Drama Club Stars in Honors College

Throughout its brief history in the Honors House, the Honors College Drama Club has shared myriad thrilling performances to consistently packed houses.

The Club is an Honors student-run organization that stages a play every semester. The Club started in 2017 and owes its origins to a concept fundamental to the Honors College: free academic thinking.

Honors College faculty member and Club advisor Jacqueline Stuhmiller says that “these performances started from student interest and continue to run on their motivation. I just sit back and check in; it’s first and foremost a student venture.”

Founding director and former Honors student Sean van Zeeland (Geology) eagerly expanded on the beginnings of the club. “Basically,” he recalls, “in one of [Professor Stuhmiller’s] classes, we read Edward Albee’s The Goat, or Who is Sylvia and I joked that someone should perform it. She took me seriously, gave me the tools to try directing.”

The Goat explores societal and sexual taboos and the way the culture collectively and publicly approaches them. The Club’s mission is to stage thought-provoking material and each semester has brought about an equally intellectually interesting play.

Yasmina Reza’s Art, staged during the Fall of 2017, explores how we define art and our need for unconditional love.

The Club performed Neil LaBute’s Reasons to be Pretty in Spring 2018, a play that unpacks the strong desire to keep up superficial appearances in contemporary American culture.

Fall 2018’s performance of Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind, the Greg Allen collection, is a non-traditional production, centering on fast-paced collaboration and audience participation.

No two productions of these plays are the same, and none of them have been easy to deliver, as most students who have been involved in a production are quick to point out. However, as many students also note, the intensely collaborative nature of the Club, like Honors generally, makes grasping deep meanings and expressing important subtleties easier.

Courtney Raatz (Social Work), who acted in The Goat, recalls that “the project was also unique in that it was student run; each of us involved had an immense impact on the direction of the show.”

Lily Pickart (English) agrees, adding that acting in the Honors production of Art helped her grow as a person, and emphasizes that her “fellow cast-mates were equally as invested in sharing the story.”

Because the cast and crew of each play typically contains less than ten Honors students, collaboration is crucial. Comraderie, too, is a necessary and well-appreciated by-product of creating these productions.

Markia Silverman Rodriguez (English) auditioned for Art with the intent to be more involved on campus and she’s glad she
Honors College Drama Club (continued)

did. “Being in Art helped me to feel more at home in the Honors College and at UWM in general,” she shares.

Reasons to Be Pretty actor Mia Valenzuela (Social Work) adds that the best “part about being in Reasons to Be Pretty was growing closer to Honors students.”

The intellectual rigor and closeness of the Drama Club is apparent to the audience too. Connor Finnegan (Theater), attends productions to support the students’ effort.

“I’ve enjoyed all the work I’ve seen so far from the Drama Club,” he says. “It’s clear the members are all committed to telling conversation-generating work.”

The Club hopes to uphold that reputation by institutionalizing. Currently, students are working to establish the Drama Club as an official student organization.

Professor Stuhmiller is excited for the possibilities that could come with that designation, but she emphasizes the Club plans on keeping the productions grassroots.

Professor Stuhmiller believes that students thrive off having to fundraise and plan to create productions from a small budget, because it places a focus on the meaning of the productions rather than on the resources needed to stage it. However, promoting the Club to official campus status would give it access to campus resources designed to support student experiences.

Previous director Greg Rowan (Film) is one of the students attempting to institutionalize the club. He values the chance to grow a theater community in Honors.

The production for Spring 2019 is Edgar Allan Poe’s Nightfall, directed by Ethan Pinkham (Film and Theater). The first-year student chose Poe’s work because he “knew [he] wanted to do something dark, maybe even mysterious” to contrast the previous semester’s comedies.

He’s excited to see how working with fellow students will engage his own ideas in another thrilling Drama Club production.

Director’s Note

This issue of The Aggregate highlights our vibrant arts community in the Honors College—the writers, directors, filmmakers, and visual artists among us.

Central to our Honors College identity is the idea that the arts and humanities, as much as the STEM and professional disciplines, are essential to the healthy development and function of people and society.

While the demands of the 21st Century pressure Honors colleges to grow and adapt to new interests, models, and careers, they also make plain to us that the arts, whose disciplines and practices seek and express meaning out of the mess and disorder of our lives, are more important than ever.

