



The Aggregate

The UWM Honors College Newsletter

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Athletes in the Honors College



Alex Sitze
English/Film Studies

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Of the estimated 21,000 undergraduates enrolled at UWM in 2018, fewer than 700 are Honors College students, while only 304 are Division I athletes.

At the crossroads of these two groups are fifteen currently enrolled Honors College student-athletes who are dedicated as much to strength of mind as they are to strength of body.

The students represent eight of the fourteen Schools and Colleges at UWM and are pursuing thirteen different majors, including Art, Engineering, Nursing and Journalism.

Student-athletes in the Honors College face hectic and rigorous schedules every week. Between early-morning lifting, late-night study sessions, and traveling to competitions, it's no wonder they have a hard time catching up on sleep or finding time for leisure.

For many student-athletes in the Honors College, the balancing act between study and sport can be very stressful. To meet demands of both, skills like time-management, autonomy, and perseverance are not only valuable, but crucial.

Women's Soccer team-member Gabrielle Schwartz (Marketing) attests, "the biggest challenge is always time-management for any student-athlete; knowing your schedule ahead of time and figuring out when you need to get stuff done is the most important thing you can do."



Anya Athan. Photo courtesy of Anya Athan.

To help with managing her time, Track and Field athlete Kathryn Pecha (Engineering) makes the most of Honors courses offered during winter break: "I'm already on campus in the winter for sports, so I might as well take a class. Honors UWinterIM provides interesting and accommodating choices."

On top of academics and athletics, student-athletes assume other responsibilities as well, like work and extracurriculars. Some students take advantage of the resources offered through the Honors College, while others join student organizations or clubs, to ensure that they find opportunities for their many interests.

For instance, Track and Field athlete Anya Athan (Philosophy/Pre-Med) recently worked with other students in Philosophy to reinstate UWM's biweekly Philosophy Club, so she could pursue that passion in addition to her already busy schedule.

From a broader perspective, lessons learned on the field often overlap with lessons in the classroom. For student-athletes, the sports they play teach work ethics, goal-setting, and the humility that comes from not always being first.



Abigail Hoh. Photo courtesy of Abigail Hoh.



Athletes in the Honors College (continued)



Gabrielle Schwartz. Photo courtesy of Gabrielle Schwartz.

Concurrently, the Honors College teaches values like organization, open mindedness, and critical thinking. Tying this all together provides student-athletes with a well-rounded set of life skills that can propel them to success.

Even for students without definitive career paths, Track and Field athlete Abigail Hoh (Marketing) sees the value of skills learned through the Honors College. She is confident that the “collaboration, creative

problem solving, and independence” she continues to learn will help guide her on her journey after graduation.

Student-athletes in the Honors College possess a Herculean spirit that consistently matches rigor with vigor. Armed with extensive skill sets, student-athletes can clear any hurdle placed in their way. Wherever they go in their lives, their Honors College student-athlete experiences will surely help them come out on top.



Kathryn Pecha. Photo courtesy of Kathryn Pecha.

Honors College Student Athletes

Women's Track and Field	Anya Athan (Bio Science)	Women's Swim and Diving	Jenna Hotvedt (Nursing)
Women's Soccer	Cassidy Blanchard (Art)	Women's Track and Field	Madelyn Martin (Nursing)
Women's Track & Field	Adrienne Burton (Chemistry)	Women's Track and Field	Rafferty Kugler (JAMS)
Women's Soccer	Erin Corrigan (Psychology)	Women's Track & Field	Kathryn Pecha (Ind. Engineering)
Women's Volleyball	Taylor Douglas (Architecture)	Women's Soccer	Gabrielle Schwartz (Marketing)
Women's Track and Field	Jennifer Dore (Kinesiology)	Women's Volleyball	Ryan Scripp (Biochemistry)
Men's Soccer	Paolo Gratton (Mech. Engineering)	Women's Track and Field	Quinn Yeager (Business)
Women's Track and Field	Abigail Hoh (Marketing)		

Director's Note



Dr. Peter Sands
Honors College Director

Welcome new and returning readers of *The Aggregate!*

This issue of the Honors College newsletter shows how deeply and widely our students and faculty are involved in extracurriculars at UWM.

We're highlighting student athletes from our successful campus teams and from our ever-growing roster of PantherProwl participants; the actors, director, and supporters for our regular theatrical productions; world travelers on study-abroad trips; service-minded folks who use their spring break to volunteer in New Orleans; and so much more.

