

The New Honors Summer Fellows Program

By Amanda Rutishauser

Amanda Rutishauser, a senior double concentrator in Honors English and Microbiology, served as Student Coordinator for the 2010 Honors Summer Fellows Program.



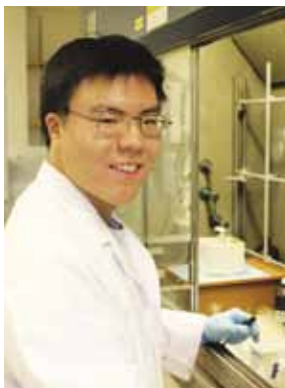
JACQUELYN TURKOVICH

Mita Nagarkar examines raspberries in Nichols Arboretum.

Writing a senior Honors thesis is, and has been, the capstone project for many Honors students over the years. It's an opportunity for senior students to delve deeper into subjects explored perhaps only summarily in their regular course work and a chance to really invest themselves in, and claim title to, a new interpretation of or further investigation into a topic or problem of significance in their field. Completing a thesis is also a thorough introduction to the rigors of academic research. For some who complete a thesis, it is the first step of an academic career; for others, it's a learning experience that transfers well into non-academic and professional pursuits. As valuable as the experience of writing a thesis is, historically only a minority of incoming Honors freshmen actually go on to complete a thesis.

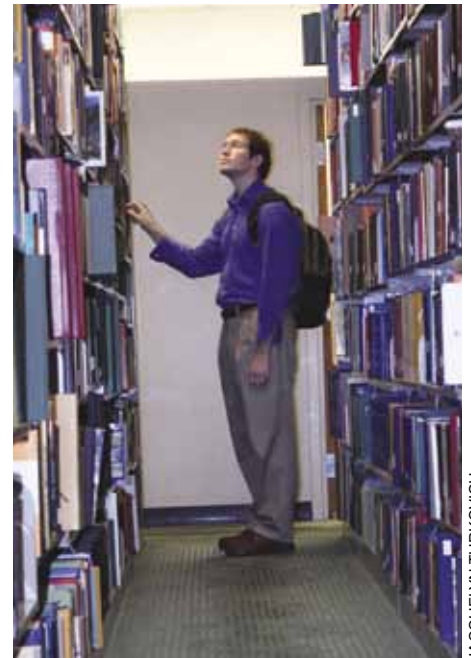
In an effort to increase the numbers of Honors students writing theses, Tim McKay worked with the Honors Faculty Advisory Council to launch the Honors Summer Fellows program this summer. This program was made possible through a generous donation from Honors alumnus Kenneth Buckfire ('80), CEO and co-founder of Miller Buckfire.

As part of this year's pilot program, 23 rising Honors seniors received stipends to enable them to live in Ann Arbor over the summer while they worked on their theses. The Honors Program wanted to free them from the constraints posed by heavy work commitments, and to discover the possibility of being paid for academic work. These 23 students were selected from a pool of many interested applicants who submitted proposals; they represent a wide range of majors from across LS&A drawn in nearly equal measure from the three academic areas: Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and the Humanities. The program kicked off with a two-day camping trip to



MARY SHELLY MAGESKI

Albert Tang in his lab.



JACQUELYN TURKOVICH

Nick Gable in the stacks of the Hatcher Library.



JACQUELYN TURKOVICH

Elaine Lafay and Seth Buchsbaum compare notes in the Perlman Honors Commons.

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The Honors Summer Fellows Program

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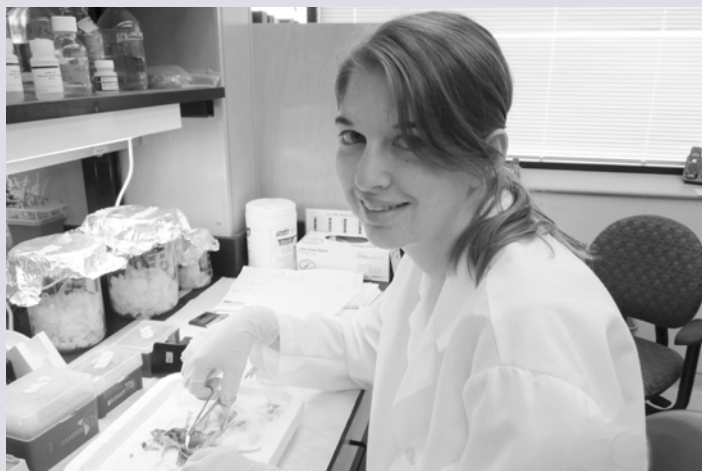
the Waterloo Recreation Area in late May where the students got to know each other. The program continued through late July and included weekly two-hour meetings.

The Honors Summer Fellows program followed the pattern of post-doctoral fellowships. Each HSF weekly meeting began with a round-the-table discussion of the progress the students had made on their projects that week. Students created an agenda that covered such topics as organizing and setting a work schedule, using the resources of the University, issues in public scholarship and publishing their work.

Three of the weekly meetings also included faculty panels, allowing the Fellows to pose questions to distinguished professors from various departments. The students received advice about presenting at conferences, getting published, evaluating the work in their fields, and about various aspects of an academic career such as running a lab, the tenure process, and the work of educational governing boards. The Honors Summer Fellows program not only facilitates early work on the thesis but also exposes students to the realities and possibilities of life in academia.

At the end of the summer Honors Director Tim McKay, who had been leading the Honors Summer Fellows, asked the students to complete three tasks: to write an abstract in the appropriate form for a professional publication in their field, to deliver a ten-minute presentation such as one might give at a professional conference, and to create a piece of public scholarship using new media. For the last task, students wrote opinion editorials, authored Wikipedia articles, and recorded NPR-style audio interviews. While abstracts and conference talks are the bread and butter of academic presentations, the information age is creating new outlets for disseminating academic work, so using these new methods of communication is becoming just as vital as publishing in conventional ways.