Here you will find a little history and context for our semesterly student-led drama productions; a profile of one of our distinguished student-artists, whose work in the Clarke Square neighborhood has earned citywide recognition; illumination of the work done by almost three dozen film students in the College; a little bit about one of our student designers, whose work appears on a custom cap series for the Milwaukee Bucks; and some of the very talented creative writers who meet each week and produce our Spring Art Magazine.

As always, feel free to stop by Honors House and say hello, tour the building, and just spend some time in our community.

I’ll let you discover on your own the other gems in this issue, highlighting work in law and finance and poetry, and leave you with this charge: this spring, whether you see yourself as an artist or not, take a moment to sketch, write, film, or sing a little. And, if you like, share it with us!
Honors College student Isabel “Isa” Castro (Architecture) is learning and working her way through her time at UWM. Not only is she a student, but she is an experienced community artist who owns and operates an art studio on Milwaukee’s Southside.

Isa has been involved in community art and project-based learning since she attended high school at Escuela Verde in Milwaukee’s Clarke Square neighborhood. She is passionate about community art because it is a way to connect community members with their environment and show how it relates to their identity.

Isa’s inspiration comes from her own life as a Latinx artist. Her childhood was shaped through a combination of a family that celebrates culture and tradition and as part of a larger environment that sometimes sees these things as disadvantages.

Isa describes her art as a platform through which she can speak her mind and explore her identity in a larger way. She explains that “a lot of art pieces that I create have a specific agenda to speak about. The way I paint fits in with certain styles seen predominantly in Mexican art and I touch on certain identity topics, such as being bilingual.”

In August 2018, Isa was chosen to be the Cesar Chavez Drive Artist in Residence for the coming year. She now owns and operates her own art studio, “Soy Quien Soy” (“I am who I am”) in the Clarke Square neighborhood, where she plans and facilitates art projects for the community.

The projects she has planned are influenced by and solidified through her experiences in Honors College faculty member Benjamin Schneider’s “Growing Up,” her first Honors course. In this class, she realized how deeply the formative experiences one has growing up can change how a person lives as an adult.

For instance, Isa was discriminated against for speaking Spanish in a Sheboygan high school classroom, and she explains that both children and adults in her community have similar experiences. The work she creates in her studio focuses on bridging gaps within the community and honoring what all generations have to offer in the conversation about identity and experience. Encouraging discourse through art creation allows her multi-generational partners to be present for themselves, each other, and ultimately the community.

Looking ahead, Isa is working with the residents of the Clarke Square neighborhood to create a new mural, titled “Tejiendo de Raíces” (“Weaving of Roots”), which will be a culmination of the products of several smaller works that all focus on uplifting and empowering Latinx culture, tradition, and knowledge.

To keep up to date on the reveal, follow Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative on Facebook.
When I first mentioned to my parents that I wanted to study abroad in Beijing, China, they were a little shocked. They didn’t know much about China and neither did I.

However, when I set my mind to something, there is no changing it. I went to China with the mindset that, whatever happened, it was going to be a great adventure and a great story to bring home.

My first semester here was a crazy experience. Sometimes it is easy to forget that China is still a developing country. There are days that I feel like I am in a Western country, but, on other days, China reminds me that I’m not.

Whether using a squatty potty when out and about, constantly needing to wear a mask to protect myself from the bad air, or having restricted Internet access without a reliable VPN, China isn’t always an easy place to live.

As part of my study abroad program, I’ve been in Beijing for almost two semesters now. We have organized visits to places in Beijing, such as The Great Wall, the Forbidden City, and Tiananmen Square.

I like that my program emphasizes experiences both inside and outside of the classroom. My favorite place in Beijing is the Great Wall.

The Chinese have a famous saying: “He who has never been to the Great Wall is not a true man” (不到长城非好汉). When we got to the top of the wall, our teachers quickly informed us that we had become true men.

Not only have I learned from my classes and from the different places that I’ve visited, but I’ve also learned from the Chinese people. China has 56 ethnic groups so there are many different types of people to learn from.

I’ve danced with the Mosuo people in Kunming, and I’ve met women from the Tibetan-Sichuan border who were as happy to talk to us as we were with them.

I lived with a host family in Shijiazhuang and experienced a traditional Chinese lifestyle. Even though we couldn’t always understand each other, we still managed to laugh a lot: a universal language.

Outside of Beijing, one highlight has been my two-week school trip at the end of the first semester, in which we studied the ethnic minorities in Yunnan Province. The trip was amazing and I learned about how ethnic minorities are treated in China.