Honors at UWM is not just about General Education or research credits. We pride ourselves on the reach the College has into other parts of campus and community life, and I hope you'll let us know for future issues your involvement in activities beyond the confines of Honors House.

As with every issue, we've highlighted some of our faculty and courses, some graduates of the College representing us in the world, and more. We hope you enjoy reading about your peers and predecessors as much as we enjoy learning more about them.

This is the second year we have presented this newsletter to the Honors College community, including alumni, and I'd like to also point out that it is researched, written, illustrated, and designed by Honors College students, the members of *The Aggregate*. Be sure to let them know you're reading it!

As always, don't hesitate to stop by Honors House for a tour of our building or to meet with advisors and faculty members. We look forward to hearing your thoughts about *The Aggregate*, or just hearing from you!



Flowing in a New Direction: Studying Lake Michigan



Samantha Brusky
Architecture

“WOW!” is a frequent exclamation of the School of Freshwater Science faculty members, Dr. Carmen Aguilar and Dr. Russell Cuhel.

Appropriately so, because no other word sums up the pleasant surprise sixteen Honors College students received on the first day of their course, “Expedition to Lake Michigan.”

Each Tuesday, students engage in experiments that range from detecting CO₂ to grinding vegetables to explore pigment.

Tess Richard (Architecture) “love[s] how hands-on and different the class is; every day we are asked to engage on a deeper level.”

After the students run experiments every Tuesday, they are asked to provide their own due dates; the instructors recognize and respect the chaotic nature of students’ schedules.

Professor Aguilar explains, “this is a class students should really enjoy; besides, I remember how it was when I was a stressed student.”

This philosophy allows students to blossom. Kimberly Mayer (Biology) explains, “I have never been able to speak about my major so much in a course. They care about how these issues affect both our experiences of life and our fields of study.”

The course’s first writing assignment exemplifies the how the instructors engage diverse fields. Each student is asked to write about the concepts they have learned and apply them to their major.



Dr. Cuhel, Dr. Aguilar, and Emily Ortega (Biological Sciences). Photo courtesy of Carmen Aguilar.



Bella Biver (Architecture), Maddie Sobjinski, and Dr. Cuhel. Photo courtesy of Carmen Aguilar.

Professors Aguilar and Cuhel utilize many visual aids in their teaching. To understand the absorption of algae by Quagga Mussels, for example, they provide video footage from the bottom of Lake Michigan.

Because the course content is so proximate to campus, students are especially engaged. Many students recall their childhood experiences of the lake in order to better comprehend the ideas of the course.

And the concepts come to life when students accompany their instructors on an excursion to Fox Point on Lake Michigan.

Kimberly says: “it was a unique way to experience class because we were able to obtain live data, which helped us make a more meaningful connection with the course content.”

Maddie Sobjinski (Accounting) believes that “since I have entered the Honors College, I have noticed that classes like ‘Expedition to Lake Michigan’ provide deep learning without straining my mental capacity to a point of breaking.”

Although this course is new, it fits with the values of the Honors College as though it has been offered for years. The course is unique in its own respect, but students learn at a deeper level and apply the concepts they learn to a broader social context.

The Honors College is fortunate to have Professors Aguilar and Cuhel to provide this incredible educational opportunity as students learn more about their fresh water neighbor.



Erin VandenBosch
Psychology



Photo courtesy of Erin VandenBosch.



Westminster Abbey, London. Photo courtesy of Erin VandenBosch.

Foreign Correspondence

In Europe, I have found that there is no better icebreaker than meeting someone and saying I am from the United States.

Everyone has questions, ranging from “Have you been to Disneyland?” to “Do cheerleaders really wear their uniforms during high school?” But the question everyone asks is “Why would you want to come to the United Kingdom?”

When asked, I am dumbfounded as to how to answer. Why wouldn’t I want to be in the UK? In fact, every day, I find one more reason to be thankful for my decision to attend the University of Birmingham in Birmingham, England, for my semester abroad.

In England, there is history everywhere I turn; after a thirty-minute train ride north or south, I can reach a castle. I have been able to see ancient Roman Baths and Crown Jewels used for centuries.

I have visited the University of Cambridge, where academics like Sir Isaac Newton and Sir Charles Darwin studied. These sorts of opportunities aren’t available in the United States, and I love that they are so close and accessible to me here.

The architecture throughout the country is magnificent as well. When I walk down the street in the center of Birmingham, there are Modern buildings juxtaposed with beautiful Victorian structures.

The buildings have detail and character that make every street I walk down memorable. And no matter where I am, after a few minutes of wandering, I am sure to see a gorgeous cathedral. I fear that I constantly look like a tourist, because I am always taking pictures.

