

UMD Honors Program

New Director's Note

Howard Mooers

The UMD Honors program is now finishing up its seventh year, and it has been a year with many changes. At the end of last academic year, Professor Eve Browning stepped down as Director of Honors. Eve brought many great ideas to the program including a series of regular meetings between professionals from nearly every discipline and the honors students. Eve also created the honors Journal *Aisthesis*, which solicits scholarly and artistic works from honors students around the country. The journal is managed and edited by UMD honors students and is now publishing two issues annually which are distributed nationally. Thanks to Eve for her hard work and dedication to the Honors Program. With the change in director came other significant changes. In October, Jessica Saxton joined us as Honors Program Coordinator. Jessica's background is in communications and

higher education administration, and she has proven to be a valuable asset to the program. Over the past year the Honors Program has sponsored numerous events including trips, meetings with professionals, artistic performances, and lectures. The year began with an all-day trip up the north shore emphasizing the natural history of the region with stops at Gooseberry falls and Split Rock Lighthouse. We eventually made our way to Lutsen for a bite to eat and a few trips down the Alpine slide. We also sponsored a reception at the Tweed Museum of Art for honors student Michelle Poirier's art exhibition. My particular favorite honors event of the year was the Tibetan monk sacred dance performance held at Mitchell Auditorium at St. Scholastica. "Meet the Professional" has been a long-standing get-together for the Honors Program. Professionals from a variety of disciplines are

invited to talk to the students about their careers and give advice to our new generation of professionals. This year it was doctors, professors, career counselors, and a fellow student who is a professional musician. The two biggest honors events of the year were the Winterlight banquet in December and the spring trip in April. To end up the academic year it has become tradition for the Honors Student Association to organize a spring trip and this year it was "destination Chicago." They had a blast - you can read all about it in the following pages. My first year as director of the UMD Honors Program has been fun and I am looking forward to next year. There will be some changes to the program and I will be sure to update everyone in the fall. Have a great summer.



Photo by Jeff Dezelske

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Photo by Jeff Dezelske

Lutsen Trip



Photo by Jeff Dezelske

Allison '13 and April '11 Severson

It started out a blustery, yet sunny, fall day. The honors students boarded the bus along with honors program director Howard Mooers and past leader, Eve Browning. We rode the bus up the shore while getting to know each other. Our first stop was Gooseberry Falls where we explored the falls and studied the rocky landscape around it. We sat on the surrounding rocks and driftwood and discussed the geology, Howard's favorite pastime. After getting our fill of the scenery, we moved on to Split Rock Lighthouse where we received a guided tour of the light house and the surrounding buildings. We walked through the refurbished houses and

took a peek over the cliff. We were then free to roam the area and appreciate the extraordinary view across the lake and shore. After taking in a plentiful amount of fresh lake air, we once again boarded the bus and headed further up the shore. Lutsen ski resort is well known for its winter beauty, but we arrived upon the peak of the autumn season. We took the gondola to the top of the ski hill, and ate lunch at the chalet with a view of Lake Superior. After we ate our fill, we took a final trip on the gondola and began our sledding adventures. We took our sleds to the top of another hill and raced down a long and winding fiberglass track. We had loads of fun, even with the various scratches and

burns from flying down the fast track. After repeating the fun (and pain) for a few hours, we decided it was enough. After a long and eventful day we were ready to head home. On the ride back, we discussed the geology of Northern Minnesota a little more and Eve and Howard challenged the students to write a limerick that related to the events of the day. The winner(s) would receive a prize for coming up with the cleverest limerick.



Photo by Jeff Dezelske

Who Runs the Honors Program?

UMD Honors reports to Academic Vice-Chancellor Vince Magnuson. Howard Mooers is the appointed Director, and he reports to a steering committee. Steering Committee members are: Prof. Sanjay Goel

(LSBE/Management Studies), Prof. Jen Jones (CLA/Anthropology), Prof. Alexandra Luong (CEHSP/Psychology), Prof. Tim Colburn (SCSE/Computer Science), Prof. Ann Bergeron (SFA/Theatre), Jessica

Saxton (Honors Program Coordinator), Chris Haidos (UMD Admissions Office), Vice-Chancellor Vince Magnuson (UMD Administration, Chemistry).