In addition to studying, we took a cruise on Erhai Lake in Dali, walked the old streets of Lijiang and visited the Panda Research Facility in Chengdu. All of these experiences have made me realize that China isn’t as different as I first thought it would be. It’s now a place that I would easily call home.

Even though I learned a lot from my classes, it is when I leave school, explore, and talk to people that I discover the most about myself, about China, and about the world.

This is the biggest take away from my study abroad program. China is not always an easy place to live in, and at times it can be very isolating, but it has become a second home to me and I wouldn’t change my decision to come here.

再见！
郎马乐
Starting Out: Mary Brown

Some names seem destined to fulfill certain roles. For instance, it comes as no surprise that a name as lovely as Mary Brown (Psychology/Spanish) accompanies the caring, ebullient, and committed individual completing her first year in Honors.

Hailing from the northern region of Green Bay, WI, Mary finds that Honors courses suit her passion for academics and learning. She enjoys the freedom to choose interesting course topics, such as Honors College faculty member Benjamin Schneider’s “Growing Up,” where she recalls exploring complicated aspects of morality, such as the sacrifices one must make “in order to become who you are.”

Indeed, lessons from class go hand-in-hand with her studies as a major. In the future, she hopes to become a counselor “with children and adolescents in the city.”

To prepare for this role, Mary spends most of her time out of class working at UWM’s Children’s Learning Center, located in the campus’ Northwest Quad. Mary likes the work because “most of the people there are psychology, education, and nursing majors, preparing for their future involvement in fields relating to kids.”

Currently, she is enjoying Honors College faculty member Alan Singer’s “The Idea of a Nation,” which incorporates a hearty blend of history, anthology, and psychology.

If that wasn’t enough to make her stand out, Mary volunteers with the group “Love Your Melon,” an apparel brand whose mission is to support their non-profit partners in the fight against pediatric cancer and to create therapeutic experiences.

She glows when she talks about doing “superhero days in the summer,” alongside other volunteer activities, such as cheering-up children in the hospital and collecting pop tabs to raise funds.

Bringing forth her faith, her charity, her joy, and her care, Mary carries a name destined for greatness. Wherever she goes, the countless kids who she helps will remember her kindness with gratitude and become a better generation for it.

Isaac Repinski Leads Local Band

Isaac Repinski (Biomedical Engineering) is a familiar face in the Honors College. He is a talented musician who plays guitar in Dogbad, an up-and-coming indie jazz ensemble.

Coming from what he describes as a “non-musical family,” Isaac took it upon himself to pursue music at UWM.

When he was young, he was attracted to music by musical video games like Guitar Hero and by visiting music-centric cities like Nashville and Memphis. This led to his introduction to the music community at UWM and jazz scene, which helped him find his place.

After finding the right people to perform with, Dogbad formed. The band recently played at Marquette Radio’s Spring Concert, along with headliner Open Mike Eagle and underground rapper Sammus.

“It’s easy to underestimate how hard it is to start a band,” says Repinski. “I introduced myself to a lot of different musicians and kept throwing myself out there to find a group to fit in. Being able to meet new people and initiate conversations is a critical skill, whether your goal is to create art or find an engineering internship.”

Isaac’s advice is sound, and surely adds to the sweet success Dogbad has seen since its creation only a few years ago. The band has become a local staple and it goes to show how important those connections can be, for students and artists alike.
Movies are sometimes seen as the antithesis of academia, a simple pastime. However, Film students in the Honors College are working day and night to change that perception.

Of the approximately 700 students in the Honors College, 32 of them are currently working towards a BFA in film. With a variety of focuses in film form, including experimental, narrative, and animated, as well as minors in subjects in nearly all of the Schools and Colleges within UWM, these students demonstrate a dedication to creating and learning as much as they can while in college.

Jack Hurbanis believes Honors offers him the perfect balance of his passions: “Honors has given me the traditional academic challenge that film school doesn’t always have, while my film classes allow me to learn more about how to better develop my art.”

Though the topics discussed in many Honors courses may seem far removed from movies, they are actually an integral part of the curriculum, as Ethan Suhr discovered in UWM History Professor Greg Carter’s “Seeing Race in Modern America.” The class “focused on racial representations in sci-fi film and TV,” remembers Ethan, and he “appreciated being able to speak fluently about film craft and content, thanks to Film department coursework, which helped [him] doubly engage with the work screened for class.”

The texts they read and the subjects they study in Honors help to inspire and develop students’ ideas and offer them insights into the world different from those they receive in Film classes.