Easy access to travel throughout Europe is another reason I point out to the people who question my decision to be here. From the US, it’s often impractical to go on a weekend trip to another country, but many students here do so regularly.

Studying in Birmingham has given me an opportunity to explore not only the UK, but different countries, such as Spain, France and Italy. I am experiencing the culture of this country, but also little bits of many others nearby.

Interestingly, being immersed in British culture is teaching me a lot about my own. We are similar in many ways, but because of that the differences are more noticeable. Whether eating beans on toast or my roommates writing a “British Word of the Day” on the fridge every morning, I am learning more than I ever thought I would.

Beyond that, I have had many conversations about the differences in school systems and political policies. I am taking Social Policy courses this semester and it is eye-opening to see how another country’s fundamental institutions work and to hear different perspectives from students.

I am beginning to think differently about my own country, since I have been here, whether being more thankful for how things operate in the US or questioning why progress hasn’t been made in other areas. Learning cultural norms foreign to mine has given me incredible and invaluable insight.

England’s undeniable history, the many beautiful places to visit, and being exposed to a new culture all make me sure that I made the right decision to spend this semester abroad.



The Selfridges building, Birmingham. Photo public domain.



Starting Out: Brianna Schubert



Alex Sitze
English/Film Studies

Bright and breezy—an appropriate description for the fall weather outside of Golda Meir Library, but perhaps even better for easy-going first-year student, Brianna Schubert (Psychology).

With her love for academics, it is clear why Brianna fits in with the Honors College crowd. Like many of her peers, she is here with the goal of obtaining a unique educational experience. But aside from a studious mindset, Brianna glows with other positive attributes, like character, tolerance, and persistence: a strong recipe for success.

Brianna was set on joining the Honors College far before enrolling. She was inspired to apply to UWM after a tour she took during her junior year of high school, where she got to meet students, eat in the dining hall, and attend a sample seminar.

One of the strongest draws for Brianna was the idea of a microcosm surrounded by the larger university setting. In this way, the Honors College feels like having a “small place to call your own,” she says.

While previous high school teachers quieted her for answering too many questions, Brianna finds space within the Honors seminar structure to allow her curiosity and interest in discussion to flourish.

Brianna remarks that her first Honors course, Honors College faculty member Benjamin Schneider’s “Growing Up,” is more meaningful than her non-seminar classes. She appreciates that it provides her with an opportunity to hear diverse perspectives in the participation-heavy environment that the seminars promote.



Photo courtesy of Brianna Schubert.

Looking ahead, Brianna plans on taking advantage of every Honors College opportunity she can in the next four years. Honors College Director Peter Sands’ challenge to “embrace discomfort” gives her motivation to seek out new and unfamiliar territory in the coming years.

Signing up for the Alternative Spring Break trip to New Orleans is another example of Brianna capitalizing on what the Honors College has to offer. Her rural upbringing has been about total familiarity, and traveling with people she doesn’t know in an unfamiliar environment feels “not uncomfortable, but new” and exciting.

Rather than backing away, Brianna embraces this potential discomfort with a bold steadfastness: “I like it, I’m not scared of it.” This willingness to learn from new experiences speaks to her avid willingness to grow as a person.

Without a doubt, Brianna will find the Honors College a comfortable but challenging fit.



2017-18 Honors College Scholarship Awardees

Edward & Diane Zore Honors College Scholarship

Bailey Flannery (English)

Kathryn Pecha (Engineering)

Rachel Radomski (English)

Brianna Sayeg (Art)

Gabrielle Schwartz (Marketing)

Wade Snowden (Nursing)

Lawrence Baldassaro Honors College Scholarship

Emily Trific (Psychology)

KleinOsowski Honors College Scholarship

Kim Phan (Nursing)

Tabak Law Excellence Scholarship

Eleanor Borden (Spanish and Political Science)



Rachel Radomski
English

Farmers Market Fundraiser

Before entering the Shorewood Farmers Market, I could already hear the deep bass tones of bouncy music drifting through the gentle orange leaves of the tree-lined street. The murmur of Sunday morning calmness was enticing.

On the Lake Bluff Elementary School playground, I found a teal food truck selling waffles, vendors under tents, and several student bands performing for the community members that frequent the Farmers Market.

That morning, a group from the Honors College hosted a fundraiser for the Alternative Spring Break New Orleans service trip. The event was hugely successful both financially and in increasing awareness of the trip and its primary service component.

