

With HONORS

COMMUNITY ■ SERVICE ■ RESEARCH ■ CAREER

Welcome!

A year has passed since my last column, and I'm just as delighted as I was then to be here "with Honors," both in this publication, *With Honors*, and also in



Jerry Herron
Honors Director

Honors headquarters at the Undergraduate Library. As I write, there are students just outside my open door working in groups, and on solo projects, filling our always-vibrant home with life. Honors is a great place to be, bustling and busy, and as usual, there is plenty to report.

Our 2007 Scholars Days — the events where we selected our freshman class — were the most successful ever. Of the 992

students who visited us with their families, 70 percent chose to enroll at Wayne State University. This is particularly impressive given the quality of our applicants and the array of choices they have for their college destination. Since September, these students have been thriving on campus, in our Honors 1000 first-year seminars, and in our Honors Learning Community. Of course, scholarships continue to be an important means for attracting the best of Michigan's future leaders. At Scholars Day, each student receives — at a minimum — a Wayne State Scholarship worth \$1,500 a year for four years. Many of these students also benefit from the generosity of donors, whose gifts are essential to our recruiting efforts. Honors held its first major donor recognition program on Nov. 5, when we welcomed several dozen friends to share an evening in St. Andrew's Hall, the future home of Honors at Wayne State University.

The Office of Undergraduate Research, housed within Honors, continues to be a model for enhancing student academic success with rich funding and programming opportunities to promote faculty-student engagement. The fourth annual Undergraduate Research Conference, held Nov. 16, showcased projects from more than 100 students on topics in the life sciences, social sciences, humanities, and creative arts. This year we welcomed members of the WSU Academy of Scholars who served as judges of student panels and poster presentations. These distinguished faculty members made the day even more meaningful for our students. We continue to support student participation in off-campus conferences as well, including the Michigan Undergraduate Research Forum and the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research. Students may also apply for funding to attend other discipline-specific meetings and symposia.

Students who are "with Honors" never need to worry about where to find meaningful opportunities for academic and personal success. We've got a lot going on, as I said, and we always need your help. You can learn more about Honors on our Web site, honors.wayne.edu. If you have questions or would like to get more involved "with Honors," please give us a call at (313) 577-3030.

Best,

Jerry Herron
Director

With Honors
Editors

Carol Baldwin
Adam Herman

Grant will fund expansion of community-based education program

by Carol Baldwin

A \$500,000 grant from the McGregor Fund will help Honors develop CommunityEngagement@Wayne, reaching more students and expanding services into more Detroit-area nonprofits. It is the largest grant Honors has received.

CommunityEngagement@Wayne is a clearinghouse for information about service-learning opportunities at Wayne State University. Service-learning links academic content with real-world projects, allowing students to apply theoretical knowledge and get hands-on experience while providing beneficial services to the community. The academic component sets service-learning apart from volunteering.

Faculty member Elizabeth Barton, who holds a doctorate in psychology, oversees the project and is enthusiastic about what can be accomplished.

"We have a couple of things to do at once," she explains. "We have a responsibility for developing 10 community sites and we'll have project coordinators at each one. Five sites have been identified: Latino Family Services, Communities in Schools, Michigan Roundtable for Diversity & Inclusion, ProLiteracy Detroit and the Hannan Foundation. At the same time we must develop faculty interest in teaching service-learning courses."

Barton expects 150 to 200 students to participate
continued on page 7

President Irvin D. Reid joins ranks of David Mackenzie Honor Society

by Carol Baldwin

President Irvin D. Reid was inducted last year as an honorary member of the David Mackenzie Honor Society (DMHS). The president's name was added to an illustrious list of honorary inductees that includes journalism legend Helen Thomas, human rights activist Millie Jeffrey and weathercaster Sonny Elliot.

Sixteen graduating seniors also were inducted in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements and contributions to the Wayne State community.

The society — one of the most prestigious groups at WSU — is named for David Mackenzie, the first dean of what is now the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The society was founded in 1981 through a merger of Karyatides, the former women's honor society founded in 1931, and the Mackenzie Honor Society, organized in 1926. DMHS functions under the auspices of Honors.

"President Reid was selected for his leadership; his prominent role in the creation of TechTown with its focus on community involvement; and of course, his advocacy and commitment to students and the campus community through support of the

residence halls, global education initiatives, and the Honors program, to name just a few things," says Liza Lagman Sperl, adviser for Honors and DMHS.

This year's student inductees include **Alexandra Cervenak** (English and history with University Honors); **Meghan Curavo** (classics, Greek and Latin); **Clarence Dass** (history with University Honors); **Markeysha Davis** (journalism and Africana studies); **Renee Florence** (nursing with University Honors); **Rebecca Grace** (economics with University Honors and Spanish minor); **Brandy Johnson** (marketing with minors in psychology and women's studies); **Bethany Mesko** (accounting with psychology minor); **Meghan Misiak** (education with University Honors); **Noah Morgan** (English); **Ira Mulo** (biological science Honors with Spanish minor); **Mark Nasr** (civil engineering); **Priscilla Phifer** (interdisciplinary studies with nonprofit sector studies minor); **David Robillard** (interdisciplinary studies with business administration minor); **Morgan Thompson** (biological science Honors with University Honors and chemistry minor); and **David Topolewski** (University Honors).



President Irvin D. Reid was inducted into the David Mackenzie Honor Society. Joining him are student inductees Noah Morgan (back, left), Meghan Misiak, David Topolewski, David Robillard, Mark Nasr, Alexandra Cervenak and Clarence Dass. In the front row are Priscilla Phifer (left), Bethany Mesko, Rebecca Grace, Ira Mulo, President Reid, Meghan Curavo, Renee Florence, Markeysha Davis and Brandy Johnson.