Abbie Esterline shares that “Honors classes help me better understand the nuances of film and allow me to search for symbols within them, the same way I would when reading a book or viewing art.”

Equally, the Film curriculum works to help Film students develop a unique perspective on the world, a view they can bring into their Honors class discussions.

Jack details how “film school is a lot about teaching us how to see the world. I am taking an Honors class with all other nursing students and I think about the world in a completely different way from many of them, which allows me to have really interesting conversations in my classes.”

With weekly film projects, production clubs, and working on film sets, Film students often maintain a heavy load, requiring them to focus on time management, independent knowledge, and an ability to work well in a group, all skills that are also greatly valued in Honors.

The techniques students take away from Honors can also be applied in many positions in the film industry. “Many of the discussions in Honors have a similar energy to the atmosphere of pre-production,” says Ethan.

The stories told in film help inform and change people in so many different ways, and Film students are using the amazing education they receive in Honors classes to heighten the projects they make and use their art to positively impact the world.
Cody Ampomah (’17 Finance) is the vision of success that the Honors College hopes to see in a graduated student.

Despite having graduated recently, Cody has already earned a position as an Equity Investment Analyst for financial institution Wells Capital Management in Menomonee Falls.

Humbly, he credits the smooth transition between college and a career to “an internship position [his] senior year that also brought him through Wells Fargo’s analyst training program.” He earned the position with his confidence and charisma, along with an impressive pedigree that includes outstanding work in Honors.

Among the many highlights on Cody’s resume are graduating from the Honors College with distinction and earning a Summa Cum Laude Bachelor’s degree in Finance. He also completed the Business Scholars program at UWM.

These significant achievements made him an attractive candidate for any future employer and Wells Capital Management wasted no time offering Cody a position.

In addition to his position at Wells, Cody sits on the board of the non-profit HEAR WI and has completed training through the Investment Management Certificate Program.

Without the Honors College, Cody feels his educational and career successes would not have been the same. He believes that “the number one skill [he] developed in the Honors College is critical thinking, which is uncommon but absolutely crucial at my job.”

To develop those skills, he remembers several impactful classes, particularly Honors College Professor David Southward’s “Revenge Plots” and UWM Economics Professor William Holahan’s “Persuasive Writing in Public Policy.”

In the persuasive writing class, Cody’s “favorite memory was debating the Milwaukee Bucks’ arena funding; it was current, relevant, and the group was essentially split down the middle, which made for some very interesting conversation.”

There’s no question that Cody’s success has a great deal to do with his character, but the Honors College helped nurture skills he already possessed, helping him to flourish and thrive today.

When he isn’t in the office or at HEAR WI board meetings, he loves learning about politics, technology, and business, attending concerts, discovering new music, and playing soccer. He’s very busy, but he confesses with a laugh that he tries “to hit at least three music festivals a year.”

He would love to become involved in even more non-profit organizations in the future, but for now he is consumed with studying for the Chartered Financial Analysts (CFA) exam.

The finance world is lucky to have Cody, and it is clear he will go far. His story exemplifies the possibilities for a person with a strong character and a quality education.
Kelsey Robinson is an Artist to Watch

Honors College sophomore Kelsey Robinson (Digital Visual Communication) is actively making a name for himself on campus and in the Milwaukee-area, through his inspired and colorful design work.

After a childhood filled with a love of drawing, Kelsey’s passion for art and design solidified in high school when he designed the cover for a class newspaper. This eventually led to him taking on the role of graphics editor.

At UWM, Kelsey switched from Architecture to Graphic Design to hone his design skills and to pursue coursework that better reflects his goals. As the student winner of this year’s BMO Harris Bucks Custom Cap Series, his dedication and these decisions have clearly paid off.

When asked what compelled him to enter the contest, Kelsey says, “a friend reached out and recommended that I enter the contest. I submitted some of my existing work, and the very next day I received an email that I was one of ten finalists. From there, I had a week to design a cap for the Bucks 90’s Night game.”

Taking inspiration from the 90’s theme, Kelsey “turned to 90’s fashion and sports gear. Bright colors and busy textures were a must, and from the start [he] wanted to form text out of the Bucks logo’s antlers.”

In the final product, all of these elements come together in a vintage take on the Bucks logo. The cap also features an original illustration under the brim, which is the most significant feature and what Kelsey feels makes it his own creation.

While most of his coursework is design-focused, Kelsey appreciates that the Honors College provides him with “challenging but refreshing material” outside his field of study.