Isaac Repinski (Biomedical Engineering) booked bands mostly made up of students from the UWM Jazz Ensemble. The Sunkin Suns, Dogbad, Josh Trimble, and Pineapple Migraine all volunteered their time for the fundraiser.

Isaac relied on the supportive “community of musicians here in Milwaukee.” He knew “they would jump at the opportunity to support a cause like this, while sharing their passion . . . rooted in the styles of music that originated in New Orleans.”

Past service trip attendees were on hand to offer information on their experiences in New Orleans during last year’s trip. All tips and donations went to support the planned Spring Break 2019 experience.

The Shorewood Farmers Market was pleased with the collaboration and noted a higher than usual turn-out. The Farmers Market organizers shared that much of the



Photo courtesy of Lena Orwig.

crowd was visiting the market for the first time and stayed longer for the music.

Farmers Market manager Barb Heinen shares that “the music . . . really creates a good vibe for the event” and she hopes to have the bands return next season.

The service trip is a successful way to build relationships with the Honors community through travel and volunteer work.

The Alternative Spring Break students hope to combine again with these bands for an event at the beginning of next semester.



Dogbad. Photo courtesy of Lena Orwig.



Pineapple Migraine. Photo courtesy of Lena Orwig.



Honors College students. Photo courtesy of Ben Schneider.



Amanda Niebauer
English



The Honors College Family Expands

The UW System has recently combined the state's two-year colleges with its four-year universities. As of July 1st, students at the University of Wisconsin-Washington County and the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha became part of UWM.

UW-Washington County's Honors courses and UW-Waukesha's Honors Program now coordinate with UWM's Honors College to make transferring Honors credits as seamless as possible.

UWM at Waukesha and UWM at Washington County students now have access to UWM Honors events, such as "Midweek" and the Monsters Conference.

Research opportunities at UWM, through programs such as the Undergraduate Research Symposium, are also newly available to these students and UWM's students will have access to the other campus' research sites and faculty as well.

UWM Honors College Director Peter Sands has great enthusiasm for the oppor-

tunities this cooperation is already bringing to all three campuses. He believes the biggest benefit of the collaboration is the opportunity for faculty and staff at all three campuses to come together to benefit students.

"We relish the opportunity to rethink what it means to be an Honors student and how we can best serve all students at UWM," Professor Sands says.

UWM at Waukesha's Honors Program Coordinator Dr. Ellyn Lem shares Professor Sands' energy and optimism for the future of the Honors programs. She hopes that Honors instructors can appear as guest speakers in classes and present at the different campuses for "a real exchange of intellectual capital."

What comes next for UWM at Washington County, UWM at Waukesha, and UWM has yet to be fully imagined, but one thing is certain: we are happy to expand our UWM family.



Lena Orwig
JAMS

Learning in London: Honors College Study Abroad

Following the success of 2017's study abroad trip, Honors College faculty members Alan Singer and David Southward are preparing once more to lead a group of Honors students on a deep dive into London's rich history and culture.

Offered as a six-credit upper-level Honors course, Summer 2019's study abroad trip will challenge students, as they spend two weeks reading, writing, and learning in and about London.

The trip is more than just Honors credit. Students will have the opportunity to participate in intensive and rewarding experiences that can impact their educational and professional careers. The country itself is part of the curriculum.

On the trip, students will document their time abroad with journals and engage in nightly Honors-style round-table discussions throughout the trip. Upon return, students are required to compose an essay as an end-project.

Karol Nowak (Film) attended the inaugural iteration of this trip. He shares that he would recommend it to anyone and that it was his favorite experience at UWM.

He remembers that "all of us Honors students bonded over the course of the trip and we had so much fun. It was a lot of work, but it was worth it because the class and the students were all enjoyable. It was a wonderful first study abroad experience."

Study Abroad London is scheduled for May 21-June 2, 2019. Bon voyage, students.



Honors Study Abroad 2017. Photo courtesy of Alan Singer.



Kira Church
Conservation and
Environmental Science

Moving Forward: Maddie Ninmann

Maddie Ninmann ('18, Architecture) filled many roles as a college student. Between her major in architecture, co-founding and writing for the Honors College newsletter, *The Aggregate*, co-creating and editing the student architectural journal, *Sample*, and completing a Spanish minor, Maddie's college experience was far from boring.

Not surprisingly, she has accomplished a lot in a few short months since graduating and now works as an Architecture Intern for Wold Architects, in Denver, Colorado.

With Wold, Maddie has opportunities to contribute to project designs, which offers her the creative freedom she needs to continue to develop her skills.

