staff Community Service-Learning Award at its annual institute in February 2009.

Herron, dean of Wayne State's Irvin D. Reid Honors College, has been a professor of English and American studies at Wayne State for more than 25 years.

The Honors College curriculum encourages Honors students to enroll in coursework through *CommunityEngagement@Wayne*, a service-learning initiative Herron implemented to provide the university with an office that supports faculty with the tools necessary to strengthen their course content; gives students the opportunity to apply classroom theories in a hands-on way; and offers community organizations assistance from Wayne State students.

"Service-learning is a central aspect of the Honors College in significant part because of the deep commitment of Dr. Herron," wrote **Stephen Calkins**, associate vice president for academic personnel, who nominated Herron for the award. "Few people care more about community service and service-learning, or have done more to promote those values."

In addition to implementing *CommunityEngagement@Wayne*, Herron's tenure as director and dean has resulted in a number of enhancements to Honors at Wayne State including: a significantly enhanced student enrollment profile; a strengthened Honors curriculum, which now includes a first-year common intellectual experience and signature course, *The City and Citizenship*; and a new home for the WSU Office of Undergraduate Research, which connects students with opportunities for research guidance and faculty mentoring, funding, and conference participation.

## Senior wins service-learning award and helps Corktown community

**Krystal Hubbard**, a senior majoring in anthropology, received the 2008 Community Engagement Award in November for her outstanding commitment to service-learning.

In nominating Hubbard, **Thomas Killion**, professor of anthropology, wrote "Krystal Hubbard is a talented and promising student hoping to continue her studies in historical archaeology in graduate school. She is a tireless supporter and promoter of historic preservation and archaeological research in Detroit. Her contribution and excitement about Corktown archaeology and its potential to create an educational and touristic destination in Downtown Detroit are unrivaled and contagious. Through her efforts she has made an important contribution to archaeological scholarship, community collaboration, and the development of Detroit's historic archaeological resources."

Since the fall of 2007, Hubbard has been involved



Krystal Hubbard

Richard Bielaczyc

in community archaeology at the Workers' Row House (WRH) site in Corktown, Detroit, one of the oldest structures in the city. She began her involvement in the project as a junior, when she enrolled in a field-based archeology course offered by the Department of Anthropology. As a course participant, Hubbard had the opportunity to learn archeology skills while uncovering the history of Detroit's working class.

Killion wrote that Hubbard "quickly emerged as one of the brightest and highly motivated students in the field school and began volunteering extra time to help out with the processing and analysis of Corktown materials in the archaeology lab in Old Main."

Hubbard continued to volunteer with a small group of students working on the analysis of Corktown materials in winter 2008. She helped complete the initial processing and classification of all of the 2006 and 2007 materials recovered from the WRH site and was instrumental in drafting plans and profiles from the excavations for the final technical report. During the winter semester she also participated in a number of planning sessions

with the Greater Corktown Development Corporation (GCDC) to prepare for the summer 2008 field school sessions. Her knowledge of the site and involvement with WRH materials were invaluable during the planning process. Killion adds, "Krystal was generous with her time during these preparations and contributed greatly to the success of the 2008 field season."

She enrolled in the first session of the field school and subsequently volunteered full time for both the second and third fieldwork sessions at the site.

Hubbard's ongoing involvement in Corktown archaeology and community collaboration is impressive. She, along with other students and volunteers, worked diligently on the Corktown Home Tour and Archaeological Demonstration last June, the highlight of the service-learning program at the WRH sponsored by *CommunityEngagement@Wayne*. This project involved students in a community research and outreach effort with the GCDC that drew more than 500 visitors to the site and helped to broaden our list of supporters and volunteers for Corktown Archaeology.

## Grants and contracts provide support for service-learning

In the coming months and years, the Honors College service-learning office, *CommunityEngagement@Wayne*, will be able to offer students improved opportunities to engage with the surrounding communities thanks to the generosity of the **McGregor Fund**, **Michigan Campus Compact**, the **Ford Motor Company Fund** and the **Michigan Suburbs Alliance**.

*CommunityEngagement@Wayne* is the recipient of a third year of funding from the Michigan Campus Compact (MCC), the Michigan state branch of the Campus Compact. As a national organization committed to fulfilling the public purpose of higher education, Campus Compact is a leader in building civic engagement into campus and academic life. Grant funding was made available to MCC through Learn and Serve's Investing in College Futures program. The initiative is designed to benefit disadvantaged youth and positively reinforce the merits of higher education among current college students.