This year's pilot program has been a great success: 23 students made progress on their thesis work, learned about many issues in academic life, and bonded into a cohesive group of friends. While we have funding to continue this project for two more years, we hope to increase it to allow us to support a larger group of Fellows next year and to establish it for the future. The goal of the program remains: to give Honors students the opportunity to jump-start their theses over the summer and, in the process, gain an invaluable introduction to academic research. Further, we hope that the HSF program will make the thesis more visible and viable in the Honors Program and in the College, so that many more students will have the joy and satisfaction of crafting their own intellectual project.



Elizabeth Kennedy dissecting a mouse.

Honors Summer Fellows Speak Out About the Program

From the first time I met the other participants of the program at our camping retreat, I was amazed by the fact that we were able to discuss current affairs and issues in ways such that everyone brought some information from their own fields of study to the conversation.

— MITA NAGARKAR

Because the fellows actively shaped the group's activities, each individual got a chance to showcase his or her special talents. Such student involvement led not only to an exceptional learning experience, but also to a strengthening of relationships among the participating Honors scholars.

— DAVID CHAPEL

I feel so honored to have been a part of such a diverse, intelligent, and ambitious group as HSF. The best part of the HSF group to me was its interdisciplinary nature. Not only did I learn the ways many different disciplines conduct research, but I also gained a more in-depth understanding of research as a whole by looking at its various parts in many contexts and from many perspectives. My participation in HSF helped to cement my Honors thesis topic and to also direct my energies towards its completion. The opportunity to jumpstart my thesis work during the summer was invaluable.

— KATE GILLIAM

The Honors Summer Fellows Program was an amazing personal and intellectual learning experience. I discovered a tremendous amount about my own thesis topic and about the research process, including what research looks like within other fields. I also gained the skills and willpower necessary to successfully complete an Honors thesis during the upcoming academic year. After the Honors Summer Fellows experience, I feel much more confident about the eventual strength of my Honors thesis, my ability to complete a thesis, and my ability to balance this project with other academic and personal commitments.

— SPENCER SMITH

At the start of summer, I was semi-dreading our Fellows kick-off camping trip. I had never been camping and the idea of kicking back with the mosquitoes didn't really appeal to me. However, the amazing time I had getting to know the other Fellows and spending time out in nature was only a foretaste of the whole fellowship experience to come. Being able to engage in a community based not necessarily on common interests but on common goals was really helpful in my understanding of the research process. This summer, I was able to further narrow down my rather broad topic thanks to the relentless discussions we had. Fellows have the privilege of being part of a small, tight-knit, and very friendly group of the brightest and most dedicated students on campus!

—GABBY PARK

Thesis Titles of 2010 Honors Summer Fellows

Dana Beuschel, Economics, *The Effect of Political Affiliation on Behavioral Responses to Taxation*

Seth Buchsbaum, Honors Individual Concentration in Political and Environmental Policy, *Climate Dissent: Why Senators Vote the Way They Do on Climate Change Legislation*

Azhar Carim, Chemistry, *In-Situ Surface-Enhanced Raman Spectroscopic Investigations of Ultra-Thin Semiconductor Film Electrodeposition and Passivation*

Elizabeth Carter, Political Science, *How Much Is Enough?: Measuring Free-Will and Criminal Responsibility Among African-Americans Within the Criminal Justice System*

David Chapel, Microbiology, *Infectious Mechanisms of Murine Norovirus*

Rebecca Disbrow, Honors Individual Concentration in Environmental Psychology, *Architectural and Site Plan Factors Affecting the Social Vitality of Cohousing Communities' Common Houses*

Adam Ferris, Economics, *Student Entrepreneurial Decision-Making*

Nick Gable, History, *Remembering Constantine's Conversion*

Kathryn Gilliam, Neuroscience, *The Effects of Prenatal Bisphenol A Exposure on Reactions to Novel Stimuli in Female Sheep*

Samantha Greenberg, Neuroscience, *Effect of Survey Methodology on Hormonal Modulation of Cortisol and Testosterone*

Elizabeth Kennedy, Cellular and Molecular Biology, *The Effects of Mevalonate Pathway Inhibitors on the Cellular Motility of Aggressive and Inflammatory Breast Cancer*

Elaine Lafay, History, *The 1888 Yellow Fever Epidemic in Jacksonville, Florida - Social, Medical, and Economic Change*

Boris Litvin, Political Science, *The Problem of Dirty Hands: Can Public Guilt Create Public Accountability?*

Gabriel Moss, History, *All the King's Men: Junior Senators in the Fall of the Roman Republic*

Alexander Myong, Microbiology, *The Effect of Membrane Curvature on the Multimerization and Membrane Binding of HIV-1 Gag*

Mita Nagarkar, Environment, *A Comparison of the Life Histories and Autoecologies of Native and Non-Native Species: *Rubus occidentalis* and *Rubus odoratus* in the Nichols Arboretum*

Gabby Park, Communication Studies, *Roots and Reckonings of Cause Marketing: How Did it Start and How Does it Affect Consumers, Corporations, and the Causes Represented?*

Jody Schechter, Economics, *An Evaluation of the Model Cities Program*

Amanda Seyerle, Honors Individual Concentration in Anthropological and Molecular Genetics, *Scottish Smallpox: The Medical Treatment of Smallpox in Scotland, 1750-1850*

Spencer Smith, Economics, *The Effect of Outcome-Independent Payoffs in Voting and Income and Risky Sexual Behavior Among Youth: Evidence from the PSID*

Jared Spitz, Cellular and Molecular Biology, *The Role of miR-34a in Modulating Double Strand Break Repair in Aggressive Neuroblastoma*

Albert Tang, Biochemistry, *Substrate-competitive Inhibition of Protein Tyrosine Kinases*

Laura Winnick, English, *Material Girls: Narratives of Female Self-Representation in Texts and Textiles*

Kudos

by Eleanor H. Crown

HONORS PROGRAM AWARDS

Thanks to the generosity of Honors alumni and friends, we are able to support and reward many of our outstanding students for their accomplishments.