Maddie is intrigued by the idea of mixing architecture with sociology. She discovered this union as a common theme in many of her Honors College courses, where she was exposed to a variety of subjects she might not have otherwise studied.

Her favorite Honors course was "Utopias/Dystopias," taught by Honors College Director Peter Sands. The readings and discussion, she says, were thought-provoking.

She recalls that "the course had great literature and always fostered interesting discussion." That gave her experience in collaborative and creative work, crucial skills in the development of her work in architecture.

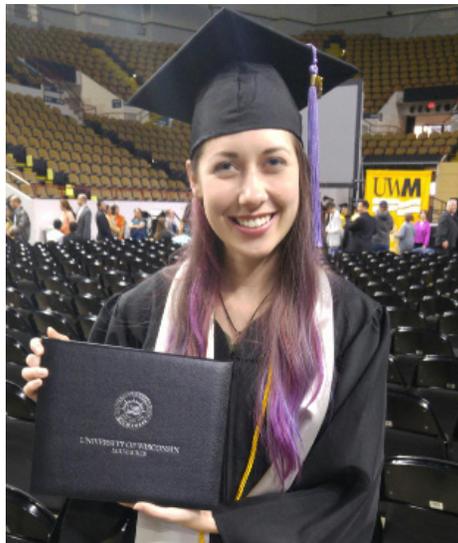


Photo courtesy of Maddie Ninmann.



Photo courtesy of Maddie Ninmann.

The Honors College community encouraged Maddie to reach out and meet new people at pizza parties and the LLC's Winter Olympics, but also in class.

Maddie enjoyed engaging in discussions with people who had a diversity of experiences and opinions. It also offered her a support system when she was struggling.

"It felt like a home away from home," she recalls, "all the Honors College professors and Architecture professors were so willing to go out of their way to give helpful advice."

As an Honors student, Maddie was challenged to learn something every day, which she misses in life after graduation. She would like to go back to school to further her education in Architecture, but, like many recent grads, she first wants to experience the working world.

Maddie encourages current students to continue to explore their interests: "When you can, when you are in the position to, try something new."

Her curiosity and dedication to her field will carry her far, but she is thankful for the support she received at the start from the Honors College and from fellow students.



Photo courtesy of Maddie Ninmann.



The Honors College Players Presents: *Reasons to Be Pretty*



Haley Kress
Biomedical Science

The Honors College Drama Club staged another successful play at the end of the Spring 2018 semester.

Greg Rowan (Film) directed Amanda Niebauer (English), Crowlie Gross (Theater), Mia Valenzuela (Social Work), and Karol Nowak III (Film) in Neil LaBute's *Reasons to Be Pretty*.

The play is the final installment in one of LaBute's thematic trilogies, centering around the importance of superficial appearance in contemporary US culture.

The text depicts four working-class friends, each of whom is employed in mundane jobs. Precarious relationships and appearances of normality thread through *Reasons*, swaying characters' emotions and decisions.

LaBute's plays are intense and emotional and can be difficult to perform and direct. Not surprisingly, staging it brought challenges and rewards for the actors and the director involved.



Photo courtesy of Lizzie Stelow.

Rowan notes that "directing the play was an excellent and creative opportunity for me, and an unparalleled educational experience. Learning how to lead my peers to bring out their best performances was important and made the experience worth it."

With help from Honors College faculty member Jacqueline Stuhmiller, *Reasons to Be Pretty* is the third presentation by the Honors College Drama Club. Next up is Greg Allen's *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind: 30 Plays in 60 Minutes*, directed by Juniper Beatty (Art Education).

5K for a Cause



Lena Orwig
JAMS

The Honors College running team turned out to support fundraising for student scholarships at the 2018 Panther Prowl 5k race.

Honors College Director Peter Sands leads the team, currently comprised of 33 Honors students, faculty, and staff.

This year, the Honors team finished third overall and each of its top ten runners finished in under 30 minutes. First-year student Andrew Harter (Art and Art History) and Professor Sands were this year's fundraising leaders.



Photo courtesy Amanda Soika.

Andrew got involved with the run because "scholarship funding is important; it can help students who would otherwise struggle" financially. He chose to run with the Honors team "to help represent the campus group that I most identify with."

Created in 2014, the team serves as a vehicle for Honors students to make connections outside of their classes and to show their support for the College, the University, and scholarship programs.

Honors student Halie Gehling (Environmental Conservation) says she enjoys running the race because "it's a great campus-wide bonding experience. Everyone is so encouraging and so nice and, as a result, it really strengthens my sense of community on campus."

