



Bemidji State University Honors Program

Newsletter

Spring 2017

Fall 2016, Honors Retreat Lake Bemidji State Park

Honors is about making connections—with one another, with our ever-complicated world, with our environment, our studies, our communities, and within ourselves.

The Bemidji State University Honors Program Annual Retreat, at Lake Bemidji State Park brought together new and old Honors Program students from as far as Oregon and as close as Bemidji. The retreat serves as an opportunity for students to meet one another, learn about the Program, and spend some quality time with members of the Honors Council. In particular, this year students were able to meet the new Director of Honors, explore the park on a scavenger hunt, spend some quality time with Kari Caughey before she retired, and create a piece of original art that represented their choice to join the Honors Program.



Say What?

“The Honors Retreat creates an environment that strengthens the bonds of the honors students.”

“First-year students should come to the Retreat because it helps you to meet older students and some of your instructors!”

Honors Lecture Series

Fall 2016

The Fall 2016 Honors Council Lecture Series included a wide array of subjects and speakers and 50+ faculty, students, staff, and community members attended each lecture.

Daniel Guentchev (Philosophy) shared with us the philosophies of Susanne Langer and argued that there is a great need to re-invigorate the arts as a realm of study in the University curriculum.

Larry Swain (English) discussed the derivation of old English texts and traced the significance of early readership of these texts.

Ross Flom (Psychology), an invited scholar from Brigham Young University and the Director of the Infant Development Lab, shared with our community how it is that infants learn using theories of neuroscience.

Miriam Webber (Music), discussed early innovations in modernist music, which derives from her dissertation research.

Spring 2017 Lectures are by: Rucha Ambikar (Sociology), John Gonzalez (Psychology), Joann Frederickson (Business Administration), Chris Miller (Psychology), Michael Anderson (Interim Provost), Lori Peterson (Civil Rights Attorney), John Ellis (History), and Janine McDermott, Carolyn Townsend, and Sarah Tarutis (Nursing).



University Scholar Marty J. Wolf

In October, Dr. Marty J. Wolf, Professor of Computer Science, University Scholar, and Honors Council member, presented an Honors Lecture to a crowd of more than 100 campus members. In his lecture he outlined some of the challenges facing Universities in a technological age as we attempt to both adapt to new technological practices and maintain academic freedom and integrity.

A former student of Dr. Wolf wrote: "Marty is an excellent teacher who is able to explain some of the most detailed concepts of computer science with ease by using concepts that allows students to connect" with the material he presents in class.

--Mike Warzala

Susanne Langer's Conception of Art and the Education of the Entire Person

Presented By
Daniel Guentchev
Philosophy

Tuesday, October 11, 2016
7:00 P.M. in Hagg-Sauer 107
Admission is free

In this lecture, Dr. Guentchev discusses Susanne Langer's theory of the cultural role of the arts in the 20th C. and how they are often seen as a luxury that can be sacrificed when times are tough or budgets are tight.

Langer argues that the arts are essential to education and shows how integrating their study improves our understandings of a significant portion of human motivations and behavior.

Langer's conception of art is relevant to the work of those engaged in Liberal Education.

HONORS LECTURE SERIES 2016

Hosted by The Honors Council
For further information, contact the Honors Program Office 755-3984
If you need key to request accommodations or other services for this program/lecture, please contact Disability Services (Decker Hall 2020); at (202) 755-5853 or DisabilityServices@unh.edu

Who Reads Old English Poetry? Whipping Learning into Students the Christian Way Since 996

Presented By
Larry Swain
English

Thursday, October 27, 2016
7:00 P.M. in Hagg-Sauer 107
Admission is free

What does the scholar of past cultures do to find out if a text was read or had influence?

He becomes a source critic!

See Source Criticism in Action on Anglo-Saxon Authors—
did anyone actually read what they wrote?

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ARTISTIC CREATIVITY IN AN AGE OF ISOLATION: MUSICAL INNOVATIONS DURING THE THAW

Presented By
Miriam Webber
Music

Monday, November 14, 2016
7:00 P.M. in Hagg-Sauer 112
Admission is free

Dr. Webber explores the relationship between the Western twentieth century music compositional practice known as "serialism," or "twelve-tone," and Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich's reluctance to follow its strict guidelines.

She argues that much of this resistance lies in an historical understanding of cultural practices following Joseph Stalin's death in 1953.