Special awards to Honors seniors are part of our graduation events each year. This spring, we initiated a special awards ceremony held the evening before the Honors graduation ceremony. This new format allows us to focus more on the accomplishments of our award winners and to celebrate with their families and friends. In addition to the recipients of the Goldstein Prizes, Virginia Voss Memorial Scholarships, Patricia Kennedy Memorial Awards, and Honors Alumni Prize, students who were awarded honor cords for their service work by the Ginsberg Center were also recognized.

In April 2003 we initiated a group of awards made possible by the Goldstein family, Ellen, Joseph, Laura Bassichis and Paul, all of whom attended our ceremony and assisted in the presentation that year. Named for distinguished UM alumni and associates, the **Goldstein Prizes** reward excellence in humanities, arts, natural sciences and mathematics, social sciences, public service, humanitarianism and teaching. Students are nominated by their departments for these awards.

Named for poet **Robert Hayden**, the **Humanities Award** was presented to Jonathan Martin, a double German and Medieval and Early Modern Studies concentrator. One reader called Jonathan's thesis on Dietrich von Bern "simply the finest Honors thesis I have read or advised in fifteen years of teaching at the University of Michigan." A mastery of medieval German literature, familiarity with disciplinary and interdisciplinary ways of thinking, and facility with an array of methods and theories were all evident in Jonathan's impressive work.

The **Arthur Miller Arts Award** in the creative arts was won by Jenna Hill of Screen Arts and Cultures. Jenna was praised as a promising young filmmaker courageously taking risks and seeking to innovate in her project. Not only has she produced an admirable piece of art, she has also demonstrated a concern for community and how her work can be used to further communication. At her job in LSA Instructional Services, she is said to "go out of her way to help other students with technical and aesthetic needs." One nominator concludes, "Jenna Hill is an example of the kind of student of which the University of Michigan can be very proud. She is smart, independent, and kind."

Steven Moses, an outstanding Physics concentrator, was the recipient of the **Jerome and Isabella Karle Award for Natural Sciences and Mathematics**. During his entire undergraduate career, he has shown exceptional promise to become a top-notch scientist. A Goldwater Scholar and winner of many other awards, Steven designed and built the apparatus that allowed

him to obtain successful Hall measurements at very high temperatures. Next year, he will study atomic, molecular, and optical physics in the Ph.D. program at the University of Colorado.

The **Marshall Sahlins Social Science Award** was made to Psychology major Minzheng (Mike) Hou, nominated both for his scholarship and his involvement in campus life. Mike discovered a gap in the research literature on authoritarianism, designed an important behavioral study, trained several assistants to help with data collection, and developed an innovative way to assign participants to interact with others. One reviewer remarked, "Not only does his Honors thesis touch on issues potentially related to prejudice and aggression, but he devotes his own personal time to help alleviate intergroup conflict, in a practical way, right on campus."



JACQUELYN TURKOVICH

Daniel Hermes receives the Sidney Fine Award.

Kelly Goodman, Honors History, Political Science, and Economics major, was given the **Gerald Ford Public Service Award**. Kelly's prodigious history thesis examined the politics of education reform in Michigan. Throughout her college career, Kelly spent her summers engaged in community organizing with the Sacred Heart/St. Elizabeth Community Development Corporation, the Harriet Tubman Center in Detroit, and

Organizing for America in Oakland County. She spent a semester interning with the Brookings Institute in Washington, DC where she worked on energy research.

The winner of the **Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Award** was Moustafa K. Moustafa, who completed an Honors Individualized Concentration in Medieval Spain. His many recommenders take his academic excellence in stride as they go on to describe his leadership in service projects. Moustafa has been involved in Michigan Student Assembly, the Muslim Students Association, and a variety of interfaith efforts, including the Jewish-Muslim Alternative Spring Break in New Orleans. His crowning achievement was the founding and leadership of the UM chapter of "Children of Abraham," now called "United 2 Heal," a student initiative that organizes the collection, shipment, and distribution of expired but still useful medicine and medical equipment from the US to needy hospitals in Africa.

The **Sidney Fine Teaching Award** was presented to Daniel Hermes, an Honors Mathematics and Economics major who was nominated by both departments. A Goldwater Scholar and recipient of many other academic awards, Daniel has demonstrated great generosity as he shared his ease with math and economics with others. One nominator says, "He has the teaching *gift*: he is one of the most sought-after tutors in the math department, he can often be found explaining math to his peers... and



John Cantú presents the Patricia Kennedy Award to Shiwei Zhou.

he is great in front of a classroom.” Dan will work for a genomics startup while he sorts out his graduate and career trajectory. Math teacher and wrestling coach? Economics professor? Whatever his decision, we know that he will continue to share his expertise and enthusiasm with others.

Funds for the **Patricia Kennedy Memorial Award** have been provided by her son, John P. Kennedy, an Honors alumnus, to recognize outstanding scholarship particularly in English literature and women’s issues. This year’s winner, Shiwei Zhou, completed an English Honors thesis that provides new insights into the work of Virginia Woolf and examines its use of technology as a literary device. Shiwei has also completed a concentration in Cellular and Molecular Biology.

Virginia Voss Memorial Scholarships

Virginia Voss Memorial Scholarships are awarded each year to senior Honors women for excellence in writing. The prizes pay tribute to the memory of the late Virginia Voss, who graduated from Michigan in the 1950s and became College Editor of *Mademoiselle* magazine. After her untimely death, the Voss family provided funds for the awards. Again this year, we welcomed Virginia Voss’s twin sisters, June Everett and Jo Van Boven, and Jo’s husband Sam. They were gracious enough to travel to Ann Arbor for the ceremony where they assisted in the presentation of the Voss awards and hosted a lovely dinner for the award recipients and their families. This year’s winners, their departments of concentration and their thesis titles are listed below.



June Everett and Jo Van Boven give a Voss Award to Jennifer Huang.