Running with the Honors team, Gehling says, makes her "proud to represent such a wonderful and enjoyable aspect" of her college experience.

Considering how large the team is, that feeling must be universal.

Kaitlyn Diskin
Film

Looking Back: Ramon Escobar

Honors College alum Ramon Escobar ('03, Marketing) studied Business at UWM, but he makes it clear that his interests expand far beyond his degree.

He doesn't like to be stuck in one place, always yearning to experience and learn something new. For this reason, he loves the Honors College and remembers it vividly, even after graduating fifteen years ago.

While at UWM, the Honors College was an outlet for Ramon to try things outside of his major. He reminisces about that time, saying, "I think what it did was help me keep in mind that the world is a lot bigger than just marketing and it kept me interested in a lot of different areas and subjects." He has maintained this mindset throughout his career.

After leaving UWM, Ramon earned a master's degree at Columbia University. While he loved his time there, he recalls that he always "just had an itch. A desire to stay engaged in other issues." He decided that Foreign Affairs was how he would do so.

Ramon developed a passion for learning about different cultures and for making a social impact, and he nurtured it as he entered a career in the US Diplomatic Corps.

In this position, he has completed several tours to different embassies and has covered national and global issues around the world.

Ramon's last assignment in Colombia is his proudest as part of the US diplomatic corps. "The most rewarding experience I've ever had was participating in Columbia's peace negotiation, that ultimately ended a 52-year war," he notes.

In Columbia, he worked as US Special Envoy Bernard Aronson's assistant. While he says his contributions were minimal, he is forever grateful and privileged to have been so close to a process that had such positive results.

After spending years working on foreign policy, Ramon recently switched gears and put his Marketing degree to use by creating Chuffy Imports, a small wine and spirits company that imports wine from Bolivia.



Photo courtesy of Ramon Escobar.

At first, the company may seem to be disconnected from his prior work, but it is clear this is something that's always been a goal. His father is Bolivian and Ramon's experiences visiting the country when he was younger created a "sense of responsibility" within him "to try and make a difference in the country of his ancestors."

His company is doing just that. Its website states that for "every twenty-five acres of grape vines planted, ten families are lifted out of extreme poverty."

When describing the future of his company, Ramon is hopeful, stating "we still have a long way to go before we make a huge impact, but I think that we are well on our way to eventually, hopefully, lifting tens of thousands of people out of poverty, extreme poverty."

Currently, he is writing a novel on the Syrian crisis, an interest that he attributes to "War Stories: Art and Experience," a class he took while in the Honors College.

As advice for current Honors students, Ramon stresses the importance of keeping an open mind and exploring all the opportunities offered. Being able to sample many different subjects while studying at UWM pushed him to challenge himself and resulted in his journeys around the world.

He encourages students to "take a risk and take a class you might not think you'd like, just to challenge yourself and your assumptions" because figuring what you want to do can be a "lifelong discovery." And that discovery can start right here, right now in the Honors College.



On Wednesdays We Drink Coffee (You CAN sit with us!)



Kaitlyn Diskin
Film

Every Wednesday from 12-1pm, Honors House 196 transforms from a quiet classroom and study space into one filled with the lively chatter of Honors students, faculty, and staff.

“Midweek” provides a convenient opportunity for Honors folks to socialize outside of the classroom, as well as to enjoy delicious snacks and beverages.

Honors College faculty member Jacqueline Stuhmiller established “Midweek” in an attempt to make the Honors House not just a building of classrooms and offices, but a place where Honors students could meet to form a community.

So far, it seems to be working. With typically fifty people in attendance each week, “Midweek” is a great opportunity for students to reconnect with friends they’ve made in previous classes or to be introduced to professors they haven’t yet met.

The conversations and connections people form extend beyond the designated



Honors students and faculty at “Midweek.” Photo courtesy of Lena Orwig.

hour, as students linger to talk and spend time together even after the coffee has gone cold and the food has disappeared.

While a large part of the Honors College exists to enhance students’ academic experience at UWM, “Midweek” demonstrates that the relationships made here can create lasting memories that might well endure after students have graduated.

Next time you are rushing to or from class or studying alone on a Wednesday afternoon, pop in to “Midweek” for some great food and even better conversation.

From Student to Scholar: The Senior Thesis



Halie Gehling
Conservation and Environmental science

Offered as a six-credit non-seminar option spanning two semesters, the Honors College Senior Thesis is a valuable opportunity that transforms Honors College students into independent scholars, equipped to enter graduate school, according to Honors College faculty member and Senior Thesis Liaison David Southward.