HONORS LECTURE SERIES 2016

Hosted by The Honors Council
For further information, contact the Honors Director, Dr. Susan Flynn at (202) 755-3358
If you need key to request accommodations or other services for this program/lecture, please contact Disability Services (Decker Hall 2020); at (202) 755-5853 or DisabilityServices@unh.edu

Welcome to Dr. Season Ellison

Director of Honors and Liberal Education Programs; Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies; Humanities Department

In August of 2016, Dr. Season Ellison joined the Bemidji State University community as the new Director of Honors. She has a Ph.D., M.A., and B.A. in Theatre Directing, Theatre History, and Performance Studies. For the past six years she worked at Northern Arizona University in the Honors Program teaching a variety of interdisciplinary courses that intertwine studies of performance with studies of culture: "The Tao of Animal," "...in the Wild West," "Privilege, Power, and Difference," "Virgin, Mother, Whore: Representations of Women in the Contemporary Media," and "Stand-Up Comedy and Solo Performance." Prior to NAU, Dr. Ellison taught theatre history, script analysis, and directing at The College of Wooster in Ohio.

Since arriving in Bemidji, Dr. Ellison directed the Masque portion of the traditional Madrigal Dinner, led the Honors Retreat, and has worked hard to build community amongst the Honors Program Students. Her best advice for Honors Students is to "cultivate curiosity and embrace ambiguity. The world isn't full of easy answers and I challenge you to seek deeper ways of thinking about the subjects you study and how those subjects connect, in ways you may never have conceived of, to your lives."

She is working on a book project titled: *Performing Tombstone*, which focuses on tourism and lived performance in the little "wild west" town of Tombstone, Arizona. She's also writing a book chapter with a colleague about teaching graphic novels as literature. Finally, Dr. Ellison continues to direct and develop New Plays in concert with playwrights and playwriting organizations from across the country.

In Spring 2017, Dr. Ellison will teach Integrative Seminar, which will focus on how humans communicate with and learn to be human through our interactions with non-human animals. She owns three horses, a miniature donkey, four dogs, and two finches. In addition to her various academic degrees, Dr. Ellison is a licensed equine and canine massage therapist.

In my scholarship, I study how we "perform" theatrically in many instances of our lives. This scholarship is about connecting academic theory to our lived experience. Similarly, to me, the Honors experience is about helping students to make similar connections and to integrate their studies into their lived experiences.



Important Spring Events!

Mark your calendars to attend:

Student Achievement Conference on April 5, 2017
Bemidji State University

You may propose:
Oral Presentations
Poster Presentations
Creative Art Exhibits
Music Performances
Elevator Pitch Contest

Proposals will be accepted from February 1 – 20, 2017.

Submit proposals online at
<http://www.bemidjistate.edu/conferences/sscac/>

Upper Midwest Regional Honors Conference
March 22 – 26, 2017
South Dakota State University

A select number of Honors Students will be able to attend all expenses paid (except food). Attendees will be chosen through a proposal-application process. Please watch for the "Call for Proposals" in early Spring.

www.umrhc.org

Lynnae Iverson, Senior Capstone Recital

Adding an honors thesis component to my senior music recital allowed me a much broader repertoire and encouraged me to include a wider variety of additional participants. I would not have chosen some of the songs, or grouped the songs in the way I did, if I was not combining my thesis alongside my recital. I would have performed vocal and instrumental pieces separately, and would have only incorporated songs written by classical composers. I would not have included jazz music or my mother's music, which would have been sad since I love it so much and I'm grateful that I could include her composition. My family probably would not have been as involved if it weren't for the thesis focus.

Combining my Honors Thesis with my Senior Music Recital opened the door for so many more opportunities, and allowed me to think more deeply about what I was performing.

I was no longer simply going through the emotions of practicing to perform; instead, I created a stronger purpose behind the message I wanted to convey at my recital.

Lynnae Iverson



Welcome to Jennifer Baumann Honors Administrative and Office Specialist

We are excited to welcome Jennifer Baumann into her new position as the Honors, Center for Professional Development, Gender and Women's Studies, and Liberal Education Administrative and Office Specialist!

Jennifer grew up in St. Louis, MO but has been a resident of northern Minnesota for 20 years and loves her home. She previously attended NTC and continues her studies in accounting at BSU. She says she's "excited to start my career with BSU in the Honors Program and I'm looking forward to meeting and working with each of you! Should you find time, come meet me in the main Honors Program office!"