Student learning experiences enhanced by undergraduate research

by Carol Baldwin

More than 110 students exhibited their work during the fourth annual Undergraduate Research Conference held November 16 on the Wayne State University campus. The conference is sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Honors, where OUR is housed.

OUR is coordinated by Kevin Rashid, who took over in March 2004 and says it's exciting to create new avenues of learning.

"The report by the Boyer Commission on Educating Undergraduates in the Research University talked about how to reinvent higher learning," he says. "The way we learn has to change, and we have to get learning out of the classroom. A lot of the really cool experiences as an undergraduate, if you think back to when you were in school, involved things that happened outside the classroom.

"Research used to be an elitist system that was held out for the graduate student only, but we're focusing on the undergraduate now and the challenge is finding a standard definition of 'research.' We're stretching to include community service and creative work because the boundaries are changing."

Undergrads can apply for research grants valued at up to \$2,300 for themselves and \$750 for their faculty mentor. The program is open to all undergraduates in good standing, and grants are available in spring-summer and winter. OUR models best practices from other successful programs and Rashid recruits academics to review and judge the grant applications, which has helped swell interest in undergrad research.

"When you're using other people's money you better spend wisely and not just pick and choose certain projects," Rashid says. "We are not aligned with any one department, and we work to promote the fact we don't play favorites. Initially the judges were recruited with cold calls to people we knew who were working on projects and who had a history of helping students. Now we have a pool of former mentors to call upon as judges because they know the program. We use our judges for quality control because they are astute about asking questions."

Projects are sorted by discipline: science, social science, biology, medical-related and chemistry/engineering. The proposals are given to multiple judges in each area and scored on a specific set of criteria. Students who do not receive grants

undergraduate RESEARCH and creative projects

can review a summary of the judges' comments to improve future applications.

"Universities need to break down barriers between departments," Rashid says.

"Knowledge should not be compartmentalized. I think it's important to promote creative work too and to embrace it more fully because certainly, if you're a creative person, you've done a lot of research to get to the point of creating. You don't create in isolation."

The conference was a solid mix of both scientific and creative endeavors. Presentations included Ethiopian Music and Culture; Detroit Sound: Original Compositions Reflecting Detroit's Jazz Heritage; Cass Corridor Style and Queer Culture During the 1970s; Early Detection: Imaging Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma Cells; Effects of Cortisol and Ethanol on Disease

Susceptibility in Zebra Fish; and Long-term Secretion of a Growth Factor to Induce Nerve Regeneration.

"We really need to send the program in directions it hasn't gone yet," Rashid says. "We'd like more partners in Romance languages and math, for example. We want to push the boundaries of research and promote non-traditional learning and connect knowledge

with other external research. Our community-based projects are particularly interdisciplinary, which is an important avenue because the students involved bring skills in urban planning, the arts and economics."

One of the most successful community-based projects is The Free Store, which was created by Lauren Henrikson at the end of her freshman year from an idea that came to fruition in Honors 2000. The Free Store provides people with necessities including clothing, food and household items while engaging and encouraging them to become involved with their community. Henrikson created Free Detroit, a grassroots nonprofit that oversees Free Store events, in 2005, and is completing paperwork to turn the charity-based Free Detroit into a government-recognized, cooperative-based 501(c)(3) organization.

Striving to expand the program and involve more students, Rashid has improved the undergraduate research Web site; it now includes students' abstracts, PowerPoint presentations and narratives about their research experiences. He hopes to soon have an interactive tool that students can use to search a database of researchers and their projects.



Denise Bronner enthusiastically describes her research on aseptic loosening and joint replacement.

Rick Bielazyc

Mentoring is a key benefit of research at the undergrad level. "We do understand that these projects solidify relationships with mentors, and we know students are getting advice and support with mentors that goes way beyond what they did in the project," Rashid says. "For example, one of our former researchers, Amir Husak, received a Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship – valued at \$300,000 – to New School University, and I know that the work he did with his mentor, Joel Silvers, and the letters of recommendation he got helped with that.

"Students who participate in undergrad research are translating their knowledge at a whole different skill level, and that's one of the main reasons they benefit from this program."

To learn more about OUR, check out undergradresearch.wayne.edu.

Michigan Undergraduate Research Forum

Wayne State University is one of the founding partners in the Michigan Undergraduate Research Forum (MURF), a venue for student researchers from WSU, Michigan State University and the three campuses of the University of Michigan, to showcase their work for legislators at the state Capitol.

MURF is held each March in Lansing, and 10 WSU undergraduate researchers are selected to participate and present posters detailing their projects.

MURF is a wonderful opportunity for students to gain presentation experience, network with researchers in their field, strengthen communication skills, meet state lawmakers and be ambassadors for Wayne State. The Office of Undergraduate Research provides transportation to Lansing.

National Conferences on Undergraduate Research

Each year, numerous students from Wayne State are accepted to present their work at the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research, one of the best and most competitive venues for student researchers.

The conference draws applicants from universities nationwide. Last year's conference at Dominican University of California featured the work of 27 Warriors. The 2008 conference will be held at Salisbury University in Maryland. OUR provides funds for travel to support students who are accepted as presenters.

Academy of Scholars judges student projects

by Adam Herman

Eleven members of the Wayne State University Academy of Scholars served as judges for the student projects presented at the 2007 Undergraduate Research Conference: **Joyce Benjamins** (School of Medicine), **Robert Frank** (School of Medicine), **Gloria Heppner** (Assoc. VP for Research), **Anjaneyulu Kowluru** (Pharmacy and Health Science), **C.P. Lee** (School of Medicine), **Jeanne Lusher** (School of Medicine), **Arthur Marotti** (English), **Robert Sedler** (Law School), **Seetha Shankaran** (School of Medicine), **Robert Sokol** (School of Medicine) and **Serge Vinogradov** (School of Medicine).