"In these troubling economic times, *CommunityEngagement@Wayne* has been an excellent model for empowering college students to be a vital force in community transformation through the power of service" stated **Michelle Snitgen**, program manager of the Investing in College Futures grant program.

*CommunityEngagement@Wayne* will use the \$40,000 grant to promote service-learning among Irvin D. Reid Honors College students. In particular, this funding will enhance faculty course development incentives, conference participation support and community programming.

MCC funding provides important concomitant funding for the multi-year McGregor Fund gift of \$500,000. Together, the funds helped build the necessary infrastructure for the Honors College to provide students meaningful learning opportunities in community-based organizations throughout metropolitan Detroit.

The Ford Motor Company Fund has awarded \$21,000 to the Honors College to create six Ford Fund Fellows. These fellows will research, develop, and implement strategies to acquaint students with the realities and opportunities of careers in automotive design and manufacturing. The unique collaboration between the Ford Motor Company Fund and the Irvin D. Reid Honors College will provide important academic and career opportunities to undergraduate students.

The Honors College, in collaboration with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, also is the recipient of a \$40,000 grant from the Michigan Suburbs Alliance. Funding will support programming for six to eight Cool Cities interns who will work with Detroit development corporations including Corktown and Creekside, and the cities of Warren and Ferndale. Students will gain valuable experience with government operations, land acquisition planning and use, and work in the non-profit sector.

## In brief

Honors College senior **Valerie Mika** received the Biomedical Physics Major Scholarship for the 2008-09 academic year. Mika, of Sterling Heights, was selected primarily on the basis of academic achievement throughout her career at Wayne State. She plans to complete a master's degree in biomedical engineering before attending medical school.

Honors senior **Clarissa Dass**, of Bloomfield Hills, will attend the fourth annual Academic Surgical Congress Conference in Fort Meyers, Florida, in February. Dass has, for two years, worked on *Dilute Calcium Chloride Irrigation Reduces Bacterial Adhesion*,

a research project focused on the adhesion of various bacterial strains to different cell types. She hopes to develop a medium to wash away bacteria that have adhered to an open surgical wound.

**Shugmi Shumunov**, a freshman from Southfield, was recognized as an outstanding student in *Elementary Russian*. Shumunov was born in Baku, Azerbaijan and moved to the U.S. when he was 3. He was able to speak Russian, but unable to read or write the language. On receiving the award he said, "I took this class to learn more about my culture and heritage. My instructor Laura Kline and the class were amazing."

**Tanuka Datta** helped organize South Asian Americans Leading Together, a program sponsored by WSU's **Indian Students Association (ISA)**. This community service day benefitted **Gleaners**, the **Coalition on Temporary Shelter**, **Habitat for Humanity**, **Greening of Detroit** and the **Belle Isle Nature Center**. Datta, a senior from Ann Arbor, is the ISA's community service chair. The Honors senior enthusiastically noted that the program gave "us a chance to work together and give back to the city we call home."

# Honors holds second scholarship donor recognition dinner

"This is one of the most important things you can do," said Eugene Driker, chairman of the Wayne State University Board of Governors, as he spoke to scholarship donors gathered in St. Andrew's Hall.

On November 24, 2008, the Honors College held its second annual evening program to connect scholarship donors with the talented student beneficiaries of their generosity. President **Jay Noren**, President Emeritus **Irvin D. Reid**, Board of Governors Chair **Eugene Driker** and Honors Dean **Jerry Herron** welcomed a group of donors and students for a night focused on achievement and excellence. Donors listened as **Mandell Berman**, a generous Detroit community leader, explained his passion for Honors at Wayne State and his reasons for choosing to support scholarships for Honors students. Donors were moved by **Amanda Maurer** and **Danielle Hunter**, two students who shared their Honors stories.

Honors supports many talented students through scholarships, some of which are awarded at annual Scholars Day programs, WSU's premier scholarship event. Scholarship donors make it possible for students to enroll full-time instead of part time, live on campus rather than commute, or participate in research with a faculty member instead of working a second job.

For more information on Honors scholarships, or to discuss giving opportunities, please contact **Kathryn Rusak**, director of development for Honors and Scholarships, at (313) 577-9933.