For Academic Writing:

Patricia Qing Lian Chen (Honors Organizational Studies and Psychology)

Yin and Yang Theory of Competition: Social Comparison and Evaluation Apprehension Reciprocally Drive Competitive Motivation

Jennifer Zhengyan Huang (Honors English)

In Dialogue with the Infinite: A Defense of Samuel Beckett’s Dysfunctional Philosophy of Mathematics

Sarah Valerie Kostinski (Honors Physics)

Oscillation of Rutherford Backscattering in Scanning Helium-Ion Microscopy

Rachel Kathleen Severin (Honors Comparative Literature)

Theatres of Ritual Violence: Structures of Torture and Ideological Critique in Hanoch Levin’s Yisarei Ivov

Suzana Vuljevic (Honors History and Comparative Literature)

Becoming Albanian: Poetic Expressions of Nation, 1878-1912

For Creative Writing:

Kellen Redford Braddock (Honors English-Creative Writing)

Poetry collection exploring ideas of preservation and decomposition, *Vin Aigrette*

Jennifer Lee Riemenschneider (Honors English-Creative Writing)

Short story collection about rural Georgia between 1939 and 1980, *Down into Gone*

The **Honors Alumni Prize** for outstanding achievement and service to the Honors Program and the university was presented to Jeffrey Robert May (Honors Sociology) who has been a peer advisor, ambassador, and valued student colleague of the Honors Program. Jeff participated in the Honors in Florence program, Arts Chorale, and worked on the staff of the Michigan Summer Festival.

Thanks to endowments that honor two former Honors Directors, we are fortunate to be able to offer annual grants to outstanding Honors juniors, the **Otto Graf Scholarships and Prizes** and the **Jack Meiland Prize**. Otto Graf, German scholar and humanist, was Director of Honors for eighteen years. The awards given in his honor are made to students distinguished by their academic excellence and commitment. The work of Jack Meiland, Philosophy professor and Honors Director, was noted for its interdisciplinarity. The Meiland Award is made annually to the student whose studies best reflect his ideals of quality and breadth. This year, the Jack Meiland Prize was given to Madeline Huberth, a rising senior from Monroe, NY, who is studying physics and cello performance. The Otto Graf Scholarship went to David Chapel, a junior from Parma, MI, who is majoring in microbiology and

German. The Graf Prize was awarded to Spencer Smith from Holland, MI. He is studying economics and mathematics. All of these outstanding students presented impeccable academic records, convincing personal statements about their intellectual journeys and their plans, and held their own in challenging interviews with our committee. We are justly proud of them all.

Bruce Wasserstein, investment banker and Honors alum (1967) and scholarship donor, passed away suddenly in October, 2009. For many years, Honor students who write and edit for the

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Honors Students Win Prestigious National Scholarships

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program seeks to provide a continuing source of highly qualified individuals to the fields of mathematics, engineering, and the sciences. Each year across the US approximately 300 scholarships are awarded to upcoming juniors and seniors who show exceptional promise in those fields. The University of Michigan may nominate up to four students each year. In March, it was announced that David Montague (Honors Mathematics), junior from Brighton, Michigan; Michelle Robinette (Honors Neuroscience, French), junior from Bark River, Michigan; and Ray Zhang (Honors Physics), junior from Ann Arbor, had all won Goldwater Scholarships. Ruthi Hortsch (Honors Mathematics, Physics), junior from Ann Arbor, was awarded Honorable Mention.



David Montague

Udall Scholarships are awarded annually to sophomore and junior students who are planning careers related to the environment, and to Native American and Alaska Native students who plan careers in health care and tribal public policy. We congratulate Honors Sophomore, Robin Czerwinski (Honors Environment) from Northville, Michigan, for winning a Udall this year.

Honors graduates receiving National Science Foundation awards this year include Daniel Honig (2003, Honors Political Science), Sarah Kostinski (2010, Honors Physics and Music), Justin Lomont (2008, Honors

Chemistry), Zachary Maddock (2008, Honors Mathematics), Andrea Maguire (2008, Honors Biology and Environment), Katherine Martin (2009, Honors Brain, Behavior, and Cognitive Science), Christine Morrison (2010, Honors Chemistry), Gregory Salvesen (2009, Honors Astronomy and Astrophysics and Aerospace Engineering), Lauren Sullivan (2007, Honors Environment and Biology), Thomas Talhelm (2007, Honors Psychology – Thomas also won the Sahlins award that year), Stephanie Jimenez Temme (2007 Honors Neuroscience), Nicole Tuttle (2009, Chemistry), and Ian Wall (2008, Honors Sociology).



Michelle Robinette



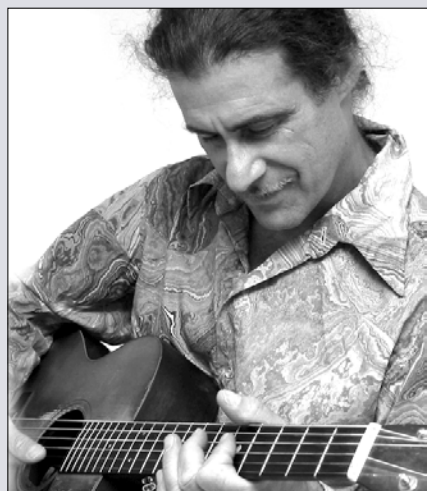
Ray Zhang

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the federal government to foster understanding between the US and the people of the rest of the world. The program currently operates in 155 countries and includes many different kinds of international experiences. Honors students fared well in this year's competition and we are happy to report that a number have been offered grants. English teaching assistantships were awarded to Lara Beck and Matthew Miller for South Korea, Katharine Barcy for Vietnam, Harun Buljina for Turkey, Virginia Cline for France (you may remember Ginger's cover story about Senegal in the last issue of the *Forum*), and to Marie Greenman, Daniel Hefflebower, and Michelle Morath for Germany. Benjamin Fox was awarded a grant to study energy policy in Taiwan, and Elizabeth Turk will explore health care in Mongolia. Sarah Kostinski has been accepted for physics research in Russia, and Christine Morrison for chemistry research in Germany.