The Academy of Scholars was founded in 1979 to promote and recognize sustained excellence in scholarship and creative achievement. The academy provides support to promising young scholars and periodically hosts special programming for the campus community.

Election to the Academy of Scholars is the highest recognition that may be bestowed upon a Wayne State University faculty member by his or her colleagues. Membership in the academy is for life.

At the Undergraduate Research Conference awards luncheon, members of the Academy of Scholars presented the highest quality student projects with \$250 gift certificates to Barnes & Noble.

Congratulations to the 2007 award recipients:



Student researcher Amy Calmes shares her work with Distinguished Professor of Law Robert Sedler.

Rick Bielazyc

Oral Presentations

Elena Barbulescu, *The Effects of Type I Metabotropic Glutamate Receptors on the Expression of the Fragile X Mental Retardation 1 Gene.*

MaryBeth Ketko, *Binding Energetics of Dimethyl Ether and Sulfur Dioxide Using Both AB Initio and Molecular Simulation Methods*

Sarah Kubik, *Recycle Detroit: Building Sustainable Communities*

Violeta Donawa, *Exploring the Afro-Latino Presence: The Afro-Panamanian Experience in Michigan*

Ellizar Abalos, *Ethiopian Music and Culture: Rich Musical Culture Studied in a Practical Manner*

Making nationwide academic team is latest in string of honors for Morgan Thompson

by Carol Baldwin

While members of the campus community have known for years that Honors student Morgan Thompson was a star, the rest of the country took notice this spring when she was the only Michigan student named to the USA Today 2007 All-USA College Academic Team.

It's not the first time Thompson was in the news. She co-authored genetic research on cellular mechanisms leading to Barth syndrome, a severe genetic disorder, and was published in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. She worked in the lab of Miriam Greenberg, professor of biology and associate dean for research for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, where she used genetic and biochemical techniques to address the function of phospholipids (the molecules comprising biological membranes).

A 2006 Goldwater Scholar with University Honors and Honors in biology, Thompson majored in biological sciences and graduated in May. She now attends the Biological and Biomedical Sciences doctoral program at Harvard Medical School and is studying cellular, molecular and developmental biology.

"After graduate school I plan to remain in academics as a professor and director of my own research lab," Thompson says. "I would like to work at a major research institution that will accommodate my varied interests and allow me to use interdisciplinary approaches to answer scientific questions. I like basic science, and I'm interested in understanding how a cell actually works.

"A main motivation for my work is curiosity, but one of the rewarding parts of conducting fundamental research is uncovering applications that might potentially benefit someone else."

The daughter of artists, Thompson's parents instilled in her a love of the outdoors. While in middle school she toyed with the idea of becoming a naturalist, but by high school she was hooked on biology. She's no lab rat, however; when she's not conducting experiments, Thompson tackles creative pursuits like jewelry-making, gardening, cooking, dancing, and origami. She was a devoted member of the Honors-sponsored Detroit Fellows Tutoring Project, tutoring children at Sampson Elementary School three to four hours a week. She edited lab grant proposals, manuscripts and dissertations and helped international graduate students with their English writing and grammar skills.

"I see science as creative," she says. "The public sees a linear progression of the work, but what you see when you're in the lab are the disproved hypotheses and unexpected results that just pop up and generate new directions for your work. The idea of deciding what you're going to investigate, generating data, and coming up with a novel idea based on that data is ultimately a creative process. Only after that do you get down to following protocols in lab. You never know what you'll find.

"I'm very interested in trying to improve communication between the public and science. Even within the scientific community there can be difficulty explaining your research. If you can't communicate your science you can't put it into effect, so it is absolutely essential to not only generate the results, but also relay the knowledge to a wide-range of audiences.

"Science, I think, is sometimes set apart from other fields as a lofty, incomprehensible thing, but it isn't, it's just another human endeavor. The public could benefit from better scientific communication, and science could benefit from more public input. I hesitate to do science policy, because I don't like politics, but I see education as a way to improve the dialog."

Thompson excels at communication, but research is her focus. While maintaining a 3.89 grade-point average she received three WSU Undergraduate Research Grants; presented at the university's Undergraduate Research Conference three times; presented at the 2005 National Conference for Undergraduate Research; and presented at the 2006 Leadership Alliance National Symposium.

"Undergraduate research and having strong mentorship through the process



Mary Jane Murawka

Student researcher Morgan Thompson is plating yeast cells that will be stored at 4 degrees C for about a month. The maintenance work must be done every few weeks. The microscope is an Olympus BX41 epifluorescence model, which is used daily for everything from routine applications like counting cultured cells to fluorescence detection of fluorescently stained or labeled cells. "Microscopy work is another area where a little bit of artistry and aesthetics enter into science," Thompson says. "It's no accident that both science and nature journals have periodic sections on art."

has been really important to me," she says. "I've been incredibly fortunate to have Dr. Greenberg and [graduate student] Vishal Gohil, and a summer internship at Harvard. Students should really seek out good mentors and go after what they want without being deterred by anything."

Greenberg says Thompson was an asset to her lab.

"Morgan showed up on my doorstep and said she was interested in working in the lab, and I was glad because she said she was interested in research," Greenberg says. "We always have projects waiting for hands to come along, so I said OK and I assigned her to work with Vishal.

"They worked on a project that basically was Vishal's hypothesis he wanted to test. What they did together was the first stage of the project, and Morgan decided to continue it. She's well on her way to the second part of her project, which is very exciting. She's the only undergraduate I've had at this high a level.

"She excels in everything she does," Greenberg explains. "Not only is she an excellent scientist, she's an excellent flutist and a wonderful baker – she makes these great desserts for parties. She does volunteer work – she does everything in such a non-boastful way, just quiet and kind and unassuming. She just doesn't toot her own horn.