His experience in Honors College faculty member Jill Budny’s “Citizen, Stranger, Statesman” was an eye-opening exploration of political philosophy. Kelsey also identifies Honors College faculty member Jacqueline Stuhmiller’s “Monsters and the Monstrous” as having helped him better understand humanity.

An Honors College education helps students become more well-rounded in every course of study they’re pursuing, and Kelsey is no exception.

Kelsey sees a lot of opportunity for artists and designers in the Honors College. He shares, “It’s a cliché, but there’s a reason for that: find out what makes you happy and figure out a way to do it. Set goals for yourself, look for opportunities everywhere and go for them, even if you don’t think you’re qualified. Don’t be afraid of failure; it’s all part of the process.”

To see more of Kelsey Robinson’s work, follow him on Instagram @kelseyrobinsondesign, and look for his eye-catching design on the heads of Milwaukee Bucks fans everywhere.
Looking Back: Alex Eichhorn

UWM alum Alex Eichhorn ('11) was an active member of the Honors College during his time here, where he double majored in Political Science and Neurophysiological Psychology. Alex is now a partner with Tabak Law, a firm specializing in securing workers’ compensation, social security, and veteran’s benefits.

Alex recalls how particularly engaging his Honors College courses were, mostly due to the faculty and intimate class sizes. He says, “Due to the large enrollment [at] UWM, it was sometimes easy to feel as though you are being looked over. That was not the case at the Honors College.”

One of his favorite classes was Honors College faculty member Lydia Equitz’s “Freudian Slips,” a course that Honors has offered for many years. Alex enjoyed Professor Equitz’s teaching style and the course material.

After UWM, Alex enrolled full-time at Marquette University Law School. As an undergraduate, although his future was uncertain, he says that “the Honors College provided me with the certainty that I could get into law school and that I possessed the intellectual ability to succeed.”

While at Marquette, Alex was selected to be the school’s American Bar Association Negotiation representative. After his graduation in 2014, he joined Tabak Law as an attorney, a firm consisting of seven staff members at the time.

By 2016, during the significant growth of the firm, Alex was named Partner. Today, the firm has further expanded nationwide, with offices in Milwaukee, San Francisco, Honolulu, and Dallas, among others. It is one of the top Social Security Disability law firms in the country.

Alex has been named a Top 10 Attorney under 40 by the National Academy of Personal Injury Attorneys, the Best Lawyer in America: Workers’ Compensation, by the American Institute of Legal Counsel, and was an Avvo Client’s Choice in 2017.

Recently, Alex returned to speak on a Law Panel hosted by Honors College Assistant Director Jill Budny. Professor Budny organized the panel to give students an opportunity to ask questions of legal professionals.

Honors College Director Peter Sands “really appreciated Alex’s time and energy at the panel. He has real insight into building a legal career in the current environment, and a real commitment to sharing both his knowledge and his support with students in the Honors College.”

Alex was honored to be invited to the discussion. He is proud to be an alum of the program, and believes that the “expansion of the Honors College is nothing short of amazing.”
Creative Writing Club Open for All Artists

For Honors College students, the Creative Writing Club is an exciting environment for expression and social engagement and one not just for English majors.

Writing is “very cathartic,” says member Matt Beyer (English). “I’ve always been a pretty quiet guy, and I found that I am able to express my thoughts among other writers who are not only kind and supportive, but who also widen my perspective.”

The Club meets for an hour once a week to write and to workshop pieces of writing that students volunteer. In workshop, members read a piece and offer constructive comments.

During meetings, the group bounces ideas off one another and they turn them into writing prompts to which the members respond. After a 5-10 minute writing session, students can share with the group if they choose.

For members, the Club represents “an easy going, low-pressure place to express ourselves and our writing as well as to enjoy the company and work of talented writers,” says Brianna Adams (Biology).

The Club stages events too, such as a “Poetry Bomb,” in which a handful of poems are posted in clusters around the Honors House. The Club also co-hosts World Building Night with the Honors College Drama Club, in which Honors students design their own universe, each with its own history, laws, and culture.

The Club’s biggest project, however, has been the Honors College *Spring Art Magazine*. Submissions include sculpture, personal essays, digital designs, photographs, poems, and architectural designs. The magazine’s editors are excited about the project and about including all Honors students to showcase their creative work.

The Creative Writing Club looks forward to more projects like these that spread the idea that writing is exciting and social and open to students of all interests.