Dick Siegel teaches Songwriting Workshop as this year's DeRoy Professor

By Donna Wessel Walker

As part of the Honors Program's endeavor to encourage interdisciplinarity and creativity in our students, we invited Dick Siegel, an award-winning singer/song-writer



based in Ann Arbor, to serve as the Helen L. DeRoy Visiting Professor for the Winter term of 2010. The Helen L. DeRoy Visiting Professorship in Honors was established to enable us to invite distinguished visitors, with preference to those outside the academy, to teach in the Honors Program.

We know that music is a vital part of the life of many of our students; this course sought to develop that interest in the context of their intellectual lives. Dick, who had given a "Lunch with Honors" presentation to our students in 2008, taught a course entitled "*Singing Out of Our Minds*": A Songwriting Workshop. The workshop's nine students bonded at an unusual level. Writing and sharing songs every week, the students learned to listen well and critique each other. Listening to the classics of American song from Stephen Foster, rhythm and blues, folk and country to today's song-writing greats, members of the class came to appreciate the difficulties of writing and performing and to recognize when songs work well. In addition to recording their original songs and launching them on iTunesU, the group gave a public performance of their work at the end of the semester.

Dick Siegel graduated with Honors in English from the University of Michigan, where he was also a Hopwood Award winner. He has

an active performance and composing career around the country. A member of the Detroit Music Hall of Fame and the recipient of many awards, Mr. Siegel is known for his engagingly unconventional lyrics and a dynamic musical style that incorporates modern folk, roots, and jazz. Initially trained in classical music, he discovered the powerful imagery in Dylan Thomas and T. S. Eliot's poetry while studying English literature here; these influences are still seen in his lyrics.

At the end of the semester, Dick wrote to workshop members: "Listening to the tracks I was again blown away by the quality of what you managed to do last semester. I was also reminded of what a pleasure it was to work with you, get to know you all and experience the class as it coalesced into a tight-knit group of artists sharing themselves and learning from each other." We are hoping to be able to invite Dick back to campus for a reprise of this successful and meaningful workshop.

Kudos Continued from page 5

Michigan Daily have benefitted from the scholarship endowment established in 1992 by Mr. Wasserstein to honor his late father Morris. In 2008, he supplemented his gift with a generous fund in honor of his mother Lola. Mr. Wasserstein was known worldwide for his savvy financial strategies, but, by UM students of his generation, he was remembered for his perceptive and intelligent reporting for the *Daily* during a turbulent time in American history. The 2010-2011 Morris and Lola Wasserstein Scholars are Nicole Auerbach, Stephanie Berliant, Benjamin (Jamie) Block, Melanie Fried, Andrew Lapin, Erika Mayer, and Jennifer Xu.

Many of our students received funds from the Honors Program to help with the costs of their thesis research, to enable them to attend and present results at conferences, to assist with the cost of special study abroad programs or to subsidize the cost of unpaid internships. You will find an article by one of our grant recipients, Julie Bateman, in this issue. We congratulate all of them for their excellent work.

From the Director:

Greetings from Honors!

As September arrives, I find myself comparing University life to farming. Each has an implacable annual cycle. Each begins with a season of preparation and planting, enjoys a long period of steady progress, and ends with a delightful, celebrated harvest. Here in the Honors Program, we spent our summer preparing the ground for fall planting; running orientation for incoming students. I am happy to report that the array of opportunities Honors has to offer them remains overwhelming.

During their first year, Honors students take courses enriched in a variety of ways. Some are small seminars placing students in close contact with faculty. They feature topics like *Mathematics and Language*, *Creativity in the Sciences and the Arts*, *American Environments*, *Socrates*, and *Cyberscience*. In large enrollment courses, Honors students often take special discussion sections led by faculty. And though our students spend much of their time spread across the college, they are still brought together in one collective experience; Honors *Great Books*.

In recent years, a new model of Honors courses has emerged. In this model, students teach students, and the effects are remarkable for everyone involved. The Chemistry Department, faced with the challenge of offering an enriched version of a 1400-student organic chemistry course, invented the structured study group (SSG) almost 20 years ago. SSG students meet for two additional hours per week to work in the research literature, explore the history of science, learn how papers are written and reviewed, and explore scientific ethics. This work goes well beyond what is usually done in intro courses, and lets students see current research from the first day on campus.

SSGs are led by advanced undergraduates who also meet weekly with the course instructor to develop activities, deepen their own understanding of the material, and learn better how to teach. The SSG model is now spreading to other departments and courses, including my own 400-student *Physics for the Life Sciences*. SSGs give me an effective way to enrich my course for



Tim McKay at the Honors Summer Fellows' retreat.

Honors students. They also allow me to include undergraduates in my teaching team just as I have long done in my research group.

In another model of student-to-student learning, Honors seniors can teach their own, original *Ideas in Honors* mini-course. Eight to ten of these are offered each term, on topics like the Rwandan genocide, literary inspirations for Liszt, and the ethics of sport. This program, unique in the College, works because it uses active and committed Honors students as both students and teachers. Without extraordinary students, none of this would work.

At the other end of the Honors Program our students move beyond the classroom and begin their own programs of research. Their results find expression in senior theses. Completing a senior thesis project is a real challenge, and we are excited to have begun a new program designed to help make it happen.

The Honors Summer Fellows program supports students in the work necessary for their senior theses, gives

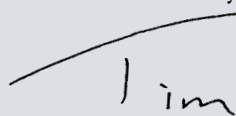
them exposure to a wide range of scholarship conducted within LSA, and provides financial support to free the time needed for thesis work. A first group of 23 Honors Summer Fellows spent ten weeks during the summer of 2010 engaged in research and support activities. Once a week all the Fellows met with me for two hours to report on their work, meet with faculty from across the college, visit labs and research collections, and discuss the evolving nature of research. See a more detailed description of this program on the front cover of the *Forum*.