The thesis option is a substantial independent research paper available exclusively for seniors. Students can present an original argument in their chosen field through a deeply researched project.

Topics for the Senior Thesis range anywhere from business to speech pathology to architecture. Past examples include Nathan Neerhof’s (’18 Philosophy) “Consistency, Discretion, and Interpretation in the Supreme Court” and Molly M. Kiefer’s (’18 Dance and Psychology) “The Body as Knowledge: Examining Embodiment and Somatic Practices.”

Professor Southward relates that “students get a sense of empowerment and authority over their subject,” when choosing this option. But what makes this an ideal choice for UWM Honors students?

Professor Southward explains that seniors need to write a thesis to graduate from most Honors Colleges, as it is a representation of the accumulation of learned knowledge and the capstone of the undergraduate experience.

The seminars Honors students complete prepare them for independent research and critical thinking, both heavily utilized in writing a thesis and during graduate school.

Recently, there have been fewer Honors students who are taking advantage of this immersive opportunity, but they are missing out on one of “the best way[s] to prepare for graduate school,” reminds Professor Southward.



Photo courtesy of Lena Orwig.



Kimberly Mayer
Biology



Professor Lydia Equitz. Photo courtesy of the Honors College.

Course Highlights

“Is God Dead?”

Each Fall semester, Honors College faculty member Lydia Equitz teaches “Is God Dead? Modern Intellectual Challenges to Religious Belief.”

The course encourages students to engage in a modern critique of religion. Students use the concepts of Pragmatism, Freudianism, Marxism, and Existentialism to explore the complexities of belief, as well as to better understand their own relationship to the subject.

Professor Equitz has taught the course for almost 20 years consecutively, making it one of the longest running courses in the Honors College. She shares that the course has “become more courageous” during her years of teaching it.

“Is God Dead?” has changed to emphasize that it is a challenge both to belief, and the meanings and associations behind

it, as well as to the rejection or endorsement of belief.

Professor Equitz began the course because she thought students needed exposure to the philosophical approaches to religion. She also wanted to broaden students’ exposure to the variety in belief systems.

Professor Equitz teaches the course with Iris Murdoch’s *The Bell* and Flannery O’Connor’s *Wise Blood* as primary texts, along with several essays and poems that students use to navigate the course’s central topics.

Jensen Mollet (Social Work) comments that the course “requires us to discuss religion, atheism, and religious philosophies” and “to reach within ourselves to define our own beliefs.” She adds, the course “provides an interesting outlook on the world and how religion shapes us.”

“The Social Worlds of Beer and Brewing”

Dr. Jennifer Jordan, UWM Professor of Sociology and Urban Studies, believes beer is worth studying, even outside of a party.

This viewpoint is one she’s hoping to inspire in her students in the Honors College course, “The Social Worlds of Beer and Brewing.” Dynamic and interdisciplinary, the “beer class” reveals how studying sociology requires an understanding of history, geography, economics, and in the case of brewing, even chemistry.

The varied nature of Professor Jordan’s class is intentional. “I definitely use beer as a sneaky way to talk about culture, stratification, tastes, and ecology,” she says, “it’s a subject in which all of those things come together.” Focusing on the people behind the brews, the class spans cultures and traditions, from ancient brewing to the current American craft beer revolution.

Students ask in-depth questions about who writes history, who gets left behind, and how human presence shapes the lo-

cations in which it exists. Professor Jordan doesn’t let her students forget that people and places are always linked.

Importantly, the class acknowledges the societal negatives of alcohol, such as addiction and violence. Professor Jordan points out, “I don’t think studying joyfulness is in any way antithetical to studying difficult things like inequality or power.”

“The Social Worlds of Beer and Brewing” engages the nuances of global societies, making it an Honors Class that, despite the unusual subject, is worth tapping into.



The students of “The Social Worlds of Beer and Brewing” at Lakefront Brewery. Photo courtesy of Haley Kress.



Haley Kress
Biomedical Science



Rachel Radomski
English



Photo courtesy of the Honors College.

Familiar Faces

Dr. Alan Singer

One of the favorite aspects of Historian and Honors College faculty member Alan Singer's job is "listening to [his] students' great discussions about historical events and texts in class."

Alan's interests in history began at a young age. By age seven, he had memorized all the US presidents and was studying the American Revolutionary War. He believes that knowing history is crucial because it tells us who we are and helps us understand others.

Alan came to UWM and the Honors College via Chicago and the University of Missouri.