In her free time Jennifer camps, kayaks, and rides her ATV. Like Dr. Ellison, she enjoys horses too!

2016 - 2017 Honors Council Members:

Season M. Ellison
(Director/Humanities)
Mahmoud AlOdeh (Technology,
Art, and Design)
Mark Christensen (English)
Mary Fairbanks (Nursing)
Andrew Hafs (Biology)
Janet Heuer (Criminal Justice)
Colleen Livingston (Math)
Susan Rickers (Social Work)
Jeffrey Ueland (Geography)
Janine Wahl (Education)
James White (Human Performance,
Sport, and Health)
Marty J. Wolf (Computer Science)

**ENGL 3608: Genre Topics (3 credits)
(Contemporary Dramatic Literature)
May substitute for HOPR 2106 or Core #1**

If you haven't yet taken HOPR 2106 or your Language and Literature core, you might consider substituting this **Maymester** class. An intense 13-day, in-person class in which we will read and analyze 13 contemporary plays. **Yes, you read that right: 13 plays in 13 days!** You will not only read plays you've probably never heard of—but some of them are good, too! Plus, you'll gain an understanding of how to analyze scripts from the perspective of a theatre artist. This ain't your typical literary analysis class! Meets Monday through Friday 9:00 – 12:10PM. Yes, you may bring breakfast. And lunch. And coffee ... lots of coffee.

WELL WISHES, KARI CAUGHEY

In October 2016, long-time Administrative Associate, Kari Caughey retired to spend more time at home and with her family. While we will miss you dearly, we also wish you the best of luck as you start the next stage of your life. Kari, you've done so much for us. We will be forever grateful and we will miss you!



What are Honors Students Working on Now?

Chronic Chaos
Student Written Novel
By Nate Buck

She killed my mother. There was no mercy, no repentance, no remorse, just death. I'm going to make her pay with her life. Her empire will be blown apart brick by brick, and everything she values will burn. I have one ally, few resources, and I won't be of age for nine years, but the rage in my heart will overcome all odds. My first step is to forge a weapon strong enough to withstand her immense power; after that, I just need to tear away her defenses. It's going to be rough, but I've already torn apart two of her warships. All that's standing between me and ripping her tough metal body to shreds are her four Generals. I am Nova, and I will destroy Nightmare at all costs.

*

I killed her mother. It was an act of self-defense, for her mother wanted me dead first to "stop the spread of my evil." She wants me dead as an act of vengeance. She will fail. My powerful empire will end her before she gets off the ground, and I will deeply enjoy putting my scythe through her power source and listening to her die as her mother did. She is too weak, young, and foolish to win. My Generals stand ready to cut her down before she even sees me. I ended her mother in less than a minute; there is nothing stopping me from doing the exact same thing to her. I am Nightmare, and I will destroy Nova at all cost.

Two forces locked in a bloody, unbalanced conflict. Only one will survive.

The Laurel House

It's great living in the Laurel House. In fact, we have only experienced positives from it. All of us work really well together. We sometimes have food nights where we invite friends and cook together/play games. The house is at a very convenient location- It takes about three minutes to get to almost every academic building on campus (which is nice for busy Honors students).

The classroom on the main level of the house is used for a study group every Monday night. There is plenty of space for storage. We only have to pay for cleaning supplies, food, dishes, and our daily necessities so living at the house relieves SO much financial stress, which allows us to focus on our studies.

Living in the house allows us to get to know Honors students of other ages and majors. It brings a lot of diversity to the house, and from that diversity we have interesting discussions!



Alumni Updates

Send us your updates to include in the next newsletter: send news, major life changes, or just touch base and let us know how you're doing! We look forward to connecting with BSU Honors Alumni in the future.

Coming Spring 2017

Mandatory Honors Student Meetings:

January 10, 6:00 p.m., Hagg Sauer 102

March 7, 5:30 p.m., Hagg Sauer 102

Social Events:

Pizza, Movie, and Awards Night

April 19, 6:00 p.m., Hagg Sauer 113

Upper Midwest Regional Honors Conference

March 22 – 26, 2017, South Dakota

*Watch for application to attend in early Spring.

Honors Graduation Ceremony

May 4, 2017; AIRC, Time TBA

Honors Lecture Procedural Change:

Starting Spring 2017, students will submit short reflections about at least two Honors Lectures to our Honors Program D2L Shell. Prompts will be provided and reflections should be short; **this process is required** and takes the place of the Lecture Series Stamp Cards.

Contact Us:

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