Working with the summer fellows was a dream come true for me. The range of topics, methods, and resources discussed was thrilling. We learned how difficult it is to read the letters of a 19th century governor of Florida, what makes a common house work in a co-housing community, whether public guilt can produce accountability, and how the metastatic cells of inflammatory breast cancer can be immobilized. We heard from some fantastic faculty panels about how they get their research ideas, deal with fierce competition, and find the time and will to write multiple books. This program has helped our students to recover a broad spirit of the liberal arts at a time in their career when they feel undue pressure to specialize.

All of these activities, from first year courses to senior theses, are enabled by the strengths of the University of Michigan community. The College and University have vigorously protected undergraduate education amidst continued budget cuts. Teaching undergraduates remains our core mission. Our alumni too provide unceasing support. Without your contributions the Honors Program would not be able to offer students the rich array of opportunities they now enjoy. With the support of this wonderful community, I am confident that the Honors Program will continue to thrive.

Many, many thanks, and I wish you all the best in the coming year.

Tim McKay



Portrait of Incoming Honors Students

By Gayle Green

As in years past, the 2010 incoming Honors class is a diversely talented group of students. We welcome 497 students into Honors this year and in many ways they are similar to last year's cohort. As was the case last year, there are more women (53%) than men in this class and 61% of this year's class are residents of the state of Michigan, which is a slight decrease from 63% last year. Academically, our students remain distinguished: our median ACT range is 31-34, which is identical to last year's range. The median range for SAT scores this year is 1350-1510, which is also very similar to last year's range of 1370-1490.

As we all know, however, test scores and grades are only a part of our toolkit for identifying promising Honors students. That's why we urge all students admitted to LSA who believe that Honors could be a good fit with their interests to apply to the Program by writing an essay as part of their application to Honors. The Honors essay is an invaluable part of our holistic evaluation methodology. It's a time- and labor-intensive process, but each year, we are rewarded through our interactions with such a group of gifted and passionate young people who bring their considerable talents to the University of Michigan community.

May 2010 Graduation Snapshot

- 285 Honors graduates; 21 also with the Residential College (RC)
- 10.6% of the LSA graduating class (285/2677)
- 107 double concentrators, including 12 double Honors concentrators
- 7 triple concentrators
- Average cumulative GPA = 3.738
- 3 graduates achieved 4.0 GPAs; only 7 in all of LSA accomplished this feat!

Top Five Honors Concentrations

5. Neuroscience (13); Economics (13)
4. English (14)
3. Brain, Behavior, & Cognitive Science (17)
2. History (19)
1. Psychology (33)

Quick Notes

- See Tim McKay's video in the UM *Focus on Faculty* series on *Youtube*, key words "McKay physics."
- With pride, we saw Honors 1995 alum, Dr. Rajiv Shah, appointed by President Obama to head the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). He was confirmed by the Senate in December, 2009, and became the highest-ranking Indian American in any presidential administration.
- Congratulations to 2010 graduate Surya Sabhapathy who made it all the way to the finals of last winter's *Jeopardy! College Championship*. Surya is currently attending the University of Michigan medical school.
- You can now visit Honors on *Facebook*, keep track of our activities on our webpage, www.lsa.umich.edu/honors, and email us any time at honors.alums@umich.edu
- We have received interesting reports from several of our alums over the past year. We hope to include more alumni updates in future editions of the *Honors Forum* so please keep us informed.
- If you would like to know what is happening in Honors programming during the academic year, we will be happy to add you to the distribution list of our weekly email, "This Week in Honors." Our nearby alums and friends are always welcome to join us for our special programs.
- Susan Messer, author of this year's freshman book, *Grand River and Joy*, will give a talk on Friday, November 5, at 4:00 in Auditorium C, Angell Hall. Set in Detroit in the 1960s, *Grand River and Joy* explores the intersections of races, classes and religions leading up to and culminating with the race riots of 1967. There will be a reception in the Perlman Honors Commons following the lecture. You are cordially invited to attend. If you plan to join us, please let us know at the email above.

Lunch with Honors series: Ethics in Public Life

By Donna Wessel Walker

We tried a new approach to our ever-popular Lunch with Honors program during the 2009-10 year. In addition to our usual stand-alone events featuring visitors to campus, we partnered with the Center for Ethics in Public Life (CEPL) at the Ford School of Public Policy to offer a series of linked events that addressed various aspects of ethics and ethical issues in the public forum. Beginning in September and ending in March, the series hosted five speakers from various walks of life to address ethical issues ranging from collegiate athletics to corporate responsibility to ethical theory and decision-making. In September, Steve Darwall, former Director of Honors and John Dewey Professor of Philosophy at UM who is now the Andrew Downey Orrick Professor of Philosophy at Yale, started us off with a review of John Dewey's work at Michigan, and his philosophical effort to establish a secular basis for moral philosophy and ethics, which had previously been dominated by theology. In October, John Beilein, Head Coach of UM's Men's Basketball program and chair of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Ethics Coalition, regaled a packed room with stories of the day-to-day difficulties of compiling and complying with specific ethical norms in college athletics. Professor Marina Whitman, who holds faculty appointments in the Ross School of Business and the Ford School of Public Policy, led a discussion of Corporate Social Responsibility in November. Prof. Whitman has had an illustrious career in both business and government, serving as the first woman Vice President of GM and

the first woman on the President's Council of Economic Advisors; after her lunch she remarked warmly how much fun it is to interact with such bright, engaged students as ours. In February the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference was the focus of a discussion led by Rolf Bouma, who teaches environmental ethics and environmental values in public policy in the LSA Program in the Environment and leads the Au Sable Institute. Our series ended in March with a discussion led by Susan Nieman, who was visiting campus to give this year's prestigious Tanner Lecture in Philosophy; Dr. Nieman is the Director of the Einstein Forum in Potsdam, Germany, and one of the foremost ethicists and public intellectuals writing today. The day before the Tanner lecture Dr. Nieman met informally with our students, talking about her book *Moral Clarity* and returning to the themes that Steve Darwall had raised in the first lunch in this series, about a secular basis for an accessible and publicly-acceptable ethics and about the need to pursue truth claims in public discourse. Students who registered for the entire series were guaranteed seats (needed for several of the sessions!) and were also part of an online group, where they could read materials relevant to the discussions beforehand, and reflect on the sessions afterwards; students who took that option found it a good way to deepen their experience of Lunch with Honors and to connect with other students with similar interests.