His popular Honors courses include "Turmoil, Tragedy, and Triumph," "The Pursuit of Happiness," and "Bandits!" In Spring 2019, he is scheduled to teach "The Idea of the Nation in History" and "The Age of Revolution."

Fortunately for us, teaching is hardly his only involvement with the Honors College. Alan and Honors College faculty member David Southward lead a study abroad program to England, for instance. In Summer 2019, they will co-teach the six-credit Honors course, "Royals and Rebels" in London, with about sixteen Honors students.

Alan also helps Honors students navigate scholarship applications in annual workshops, offering advice on personal statements and letters of recommendation.

Currently, he is working with Honors College faculty member Jill Budny to create a workshop for high school teachers that delves into effective strategies for teaching close reading, critical thinking, and writing.

Beyond teaching, Alan enjoys spending time with his family, biking the Oak Leaf Trail, playing his many guitars, and the World Champion Chicago Cubs.



Kira Church
Conservation and Environmental science



Photo courtesy of the Honors College.

Amanda Soika

Amanda Soika is a new, but soon-to-be familiar, face in the Honors College.

As Enrollment Coordinator, her job includes contacting high school students, their advisors, and current college students about the Honors College and why it would be beneficial to them. As an Academic Advisor, she has a hand in ensuring the success of current Honors students.

Before coming to UWM, Amanda worked in Milwaukee for nearly seven years, advising students in a pre-college setting. Among the students who stayed in Milwaukee, she saw the most success at UWM.

However, she still saw a need for student support at the university level, which led her to take a job at the UWM Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

While employed at UWM, Amanda worked towards a Master's degree in Administrative Leadership, which she received in May of 2018. The degree provided her with the background and credentials to ad-

vice and assist college students in the way that she wanted.

In June 2018, shortly after receiving her degree, Amanda joined the Honors College staff.

"I think the hard thing about admissions is that you help students get to the university, and then you never know how things work out," she shares; "this [position] is great because you help students come into the Honors College and then you still get to work with them throughout their time here."

If she could, Amanda would like to add to the extensive assistance that the Honors College gives to incoming and continuing students, by making sure that students feel as though they are ready for the transition to college.

Amanda is happy to be a new member of the Honors College and is excited about growing with the Honors community.

Welcome aboard!



The Aggregate:
Samantha Brusky
Kira Church
Kaitlyn Diskin
Halie Gehling
Haley Kress
Kimberly Mayer
Amanda Niebauer
Lena Orwig
Rachel Radomski
Alex Sitze
Erin VandenBosch

The Aggregate's Voice

UWM Honors students share a strong commitment to our education. However, how we express that commitment beyond or in addition to academics differs.

This issue of *The Aggregate* highlights many of our “extra” endeavors: athletics, community service, charitable fundraising, traveling abroad, theater, and even senior theses. Honors students show a pattern of engagement that reveals a high level of enthusiasm toward our education.

One of the clearest examples of this ethos lies with our student-athletes. This issue’s cover story tells part of these students’ stories and their drive to be successful in class and in their sports is impressive.

We are proud to have Honors represented in this area, just as we are proud of our other non-academic involvement.

This issue highlights students raising money to support their Alternative Spring Break service trip and we detail an opportunity to study abroad in London with Honors College faculty.

Our participation in on-campus events, like the Panther Prowl, that are not exclusive to the Honors College, further demonstrates a desire for connection with our cam-

pus community. Honors College events, like Midweek or the Honors College Players, are a demonstration of a close connection with our peers.

Our educational experience in the Honors College is special to us and encourages us to participate fully in our academic experience at UWM.

The Aggregate continues to be encouraged by the many opportunities that Honors students have available to them and is moved to learn how our peers are taking advantage of them. Keep pushing and expanding and exploring and challenging and we’ll keep writing about it!

-*The Aggregate*



Front: Samantha Brusky, Kira Church, Rachel Radomski. Back: Lena Orwig, Amanda Niebauer, Kimberly Mayer, Halie Gehling, Kaitlyn Diskin, Alex Sitze. Photo courtesy of Ben Schneider. (Not pictured: Haley Kress and Erin VandenBosch)

Honors College Calendar

2019

January 22	First Day of Spring Classes
March 5	Mardi Gras Open Mic Night
March 16-22	Alternative Spring Break to New Orleans
May 11	Spring Honors Graduation
May 19	Spring UWM Graduation
May 21- June 2	Honors College Study Abroad to England
May 28	First Day of Summer Classes
June 10-11	New Student Orientation
Late August	Honors Convocation
September 3	First Day of Fall Classes