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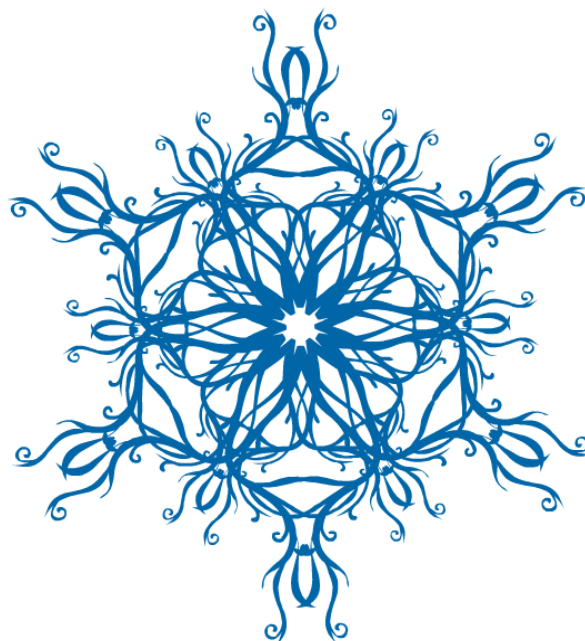
Winterlight Banquet 2009

Luke Busta '11

On Tuesday December 8th, 50 members of the Honors Program, with guest faculty David Beard, Denny Falk, Sean Walsh, Bilin Tsai, and honors staff Howard Mooers and Jessica Saxton were treated to a special night at the Kitchi Gammi Club on Superior Street. The Kitchi Gammi Club was founded in 1883 and its current club house completed in 1913. It is an exclusive club with membership by invitation only. The club strives to incorporate those who demonstrate successful social and business leadership in our community. The UMD Honors delegation was

privileged enough to spend the evening thanks to UMD's Chancellor Kathryn Martin, a member of the club. The evening began with a social hour with live jazz music provided by Ryan Frane of the UMD jazz department and Tanya Moore. A three course dinner followed which was concluded by keynote speaker Robin Washington, news director of the *Duluth News Tribune*. The address detailed numerous events in Mr. Washington's life in which he had employed critical thinking to overcome or analyze the source of a problem. Thanks to Mr. Washington and the other distinguished guests, the

attendees of the 2009 Winterlight banquet left attendees with a feeling of intellectual stimulation and warmth, despite the cold and windy weather outside.



So Long, Farewell, Aufwiedersehn Good-Bye

This spring we say farewell and thank you to the following students for all the wonderful contributions they have made to the Honors Program. We will miss you! Names and capstone projects are listed:

Jeffrey Dezelske
Big Picture, Small Frame

Sarah Mo
The Benefits and Risks of GM Foods: Are there increases in allergies related to the increase in GM foods?

Benjamin Ness
Following the Paper Trail: The Benefits and Challenges of Historical Field Research

Michelle Poirier
Unity Through Diversity: Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition

Leah Tollefson
The Decomposition of Complete Graphs into Kayak Paddles

Erica Whalen
Vera Brittain and the Canon of World War I Literature

Kelsey Zielke
The Square Driven Lattice Gas and Non-equilibrium Steady

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Aisthesis Update

Jeff Dezelske '10
Editor

Aisthesis Honors journal is rolling through its third year publishing the best work - research, creative prose, poetry, photography, visual art, and more - by honors undergraduates from across the country. We've been pleased this year to begin our working relationship with Litwin Books, whose ideas and resources are heightening the quality of Aisthesis as never before. Thanks to the input of our new publisher and the hard work of our editorial staff, the first issue of Volume 3 will soon be out in print and available for purchase. And we are especially excited that

subscriptions will soon be available for our readers as well.