In addition to the CEPL series, we

had a number of stand-alone events throughout the year. Two events coordinated with our first-year book and the College's theme semester on museums: Lawrence Weschler, author of our frosh book *Mr. Wilson's Cabinet of Wonders*, visited in September, and Prof. Ray Silverman, director of the Museum Studies program, came in October. Two alumni came to talk about their current work: in November New York attorney Danny Levin (1997) discussed how his background in Classics and Great Books informed his thriller *The Last Ember*; in April London-based Brian Lobel (2003) presented aspects of his performance art. The Honors Program participated in the working visit of the Royal Shakespeare Company in March. Students attended lectures and readings of works in progress and a Lunch with Honors featuring the company's dramaturg Jeanie O'Hare and producer Jeremy Adams. Angelos Pangratis, the chargé d'affaires for the European Union, also came to campus in March; he held a Lunch with Honors discussion of the recently-concluded Lisbon Treaty; he was impressed, as all our guests are, with how well-informed and intellectually sophisticated our students are.

We are looking forward to hosting more interesting speakers to Lunch with Honors during the coming year. We'll have distinguished alumni, faculty and visitors to campus to address current affairs and long-ranging questions in conjunction with various events on campus.

Honors Fellows Update

Again this year we had a number of programs in cultural engagement led by our Honors Fellows, graduate students and faculty who serve the Honors Program in a number of ways. First and foremost, Honors Fellows create programs to get students involved in cultural and intellectual activities they might not find on their own, particularly in Ann Arbor and Detroit. Honors Fellows also read admissions applications, and they participate in other events hosted by Honors, providing a presence that enriches both our events and our current students.

Detroit was the destination for three of the events the Honors fellows put together. LaFleur Stevens, a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science and Public Policy, took a group of students to Detroit for a televised debate among candidates for the city council. Solveig Heinz organized a visit to the Detroit Opera House for the opening night of the Michigan Opera Theater's production of Verdi's *Nabucco*; the students took a guided tour backstage before the performance, and were treated to a packet of information about the MOT and the historic Opera House. In March, Helen Dixon led a tour to both the Bentley library here at UM and to the Burton historical collection at the Detroit Public Library; both libraries "pulled out all the stops" to show Honors students the treasures in these repositories.

Right here in Ann Arbor, Laura Ramsey led a group of students on a visit to Food Gatherers, a local volunteer agency that rescues and redistributes food that would otherwise go to waste; students visited their facility and learned about the agency's education and advocacy work and helped package food in the warehouse. In conjunction with the Royal Shakespeare Company's working visit to campus in March, Craig Tyson conducted a tour of the UM library's annual display of its papyrus and early print materials related to the King James Bible. Claire Insel directed a 2-part session on conducting interviews for oral history projects. Throughout the year, Alex Lovit held an on-going, bi-weekly session for students to discuss an article they had chosen from the current issue of *The New Yorker*. Although the groups participating in these activities tend to be small, their experiences are rich and deep. These events exemplify the kinds of engagement we want our students to find on campus and in town; our goal is to get them launched on such adventures.

Sophomores offered new Honors Housing in Bush House

*By Elizabeth Shea and Spencer Smith
Bush House Honors Resident Advisors*

This fall, the Honors Program is initiating an exciting new living-learning opportunity for students who wish to continue living in the vibrant, engaging South Quad community after their freshman year. Honors sophomores and upperclassmen now have their own section of South Quad where much of the programming will be focused on the unique needs and interests of returning students. There will be four Honors Resident Advisors in the house who will implement the new academic, educational, and social activities in conjunction with the Honors Program. Students will be provided with many opportunities to enrich their living experience, such as Honors concentration fairs, thesis preparation events, and information sessions about discovering fascinating research and study abroad opportunities. There will be events to encourage residents to expand their interests and improve their lives, including service projects, outdoor adventures, and invigorating, challenging discussions. During 2010-2011, we will incorporate the theme semester of "What Makes Life Worth Living?" by focusing on sustainable living and how college students can play a significant role in improving the environment. Students will have the opportunity to become actively involved in planning activities for Bush House, and can even work with their Honors Resident Advisors to create programs that cater to their own personal interests. Through these enrichment opportunities, we hope to enhance the sophomore year experience for over 100 sophomore residents this year and in years to come.

Honors students, campus at large engage in discussions on “Your Role in Social Change”

By Mitchell Crispell and Joel Berger, Honors Resident Advisors

On Martin Luther King, Jr Day, the campus is filled with guest speakers who offer inspiring words and rich accounts of their social change activities. This year, the Honors Program, through the leadership of Honors RAs Mitchell Crispell and Joel Berger, provided the opportunity for students, staff, faculty, and community members to turn the lens on themselves and explore their own role in social change. With over 100 attendees, this event allowed participants a space to engage



with other members of the Michigan community. Mitchell facilitated the “Conversation Café,” in which each participant was able to discuss tough issues in a series of three distinct small groups, and exchange ideas with many participants over the course of the event. In an attempt to bring together people from all levels and corners of the University, leaders from the Division of Student Affairs and academic units were included. The result was a space in which freshmen were dialoguing with the Dean of Students and a museum curator was learning from an information technology specialist. At the conclusion of the event, participants were invited to write down on cards one action to which they could commit in the next year to realize their personal social justice goals. Attendees enjoyed snacks and continued their conversations informally before they left to attend other events of the MLK Symposium.

Your Role in Social Change was created by the Honors Resident Advisors as an extension of their responsibilities in Honors Housing. The HRA group plans programming to enrich the Honors experience outside of the classroom through academic, social, and extracurricular programming. We hope to continue the conversation next MLK Day on January 17.