"Everybody likes her, respects her and has fun with her, in addition to people respecting her as a scientist. It's just been an all-around pleasure interacting with her. I'll miss her, she's very special."

Poster Presentations

Charles Alokwu, *The Effect of Sarbanes-Oxley Act on Foreign Companies Listed in NYSE.*

Mark Shamoun, *Targeting peptides with iron-based oxidants*

Dawn Gibson, *Hope for Kilimanjaro?*



Rick Bielaczyc

Music Professor Christopher Collins moderates the student panel on music trends.



Rick Bielaczyc

Students present posters at the 2007 Undergraduate Research Conference.

Student fundraiser brings in thousands of dollars to help needy pay utility bills

by Carol Baldwin



The term “chillin” took on a new meaning February 9 when 40 Honors students were among 160 Warriors who took part in Bail Out at the Ice House, an outdoor fund-raiser for THAW, The Heat and Warmth Fund. THAW provides emergency energy assistance to low-income families, individuals and seniors throughout Michigan who are in danger of losing essential heat or electricity.

Honors senior and film studies major **Aakash Gupta** brought in \$1,450, making him the top fund-raiser in the event.

Student coordinators **Nick Morelli** and **Brandy Johnson** put together the campus event, which took place for two very cold hours in the courtyard between Ghafari and South residence halls. Morelli, 21, is an Honors junior in the MedStart program. He plans to become an emergency room physician or trauma surgeon.

“2006 was the first year I did it, just raising money,” he says. “It was good, but we didn’t get the numbers we wanted and it was the coldest night of the winter. This year, I got an e-mail looking for someone to organize it. I responded, and so did my resident adviser, which was Brandy.

“I did legwork for setups and teardown and papered the dorms with fliers, and Brandy did a lot of the recruiting because she knows everybody. It was a lot better this time because we had a tent to block the wind and that alone was a major feat. We had a lot of hot chocolate and THAW gave us about 1,000 hand-warmers. I wore tight thermals, regular thermals, my clothes and a winter coat, but my toes got cold because I wore tennis shoes. My dad had offered to drop off boots for me but I said no. Bad call.”

The event was part of the WWJ Winter Survival Radiothon, which took place at several venues around town. It is held outside to simulate what people without heat feel during an arctic Michigan winter. Teams of fund-raisers armed with cell phones were urged to contact family and friends and ask them to call in to the radiothon and pledge in the name of a

particular fund-raising team. Morelli admits to a little random dialing after some fast-thinking students grabbed a phone book from inside the residence hall, but overall, the students were better prepared this year to bring in the cash. WSU students raised \$7,543, an increase over 2006’s total of \$5,703.

“Last year we told the students to call family and friends asking them to pledge on the radio and credit our team, but this year we asked for pre-pledges, and Aakash Gupta raised a ton on his own. He walked in the door with more money than any other team raised. He single-handedly beat everybody.”

THAW was able to serve at least 30 more vulnerable Michigan households thanks to the money raised by WSU students, according to CEO **Kathleen Walgren**. Nearly \$400,000 was raised overall for THAW, and all donations are matched dollar for dollar by DTE Energy.

A fun and motivating factor for the first- and second-place fund-raisers was a grand prize Morelli lined up: suite tickets and limousine transportation to a Detroit Pistons game. Morelli decided to contact **Tom Wilson**, president of Palace Sports and Entertainment, and ask if the Palace would donate a few Pistons tickets. Instead, Wayne State alumnus Wilson donated the suite and a dozen tickets.

“I felt awkward asking and I didn’t want to make that phone call, but it really paid off and I’m really grateful,” Morelli said. “Within a week Mr. Wilson had put the suite tickets in the mail.”

Limousine transportation was provided by Entertainment Express of Dearborn Heights, courtesy of owner **Pat Mifsud**.

“The spirit of competition is great between the teams,” Morelli said. “We had a huge white board with columns listing the donations as they were coming in, so teams could see how they were doing compared to everybody else. I was getting updates about every 15 minutes and posting them on the board and you could see when a team would make a run for it.”

“This is a genuinely good program. I’m sure I’ll do it again.”

Scholarship donations ease financial burden for deserving students

Many talented young people dream of attending a university, but in this era of decreased state support for higher education, as well as rising tuition and other costs, not all have the financial resources to make their dream a reality. This is what gives student scholarships their importance, and what makes private gifts to the university so critical.

“The best time to give a scholarship is right now,” says Kathryn Rusak, director of development for Honors. “Our generous donors make it possible for bright young people to become successful doctors and teachers, lawyers and engineers, musicians and health care professionals.”

Attractive financial aid packages also can improve Wayne State’s ability to

compete for top students. Scholarships therefore not only help keep the university affordable for future generations of students; by attracting talented scholars, they also strengthen our academic community and the quality of the educational experience we provide.

As part of *Wayne First*, the university’s \$500 million capital campaign, plans include an expansion of the scholarship endowment with a goal of raising \$166 million to make sure talented students will be able to attend Wayne State regardless of financial need. Below is a list of scholarship funds from which Scholars Day students receive generous aid. To donate to any of these funds, to scholarships in general, or to create a new scholarship, please complete the form below and return it to WSU.