The Aisthesis staff put in an amazing effort to complete Volume 3, Issue 1. With publication periods seeing nearly exponential growth in number of submissions, we have reviewed nearly 300 manuscripts, photographs, and works of art since Fall 2008. Such a high volume of contributions, with an acceptance rate of less than 50%, speaks to the quality and exciting expansion of the honors work featured within our pages. With Volume 3, Issue 1 on the way and Volume 3, Issue 2 nearly complete as well, the future looks bright for Aisthesis. As

founding editor-in-chief, I could not be prouder of the success we have achieved in the three short years since its inception. Under newly appointed succeeding editor-in-chief Brenna Oelfke, the honors community and our readers can surely look forward to continued high achievement of our mission: to give excellent Honors undergraduate work a place to stand out and be recognized.

Editor of Aisthesis is Jeff Dezelske. Senior staff editors are Brittany Bauer, Robert Nelson and Erica Whalen. Staff editors are Luke Busta, Phil Mlaker, Brenna Oelfke, Simon Radecki, April Severson, Sarah

Wotzka and Kelsey Zielke. We invite research papers, short stories, position papers, poetry, photography (black & white preferred), among other things. Send submissions to: hons@d.umn.edu. If you would be interested in working on this journal, please contact jsaxton@d.umn.edu.



Chi-Chi-Chicago

Michelle Poirier '10

This April, 29 honors students went to Chicago. The trip involved a grueling bus ride during the graveyard shift on a Friday night down to the Windy City. On Saturday morning, we were greeted by Chicago's vast skyscrapers which left the bus in shadows for blocks, large ads that stretched across entire buildings,

and a familiar glimpse of another Great Lake. Dropped off at the Seneca Hotel downtown, we broke into our self-appointed gangs to conquer the streets of Chicago. Our search was to satisfy our sense of adventure, excitement, and the pursuit for what is intrinsic to Chicago – deep-dish pizza, Millennium Park and, for

some, the Chicago Cubs and Blue Man Group. Many of us toiled in our efforts to reach these dreams in our limited time in such a vast city. During our departure back from high fashion to Duluth flannel, we had a great deal of time to reflect on the many things we had learned, and which we felt were important to share:

- Learning to sleep

upright is a talent

- Medieval Times is a dinner show aimed more at middle school students
- Eating baby dragons is possible, but not recommended
- Just because an artist's works are in a museum does not mean that you need to like them
- Walking on water is a reality at Millennium Park
- The fact that a coach bus has a VCR/DVD does not

UMD Honors Program
120 Montague Hall
1211 Ordean Court
Duluth, MN 55812

PHONE:
218-726-6776

FAX:
218-726-6563

E-MAIL:
hons@d.umn.edu

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.d.umn.edu/honors

Chicago (con't)

mean that the sound on it will work

- It is okay to take candy and hugs from strangers
- Sax Fifth Avenue is in fact not located on Fifth Avenue but is instead on Michigan Avenue

- Additionally, Filene's Basement is not in a basement but rather on the 4th, 5th, and 6th floors of a building
- Our income does not support many purchases on the Magnificent Mile

In conclusion, this trip

was a great success because of the many things we were able to experience and be a part of. For those of us who went on the trip, we would like to thank Jessica and Howard and the dedicated HSA students that made this wonderful trip possible.

Honors Student Association

**Greg Reynolds '11
HSA President**

Greetings from Honors Student Association (HSA)-

HSA is an organization of honors program students committed to improving the college experience of members through civic engagement, philanthropy, and building character strength. This academic year has seen some exciting changes to the organization with the

adoption of a new constitution. The reform measures enacted put the decision making process in the hands of members-at-large through newly founded committees. Fundraising, Community Service, and Membership Enrichment committee members, among others, are fully in charge of planning and executing the various events in which HSA members partake. Visits to local restaurants with invited

faculty, cooperating with the Red Cross to promote a blood drive, and the annual honors excursion to a location of interest are a few examples. Whether you are a current honors member or an incoming freshman, I encourage you to consider what HSA has to offer.

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