Changes in Honors

This summer, we bid a fond farewell to Assistant Director Scott Kassner who is moving on to a new position in California and welcomed Gayle D. Green into that position. Gayle, former Assistant Director of the Honors College at Eastern Michigan University, is a sociologist whose research focuses on gender issues among faculty in higher education; in addition to running our admissions efforts, Gayle will lead new efforts to understand Honors students through quantitative methods.

We also said good-bye to a number of our faculty advisors. Maria Gonzalez, Santha Jeyabalan, and Christopher Love have moved on to new phases in their lives and we wish them well. We have added to our staff a cohort of Ph.D. candidates and professional school students to serve as Honors Preceptors. They will provide basic academic advising, but more important, they'll serve as role models and be able to tell current students what it's like to be in graduate, medical, or law school now and how to get there from here.

Honors Students spearhead effort to build school in rural Brazil: the Pantanal Partnership

This article is based on reports from Julie Bateman and Ethan Shirley

This summer, 4,500 miles away from Ann Arbor, a cohort of UM students infiltrated rural Brazil with a mission to build a sustainable school and research center, using clean energy systems. The project was the brainchild of Honors students Ethan Shirley and Julie Bateman, who started working on this ambitious dream only a year ago. Over this past year, Julie and Ethan have brought a wide-ranging coalition of students, faculty and staff into a student group called the Pantanal Partnership, which the Honors Program agreed to sponsor. The group has drawn on expertise in LSA, the College of Engineering, the School of Natural Resources and Environment, the College of Architecture and Urban Planning, and Ross Business School; it has also raised money from academic units involved, individual donations, and foundations. The group garnered support from the “Keeping the Dream Alive Foundation” of the UAW, the Earth Preservation Fund, the Wallenberg Foundation and the International Institute. The Pantanal Partnership was named a Davis Project for Peace by the Davis UWC Foundation. The site was approved by the UM’s Center for Global and Intercultural Studies (CGIS) as a focus for a course in the Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates (GIEU) Program; students in the course, many of them also in Honors, studied the region before going there to help with construction during the summer; with their instructor Mindy Matice these students will reconvene during the Fall semester to reflect on their experiences, share what they learned, and consider what this experience means for their future.

How did this ambitious project get started? Last summer while studying abroad in Uganda, Honors senior Ethan Shirley was impressed by a solar-powered joint research station, school, and hospital he saw there. The experience reminded him of his many summers volunteering at an eco-tourism lodge in the Pantanal, the Jaguar Ecological Reserve (JER). The founder of the lodge, Eduardo Falcão de Arruda, had frequently talked with Ethan about the need for a school in this remote location in Brazil.

The Pantanal encompasses the largest wetland in the world, spanning much of Brazil and parts of Bolivia and

Paraguay; it is rich enough in biodiversity to be named a World Heritage Site. The region is sparsely populated by fishermen and cattle ranchers, who for over two centuries have made a living with little ecological impact. But there is no local school for the children of these far-flung families, so those who can afford it send their children 60-90 miles away to the closest town, Poconé. Ethan wondered if he could interest faculty and students at UM in building a school that could double as a scientific research center, and if such a facility could be made sustainable by using clean technologies and renewable energy.

When Ethan got back to Ann Arbor in July 2009, he and Julie Bateman, also an Honors senior, met with Donna Wessel Walker and Tim McKay to explore the idea of launching a student group to try to make this dream a reality. Student-led, the project posed all kinds of intellectual and practical problems to learn about and solve, from the design of the buildings to the creation of a multi-disciplinary team to raising necessary support. It was easy to give the students the sponsorship they needed: over the academic year they accomplished more than anyone would have thought possible when they started!

By May 2010, all systems were “go” and the team began to make their way to the Pantanal. Ethan and Julie went to Brazil in May to get things set up. Three graduate architecture students, James Chesnut, Johnathon Puff, and Nisha Patel, joined them in early June to start construction on the school they had designed over the past two semesters. The GIEU group worked there from mid-June to mid-July. And with support from the College of Engineering’s Multidisciplinary Design Program and Professor Margaret Wooldridge, Cory VonAchen and Gregory Ewing aided in construction, while creating a bio-sand water filter and designing the school’s septic system. You can get all kinds of information and read Julie’s blog for an “in-the-moment” view of the building process at this website: <http://sites.google.com/site/pantanalcer/>.

By the end of July, the group focused on getting the school finished; the research station will have to wait for next summer. Julie and Ethan had met with the Secretary of

Continued on Back Cover

From scholarships to programming, from awards to research funding, alums and friends of the Honors Program make possible many of the resources that contribute to the total Honors experience for our students. Without your support, many of the activities you have read about in this newsletter would be impossible. We send a sincere "Thank you" to those below who have donated generously to the Honors effort this year.

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The Pantanal Partnership *...Continued from page 14*



Pantanal School Building.

October. Still, the Brazilian Secretary of Education, Luciane de Aquino Nunes, promised to do all she could to enable the school to open during the next dry season.



August crew l. to r. Ethan Shirley, Johnathan Puff, Giorie Mahn, Jorge, Julie Bateman, João Batista.

Education, who had been very encouraging. Student groups compiled a detailed census of the school-age population and maps of the locations of children in ranching and fishing families in August. Transportation even to this school will be a tremendous challenge, since some families are spread out along the river, needing boat transport; other families are scattered throughout the countryside, requiring a bus to travel dirt roads and cross wooden bridges. The students helped this community meet all of the protocols for government recognition, but budget decisions for its support in teachers' salary and transportation won't be made until

Ethan and Julie hope to continue to recruit volunteers and raise money so they can return next summer. Much has been accomplished, but of course much remains to be done. The students had to accept some compromises in their dream plan, though they hope to rectify some of those with future work. They were able to build a solar panel to meet the school's needs, but not to provide transportation. They are troubled that their clean energy project relies so heavily on diesel fuel, but recognize that a solar-powered electric school bus is not feasible now. Julie writes that they hope such long-range problems can be solved by educating more minds: and the Pantanal Partnership has built a strong foundation for that in rural Brazil.