Honors Students Program Development Information — Honors Students General Scholarship Fund

Fund	Fund
Wayne State Scholars Fund	Burton and Suzy Farbman Scholarship for Honors Students
Ralph and Grace Ainsworth Endowed Scholarship	Margaret R. Humberger Endowed Scholarship
John and Linda Axe Scholarship for Honors Students	Lester Johns Endowment Fund
Howard Baker Foundation Urban Scholars/Leaders Scholarship	David Mackenzie Endowed Scholarship
Alex Barba Endowed Scholarship	Lionel Margolick Scholarship for Honors Students
Mandel L. and Madeleine H. Berman Foundation Annual Scholarship for Honors Students	Irving Nusbaum Scholarship for Honors Students
Guy J. and Nathan G. Blackburn Endowed Memorial Scholarship	Joseph Orley Scholarship for Honors Students
Lois Pincus Cohn Scholarship for Honors Students	RanKauf Foundation Scholarship for Honors Students
Danto Family Scholarship for Honors Students	Roberts Family Annual Scholarship
Marvin Danto Scholarship for Honors Students	Henry M. Seldon Endowed Scholarship
Bessie and Matel Dawson Endowed Memorial Scholarship	Louise Smith Annual Scholarship
Matell “Mat” Dawson, Jr. Endowed Scholarship	John L. & Helen Wagster Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Eben L. Dunn Endowed Scholarship	Mr. and Mrs. Ziegler Endowed Scholarship

I want to make a contribution to Wayne State University for the Honors Program

**Mail this form to: Office of Annual Giving
Wayne State University
441 Ferry Mall
Detroit, MI 48202**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Company _____

E-mail address _____

Phone _____

Payment Method:

Check (payable to Wayne State University)

VISA MasterCard

Card Number _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Matching Gifts

Your or your spouse’s employer may multiply your contribution through a matching gift program.

My company’s matching gift form is enclosed.

Gift Designation

I would like to make a general contribution to support the Honors Program.

I would like to designate my contribution to the Presidential Scholarships Fund (formerly Merit Scholarships).

I would like to designate my contribution to a specific fund(s). Please indicate fund name(s) from those listed above.

Amount	Fund Name
\$ _____	_____
\$ _____	_____
\$ _____	_____
\$ _____	_____
\$ _____	_____
\$ _____	_____

Honors students celebrated with top awards at commencement

by Carol Baldwin

Four Honors students were recognized during commencement as having made the most outstanding contributions to the university in the areas of student activities, leadership and service while maintaining high standards of scholarship during their undergraduate careers.

The David D. Henry Award, presented to two students from the winter class, was established in 1948 to honor the third university president. The Howard A. Donnelly Award was established in 1927 through a grant provided by Mr. Donnelly, a friend of the university. It is presented to two students from the spring class. They are the most prestigious awards an undergraduate can receive from Wayne State. Winners are selected by a committee comprised of academic representatives from each undergraduate college and school at WSU.

The students – Meghan Misiak, David Topolewski, Clarence Dass and Rebecca Grace – were special guests at a private breakfast hosted by President Irvin D. Reid prior to the graduation ceremony at Tom Adams Field. During breakfast the students had the opportunity to address the deans, vice presidents and other guests. Although each student thanked faculty and staff who had mentored them during their college years, all credited their parents with being their biggest supporters and the most influential people in their lives.

Henry Award

Meghan Misiak received a bachelor's in elementary education with a specialization in language arts graduating with University Honors. A four-year member of the softball team, she was named to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-America Academic Team. She was named Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Freshman of the Year; All-GLIAC First Team, Second Team and Honorable Mention pitcher; and Great Lakes Region Most Outstanding Player. Misiak also received the NCAA Degree Completion Award and the College of Education Dean's Award. She was a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) at WSU and held officer positions for two years. She organized fund-raisers for the Division II SAAC initiative with the Make-a-Wish Foundation and volunteered with the St. Aloysius soup kitchen, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Adopt-a-Family. She is active in Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan, and Toys for Tots, which provides gifts for needy families during the holiday season. A substitute teacher, Misiak is certified to teach elementary through eighth grade in all subjects. She is the varsity softball coach at Livonia Churchill High School.

David Topolewski, University Honors graduate, received a bachelor's in business administration with a major in accounting. He founded the Honors Student Association (HSA) and was president for three years; he also was the student representative on the WSU Honors Council. Through HSA, Topolewski was active in numerous Habitat for Humanity builds, as well as area clean-ups



Student awardees David Topolewski (left), Meghan Misiak, Rebecca Grace and Clarence Dass.

Mary Jane Murawka

and volunteer opportunities at soup kitchens. A gifted speaker, Topolewski made presentations at multiple university events including the Faculty/Staff Campaign kickoff breakfast and the Anthony Wayne Society black-tie gala, during which he told the university's most generous donors about the positive effects their gifts have on scholarship students. Topolewski was the Honors resident assistant in Ghafari Hall; an Honors Program peer adviser; and a member of Phi Beta Delta, a national honor society recognizing scholarly achievement in international education. He was the 2006 School of Business Administration Student of the Year. Topolewski has a graduate professional scholarship to the WSU School of Business Administration and is pursuing his MBA while working part-time at Deloitte.

Donnelly Awards

Rebecca Grace graduated with a bachelor's in economics and University Honors and minor in Spanish. Grace is immediate past president of the Honors Student Association (HSA), of which she previously was vice president, event coordinator and a general member; through HSA she helped organize a holiday food drive for the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries. She has been a student representative on the Honors Council and is the student coordinator of B Start, a unique five-year MBA collaborative effort between the Honors Program and the School of Business Administration. Grace recruited, coordinated and trained more than 160 WSU student volunteers who guided prospective freshmen during the university's fourth annual Scholars Day recruitment activities. She was secretary of the university's chapter of Habitat for Humanity and has taken part in several building projects. Grace also has volunteered at fund-raisers for the Wayne State University Press and was an Honors Program peer adviser. She is pursuing a doctorate in economics at WSU and is a graduate teaching assistant.