The Honors scholarship dinner was an opportunity for student scholarship awardees to connect with generous donors. Amanda Maurer (third from left), recipient of the Danto Family Scholarship, is pictured with Art Roffey, Gail Danto, her parents Rose and Gerald Maurer, and grandfather Alphonse Maurer.

Rick Bielaczyc



Guests were greeted by President Emeritus Irvin D. Reid (left), benefactor Mandell Berman, President Jay Noren, Board of Governors Chair Eugene Driker, Dean Jerry Herron, and Vice President David Ripple.

Rick Bielaczyc



Merton and Beverly Segal established a scholarship for Honors students.

Rick Bielaczyc

## Top honors for Honors newsletter

The National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Publications Board awarded *With Honors* first place in its annual newsletter contest. The award was presented at the NCHC's annual meeting, held in San Antonio in October.

**Carol Baldwin**, assistant director of editorial

services in WSU's marketing office, and Honors senior communications officer **Adam Herman** were editors for the issues reviewed by the NCHC for this award.

Graphic design and layout services for *With Honors* are provided by JCI Design of Dearborn.

The National Collegiate Honors Council is the

premier organization for promoting honors education. The NCHC sets standards for honors programs and colleges. A delegation of NCHC site visitors met with Wayne State faculty, staff and students in fall 2007, prior to the January 2008 action by the WSU Board of Governors to create the Honors College.

## Students showcase work at national research conference

Some two dozen Wayne State University students presented on oral panels and at poster presentations during the 22nd annual National Conferences on Undergraduate Research, held at Salisbury University in Maryland, April 10-12. The Office of Undergraduate Research coordinates WSU's delegation each year to a conference that lasts for three days and, this year, brought together more than 2,800 student researchers and faculty mentors.

Wayne State medical student **Shivani Agrawal**, who was an Honors senior at the time of the conference, presented her work, *Long Term Secretion of GDNF for Nerve Regeneration Application*, as part of a bioengineering panel. Agrawal presented

alongside students from the University of Memphis and Virginia Commonwealth University. She has since received a full-tuition scholarship to WSU's school of medicine.

Student research is not entirely science-focused, however. Senior **Cevan Castle** presented *Rooms and Views: 20th Century Architecture and Social Interaction* during a panel on material culture, museum and architectural studies.

"Undergraduate research allows students to go outside the classroom and apply their knowledge in the real world," says **Kevin Rashid**, coordinator of the Office of Undergraduate Research. "Presenting at national conferences takes students' work to the next level. It prepares them for graduate school and their careers."

## Five minutes with MedStart student Jeena Chorath

Each year, hundreds of students apply for admission to MedStart, the Honors College's 8-year B.S./M.D. program. **Jeena Chorath**, who is a freshman from the Chicago area, is one of many students who applied to MedStart from out of state.

**With Honors: How's your first year going?**

**Jeena Chorath:** I moved 300 hundred miles away from my hometown in a suburb of Chicago to join MedStart and the Honors College at Wayne State University. My expectations were definitely exceeded. The Honors College provides a small-school feel while offering the resources of belonging to a large research university. My friends at other larger universities have been overwhelmed by a sea of unfamiliar faces. I, on the other hand, feel like I am

part of a small community. I also have enjoyed participating in the American Medical Students Association, Honors Student Association and the Honors Learning Community.

**WH: What's it like to be a member of MedStart?**

**JC:** I knew MedStart was the best program for me, particularly because of all the hands-on opportunities undergraduates have. Through MedStart, I have been able to shadow surgeons and doctors every month at the Karmanos Cancer Institute and Detroit Medical Center. I also volunteer at Hutzel Women's Hospital, attend MedStart seminars at the School of Medicine and write a monthly journal to reflect upon my learning experiences. MedStart is helping me fulfill

my dream of becoming an exceptional doctor.

**WH: Being from Chicago, and living on campus, what do you do on weekends?**

**JC:** My classmates and I love Wayne State's central location in the heart of Detroit. On weekends, we try new restaurants, including Pizza Papalis in Greektown. I love their delicious Chicago-style deep dish pizza. (Of course, as a native Chicagoan I am not an easy critic). Fun can be found up and down Woodward Avenue, whether we are going to ice skate at Campus Martius Park, watch a movie at the Renaissance Center, or visiting the Detroit Institute of Arts. We also like to cheer for the Lions and Tigers.