Clarence Dass graduated with a bachelor's in history and University Honors. Dass participated in the Eighth International Youth Leadership Conference in Prague, Czech Republic, as a certified junior ambassador; he co-founded the WSU Model United Nations (MUN) program, of which he was secretary-general. Through his involvement with MUN, he trained high school and college students in cross-cultural communications and conflict resolution; participated in The Hague International Model United Nations; and represented WSU at the national MUN competition in New York City. Dass organized a group of 15 university students to serve as tutors for Detroit Public School students at YouthVille Detroit, a local community center, and has been honored by Young People For, a division of People for the American Way. In 2005 he received the university's Emerging Leader Award. Dass was a member of the Student Code of Conduct judiciary hearing committee and has received a WSU Undergraduate Research Grant. In February he won the top individual award at the Michigan Interscholastic Speech League competition. He is attending law school at Ohio State University with a full scholarship.

“Start” programs provide fast track and professional opportunities for top students

by Adam Herman

Honors supports four Start programs that provide incoming freshmen with opportunities for mentoring, reflection and involvement in cohorts with highly motivated peers. MedStart, HealthPro Start, Engineering GradStart and B Start students are involved with professional school faculty from the day they arrive on campus. These students also participate in special monthly seminars and journaling activities in addition to shadowing and mentoring opportunities.

“Our Start programs provide future doctors, health professionals, engineers and business leaders with the tools they need to think critically from the minute they arrive on campus,” says **Nancy Galster**, Honors special initiatives and Start programs coordinator. “These students are sure of their career path and we connect them with an array of hands-on learning experiences along with top-notch professional mentoring and networking opportunities.”

MedStart

MedStart is a unique bachelor of science/medical degree program that provides a four-year, full-tuition Presidential Scholarship and guarantees admission to Wayne State's School of Medicine for up to 15 selected freshmen per year. Students must complete all prerequisites for medical school including the MCAT.

Highly competitive, this program trains medical innovators and creative thinkers. MedStart nurtures future leaders in medicine by treating MedStart

members as part of the medical community.

“Students can choose chemistry, English, journalism or any of more than 100 majors,” adds Galster. “This presents members of the cohort with real opportunities to leverage any academic field with excellent pre-medical preparation.”

HealthPro Start

HealthPro Start is a unique bachelor of science program leading to a professional degree in one of nine areas: Pharmacy; Clinical Laboratory Sciences; Physical Therapy; Mortuary Science; Occupational Therapy; Anatomic Pathologists' Assistant; Physician Assistant Studies; Radiation Therapy Technology; Radiologic Technology and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Acceptance to HealthPro Start guarantees admission to the student's program of choice within the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Engineering GradStart

GradStart is a unique program in the College of Engineering for select incoming freshmen who are interested in pursuing a doctoral degree. Students are exposed to research throughout the undergraduate program, allowing them to gain first-hand experience and a head start on selecting laboratories for Honors theses and dissertation projects.

GradStart participants are guaranteed admission to the College of Engineering Graduate Program of their choice, with financial support from the department

for the first year of graduate study.

B Start

B Start trains tomorrow's business leaders an innovative five-year program

that guarantees admission to the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program in the Wayne State University School of Business Administration. This program provides unparalleled access to career mentoring and networking opportunities, business school faculty and real-world experiences. Students graduate after five years with both bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration.

“B Start has helped me develop into a leader by encouraging me to take advantage of significant opportunities both on campus and in the greater community,” writes B Start student Veronica Topolewski of Lake Orion.

“Through meeting successful entrepreneurs at Detroit Economic Club luncheons, volunteering with movers and shakers of Detroit or simply contributing to the meaningful discussions the group has each month at its meetings, I have learned a great deal about how I can impact the business community.”

For more information on these Start programs, visit honors.wayne.edu or contact Nancy Galster at (313) 577-8523.



MedStart students Regina Ittoop (left), Sharon Im and Harinderpal Singh prepare for a group presentation.

Nancy Galster

Honors holds first major donor recognition dinner

by Adam Herman

It was a night of celebration and recognition in St. Andrew's Hall.

On November 5, 2007, Honors connected scholarship donors with the talented student beneficiaries of their generosity. President **Irvin D. Reid**, Board of Governors Chair **Eugene Driker** and Honors Director **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 two students who shared their Honors stories.

"Because of the Honors Program, I was able to grow as a person and meet every goal that I set for myself," said **Clarissa Dass**, an Honors student and president of the American Medical Students Association's WSU pre-medical chapter. "I wouldn't be who I am today if it wasn't for your generous donations to the Honors Program."

Tony Jaworski, a member of Honors HealthPro Start freshman class, is a first-generation American who comes from a family of Polish doctors and health professionals. Jaworski observed that he

is "sure about my career path and ... pursuing a career in hospital pharmacy."

Through HealthPro Start, Jaworski and his classmates are guaranteed admission to any of nine professional programs at the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. They also attend special professional seminars, participate in hands-on experiences at the Detroit Medical Center and complete reflective journaling assignments. Still, Jaworski made it clear that it is only, "thanks to your donations that I can attend such a prestigious university and pursue such a competitive program."

Honors supports talented students such as Tony and Clarissa through scholarships, many of which are awarded through annual Scholars Day programs, WSU's premier scholarship competition. 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, at **(313) 577-9933**.



Board of Governors Chair Eugene Driker (left), Mandell Berman, President Irvin D. Reid, and Honors Director Jerry Herron celebrate scholarship donors and recipients in St. Andrew's Hall.



President Irvid D. Reid (left), Lois Pincus Cohn and Erin Van Daele share a moment together. Van Daele is the recipient of the Lois Pincus Cohn Scholarship for Honors Students.

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The Wayne State University Honors Program would like to thank the following donors for their generous support of our students and programs. This list includes donations made to Honors from October 1, 2006, through December 12, 2007.

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Every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Please contact **Kathryn Rusak** at **(313) 577-9933** with questions about this Donor Honor Roll or to make your donation.

Students travel to China as part of Wang Foundation initiative to alleviate poverty

In partnership with the Wang Foundation and Tsinghua University, Honors helped facilitate a four-week study abroad trip to China that focused on improving English and basic computer literacy for residents of 100 of the poorest counties in the country. Teams of Tsinghua and American students participated in this service-learning project. Wayne State University students enrolled in two Chinese courses, including CHI 1005 (Intro to Chinese Language and Culture) and a directed study, which provided 6 credits toward their graduation requirements.

The WSU contingent traveled to Tsinghua University in Beijing for a one-week orientation during which 200 American students from 25 universities partnered with over 800 Tsinghua University participants. At orientation, students were split into groups of 10, and in these small groups traveled to locations throughout China's countryside.

The groups worked with Chinese citizens to improve basic English and computer literacy skills. Students returned to Beijing for the final week to share their unique experiences and connect with the other participants. The Wang Foundation, founded by WSU alumnus Peter Wang to alleviate poverty in China through education, covered the cost of all in-country expenses.

What did our Honors students say?

"I always wanted to study abroad, but most study abroad programs at universities are one and a half weeks and more centered around sight-seeing. This trip was ideal for me because it was longer and allowed me to put myself in the middle of their culture and actually see what it was like through actually experiencing it." – *Amarinder Singh*



Honors students Clare Tyler (left), Amarinder Singh and Vani Pinnamaneni pause for a moment outside the Forbidden City.

"[The trip was] rewarding on two levels: it rewards the people you are helping, [and is] personally rewarding ... [because] you get to help others and experience a different culture." – *Jeremy Fong*

Honors sophomore Alexander Marinica, of Canton, reflects on his experience in China.

The airplane gave a stiff shudder as the engines hummed to life. This is it. From the time the plane lifted off, until the seat belt sign was cleared, I felt panicked, uneasy, unsure. I wondered what I'd gotten myself into. I was flying to China, to teach English. Not much time passed until we were served the evening meal, and I ate it quickly, so quickly in fact that I failed to notice the undercooked meat in my dish. This was a big mistake, which I regretted for the next 15 hours. My stomach felt like it was turned inside out and there was nothing I could do to make it better. There was an upside: the pain in my stomach helped me forget all about my nervousness.

When the plane touched down in China, my stomach finally decided it would stop doing cartwheels. All 24 of us, with our Wayne State pride, had arrived in China.

As we made our way to the Tsinghua University, one of the finest universities in Beijing, my peers enthusiastically shared their excitement about participating in the summer service learning program in rural China.

The first day started out with breakfast, including a wonderful diverse buffet. After breakfast we took tours



Alexander Marinica shows off his WSU pride in Pingtang.

of the campus, and met our Chinese teammates. These students were among China's brightest students, and all were studying at Tsinghua.

Throughout the next week, our days were filled with classes on teaching English, drafting lesson plans, and engaging a new culture. We climbed the Great Wall, where I was lucky enough to trip, fall and roll down a couple of the stairs. We visited Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and the Summer Palace.

"I really didn't understand why one emperor built a whole city for himself but I'm glad he did because the palaces were gorgeous," said Amarinder Singh, an Honors senior enrolled in MedStart and majoring in journalism.

After an amazing week in Beijing, it was time to board a train and travel 30 hours, which seems a lot longer when you have to sit and cannot understand the people around you.

When I finally got to my city, I was treated like a diplomat. There was a special dinner prepared in my honor, I was toasted at the table, and the local teacher eating with us thanked our group again and again for coming to teach English.

During the next two weeks I taught classes to elementary, middle and high school students. I explained different parts



Alexander Marinica says goodbye to students in rural China.

of the language, discussed culture in the U.S. and even sang songs in English and Chinese. Residents of the city asked for my autography, shook my hand, and smiled at me. Humbled, I realized that I was making a difference. We were making a difference through our work, through our presence.

Finally, after three life-changing weeks it was time to board a plane headed back to the U.S. and say goodbye to an amazing experience.

Marinica's narrative is excerpted from an article which appeared in The South End, in October 2007. The South End is Wayne State University's official student newspaper.

Grant will fund expansion of community-based education program

continued from page 1

at these sites in a variety of programs. For instance, Latino Family Services (LFS) will be a tutoring site where WSU students work with Spanish-speaking youth to improve reading skills. There also will be focus groups so clients can master new learning strategies and improve their children's learning patterns and their own parenting skills.

Laura Vela-Wolan, director of prevention programs for LFS, says the partnership benefits both community organizations and the university.

"The mission of Latino Family Services is to provide comprehensive human services to people in a culturally competent manner," Vela-Wolan says. "We're able to accomplish what we do through partnerships with groups such as Wayne State, which provide us with a resource that most nonprofits wouldn't have access to.

"The tutors provide mentorship and a greater emphasis on education as a foundation for our youth, inspiring them to go on to college or a university, but we can help the tutors too. I have seen where we can educate students about our culture and our differences, and many times I've found that their perspective on our community changes, and sometimes I've seen career choices change from working in our community."

Service-learning students earn academic credits each term, depending on how many hours they work weekly. Sophomore status is preferred so students have one year of traditional academic preparation and exposure to service learning ideals before heading to a site. Students must pass background checks and follow a syllabus created by the faculty member responsible for each organization. Barton has five faculty members lined up for fall and admits that it's sometimes a challenge to recruit professors to the project.

"Our greatest challenge will be interesting faculty members in service-

learning," she says, "We're going to make creating and implementing service-learning courses as easy as possible. This year we provided grant funding for faculty members to create courses; provided a professional development opportunity through the Office for Teaching and Learning; and are building a resource center for faculty. Teaching service-learning courses is often not rewarded by traditional professional review and promotion standards. For many instructors, service and a commitment to Detroit are intrinsic."