Jeena Chorath

# Comparatist Deegan-Krause brings unique perspective and love of teaching to Honors citizenship course



Liza Lagman Speri

When Honors first-years walked into Kevin Deegan-Krause's classroom in January, for the second semester of Honors year-long course *The City and Citizenship*, they began exploring their own role as citizens, of our city, state, nation and world. But neither Deegan-Krause's training nor his travel habits would permit the class to be an ordinary civics lesson.

After receiving an economics degree from Georgetown University, Deegan-Krause completed a doctorate in government and international studies at the University of Notre Dame. He has traveled to central Europe as a teacher and researcher more than 20 times since 1990, including a six month stay in Bratislava, Slovakia as a Fulbright Scholar in 2008. (He brought his family along for that most recent experience.)

Studying other countries, Deegan-Krause argues, is one of the best ways to understand our own, and he likes to begin his courses with reference to T.S. Eliot: "We shall not

cease from exploration /And the end of all our exploring / Will be to arrive where we started / And know the place for the first time." In fact, Deegan-Krause's first book, *Elected Affinities: Democracy and Party Competition in Slovakia and the Czech Republic*, (published in 2006 by Stanford University Press) ends with a section that shows parallels between low political accountability in Slovakia and similar developments in the United States.

An accomplished and talented scholar, Deegan-Krause is just as passionate about the work he does in the classroom, energizing students. In addition to his international experience, he also brings unusual perspectives into the classroom ranging from science fiction stories about parallel worlds to satirical clips from the week's Colbert Report and *The Onion*. Deegan-Krause is also passionate about student engagement and has embraced the Honors College goal of helping students become involved with the community around them. The

main assignment of the Citizenship course requires students to work closely with community organizations to analyze social problems and figure out how Wayne State students can participate in the solutions. He is also working on adding a new twist, figuring out how Honors courses can work productively with new technologies that students already use without a second thought: text messages, blogs and social networks such as Facebook

Deegan-Krause summed up his enthusiasm for teaching in a 2008 interview with the *Slovak Spectator*: "To my delight, somebody is willing me to pay me to encourage students' enthusiasm, to broaden their perspectives, to sharpen their abilities, and to call on their sense of responsibility."

Kevin Deegan-Krause, associate professor of political science, will promote informed, engaged citizenship in his course to Honors students.

## 2008 Honors graduates leave with highest honors

Again this year, both Howard A. Donnelly Award winners were Honors students. Howard A. Donnelly Award recipients are judged to have made outstanding contributions to the University in the areas of student activities, leadership and service. **Amarinder Singh** and **Tarak Trivedi** received the Donnelly Award at Commencement, held May 3 at WSU's Tom Adams Field.

Singh and Trivedi are both alumni of MedStart, Honors' 8-year BS/MD program that provides guaranteed admission to the School of Medicine.

**Amarinder Singh** is a journalism graduate who chose to approach her pre-medical preparation in a truly interdisciplinary fashion, completing all the courses required for admission to medical school, while at the same time pursuing a degree outside the sciences. Singh, who was

student coordinator of MedStart and HealthPro Start, volunteered at Scholars Day and was co-president of the Honors Student Association. She also contributed to Habitat for Humanity build days, presidential events for the Wayne First capital campaign and a program for HIV-positive students at Children's Hospital of Michigan. Away from Honors, Singh was a well-connected journalism student and took an active role in writing about palliative medicine in *CAPEWAYNE*. Blending her interests in journalism, public relations and medicine, she interned in the WSU School of Medicine public affairs office during the Fall 2006 semester. She is now a first-year student at WSU's School of Medicine.

It's not unusual to find **Tarak Trivedi** volunteering somewhere. Trivedi, a graduate of Detroit's Cass Technical High School, welcomed prospective students and their

families to Scholars Day and gave back to his hometown through the Detroit Fellows Tutoring Project. Through this service-learning endeavor, Trivedi was able to make a real difference in the lives of students at Detroit Jemison Academy. He also volunteered at Detroit Receiving Hospital, St. Patrick's Senior Center and Hannan House. His commitment to his community is unwavering. At the same time, while Trivedi was engaged with service – and connected to Detroit – he maintained a 4.0 GPA and gained acceptance at nine medical schools. Trivedi was on the Dean's List each semester, was the 2007 Princeton Review Detroit MCAT instructor of the year, and received Outstanding Student Recognition from the South End. He was also treasurer of WSU's chapter of Amnesty International. Trivedi is a first-year medical student at the University of Chicago.

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