CommunityEngagement@Wayne information resources are available to the campus community, but the McGregor grant will be used to support Honors students who will pilot programs that can later be rolled out to the university population. The grant will be paid over two years, with McGregor providing \$310,000 this year and \$190,000 in 2008. The McGregor Fund is a private foundation that awards grants to organizations in the areas of human services, education, health care, arts and culture, and public benefit. It was established in 1925 by gifts from Katherine and Tracy McGregor.

The gift will be used immediately to develop a resource library and to support the community sites. Funding also will cover undergraduate research assistants and a marketing expert to promote the center. Stipends will be available for faculty who develop curricula, and a speakers bureau will be created.

It's a massive undertaking but Barton is excited about the possibilities.

"I'm interested in trying to recruit and retain students from different demographics for Honors, and I want to retain talent after graduation for southeast Michigan," she says. "I think students who learn theory through practice are assets to the community and to our state. The project is certain to provide academic benefits to students, research opportunities for faculty, and community organizations may benefit greatly from the talent and expertise offered by WSU."

In brief

Honors student **Nicholas Bashour** participated in Gov. Jennifer Granholm's town hall meeting at the WXYZ Channel 7 studio. Bashour asked Granholm what her plans were for providing funds to meet the needs of Michigan's public research universities. Granholm emphasized the need to increase the number of people in Michigan who complete their college education in order to better equip them to participate in a more technological work force...

Ty Stevenson, English Honors '03, starred as "Gaston" in the Thumb Area Center for the Arts spring production of *Beauty and the Beast*. When not rehearsing, Stevenson teaches English and is the assistant varsity basketball coach at Caro High School in Caro, Mich...Wayne State University was the recipient of several national honors in the 22nd Annual Admissions Advertising Awards sponsored by Admissions Marketing Report. The **Honors Program** recruitment packet received a merit award. The award field included schools with 20,000 or more students throughout the nation...Honors students **Clarence Dass, Sean Bhalla, Kendall Calkins, Pridvi Kandagatla** and **Rami Zein** comprised the university's first Model United Nations (MUN) team to participate in the National Model United Nations Conference in New York City. It is the world's largest university-level simulation of the United Nations. Their delegation represented Cote d'Ivoire, with members



Ty Stevenson '03 as Gaston in a production of *Beauty and the Beast*.

serving on individual committees and drafting resolutions. The Honors-sponsored MUN team was recognized as one of the 50 best delegations at the event out of more than 270 national and international universities participating, and received an Honorable Mention Award for its efforts...Honors staffers **Carol Baldwin, Nancy Galster, Adam Herman** and **Liza Lagman Sperl** helped 1,203 hungry students feed their brains during Late Night Breakfast. Sponsored by the Dean of Students Office, the all-you-can-eat Late Night Breakfast takes place from 9 p.m. to midnight in The Towers cafe. Students who flash their OneCard and fork over \$2 can munch on scrambled eggs, link sausage, bacon, French toast sticks, hash browns, bagels, doughnuts and muffins, to keep themselves fortified for the long week of finals preparation...13 alumni, staff and Scholars Day volunteers converged on the Honors office to contact Scholars Day students who received scholarship offers but had not yet returned their contracts. Friendly reminders on the deadline were provided by **MaryAnn Tyler Allen, Janet Andrews, Therese Boldt, Anne Cottongim, Mary Lloyd, Gladys Maxwell, Howard Normile, John Philips, Roland Samaroo, Helen Suchara, David Topolewski, Marie Tront** and **Deric Williams II**. They called 339 students...**Andrew Maggetti**, an Honors English major, was selected to study conservation in the United States and Brazil through an environmental leadership program developed by Nissan North America and the World Wildlife Fund. Maggetti received a \$5,000 prize and the option to participate in an environmental leadership summit in either Washington, D.C., or Nashville, Tenn., and a research expedition in Brazil...The Michigan Campus Compact presented Heart and Soul Awards to several Honors students for their time, effort and personal commitment to community service. Honorees include **Brittany Betham, Amy-Jo Hollister, Sharon Im,**

Sheena Joychan, Anisa Malaj, Julie Schechter and **Julia Ann Tune. Suzan Hadwan** received the Commitment to Service Award, which is given to one student per campus in Michigan to recognize breadth and/or depth of community service... Honors students **David Hermiz, Pridvi Kandagatla, Stephanie Karmo** and **Vani Pinnamaneni** presented "Second-Generation Ethnic College Students: Comparisons between Chaldean and Asian-Indian Populations" at the Michigan College Personnel Association conference held Oct. 21-23 in Mt. Pleasant. They have been invited to present this research, which was conducted under the guidance of faculty member **John Brender**, of Romance Languages and Literature, at the national conference of the American College Personnel Association, to be held March 29 - April 2, 2008 in Atlanta. The students also presented this work at the WSU Undergraduate Research Conference... Honors partnered with Undergraduate Admissions and **Linda Robertson** of WSU's Wayne County Extension Center to welcome more than 70 dual enrollment students from Renaissance High School. These students, who are enrolled in WSU classes at Renaissance, took a campus tour and attended classes in sociology, computer science and engineering. Honors Director **Jerry Herron** hosted these students for lunch in the Student Center. Honors students **Kathryn Morbitzer** and **Rasika Chopuri** offered remarks about their experiences in Honors. Morbitzer is enrolled in HealthPro Start, and Chopuri is enrolled in MedStart. - *Carol Baldwin and Adam Herman contributed to this report.*



Rami Zein (left), Sean Bhalla, Pridvi Kandagatla, Clarence Dass and Kendall Calkins attended the Model United Nations convention.

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