2nd Annual Honors College Open Mic Night

On this year’s Fat Tuesday, students and faculty met in the Honors House for the second annual Honors College Open Mic Night, for a night of food, music, and fun.

Held again on Mardi Gras, donations from attendees contributed to funding the Honors College Alternative Spring Break Trip to New Orleans.

Among the many acts, UWM Biological Sciences Professor Chuck Wimpee conducted students from his Honors Course “The Science of Sound,” who performed selections that ranged from children’s songs to Beethoven on musical PVC pipe.

Honors College faculty members David Southward and Lindsay Daigle both shared some of their own poetry, Professor Southward reading from his newly published collection of sonnets.

The evening also featured musical performances by local musicians Josh Trimble, Sunkin Suns, Pineapple Migraine, all of whom donated their time and energy to the event. Honors College faculty members Alan Singer and Benjamin Schneider shared a pair of covers, including “Sonoma,” which turned into an impromptu sing-along.

The crowd of nearly fifty was treated to a finale led by Sunkin Suns, who invited all who remained to celebrate the event’s success in an extended dance-party jam.

The Honors College Alternative Spring Break Club organizes the event and, due to the strong support from the performers, it plans to bring it back on Mardi Gras 2020.
Alternative Spring Break Returns to NOLA

On the second annual Honors College Alternative Spring Break trip, twenty impassioned Honors College students, along with Honors College faculty member Benjamin Schneider and Honors College Director Peter Sands, returned to New Orleans.

Primarily a service trip, ASB partnered again with HandsOn New Orleans, a local non-profit organization, who welcomed the group back for three and a half days of volunteering.

On the first two days, the ASB team volunteered at Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center, near the Lafitte Greenway and adjacent to both old and new public housing. The Center’s director, Miss T, explained how much the Center means to the community and the immense pride they take in empowering the residents they serve.

The volunteers set to work early Monday morning beautifying the back of the Center by repainting and lining the parking lot and planting and mulching open areas.

On the second day, the group tackled the front of the Center. While a handful zealous students power washed the building’s windows, the rest took up power tools to build outdoor furniture for residents to enjoy.

Alyson Nordstrom (Nursing) remembers that she “was so excited to be volunteering and helping the community. Plus, it was super fun working as a team to build that table from scratch, especially knowing it was for a good cause.”

Nathan Kohls (Computer Science and Mathematics) felt the impact of the service work immediately because “it felt amazing to give to an organization that does so much good work for the people they serve.”

For the last day of volunteering, the group worked with Arc of Greater New Orleans to sort over one ton of donated Mardi Gras beads. After sorting, Arc resells the beads and the proceeds go to help people with intellectual disabilities with life experiences, personal care, and employment.

Mariah Schaller (Occupational Therapy) was pleasantly surprised when she learned about ARC’s mission: “I had no idea my spring break trip would tie into my exact career aspirations, but it did. The fact that it did reminded me of all the little ways life can be unexpectedly connected.”

Aaron Arendt (Nursing) adds that “bead sorting was my favorite day of service work because we were able to work on a distinctly New Orleans problem.” He recalls that sorting the beads in groups “got competitive and it got competitive fast.”

Although the work was demanding, the students smiled through their sunburn and embraced the city. Reflecting on her experience, Lena Orwig (JAMS) is “grateful for the opportunity to have attended this trip twice, because it has helped me feel like I belong in the Honors College. It gave me the chance to meet other people as passionate about community service and learning as me, and I am a better student, person, and friend because of this experience.”
Honors College faculty member David Southward wasn’t raised Catholic, but like many writers before him he found himself curious about the power and influence of The Bible.

To engage that attraction, in 2014, Professor Southward committed himself to reading the entire text. He was both intrigued and inspired by the narrative gaps in the New Testament, and from that inspiration his project *Apocrypha* was born.

Professor Southward departed from his previous work as a fiction writer to explore poetry in *Apocrypha*. He found it difficult to find the head-space to write a longer project and simultaneously focus on teaching in Honors, so shifting to poetry turned out to be a productive change.

He became intensely focused on the project, a collection of sonnets that attempt to both retell and darkly satirize the perceptions of traditional New Testament passages. Professor Southward describes the poems in his book as “a naturalistic treatment of the subject” of religion.

Working about three days a week during the summer and every two weeks during the school year, Professor Southward finished his first draft in about six months.

However, he did not expect the book to be published, fearing that he was caught between two audiences, the religious and the nonreligious, and that the work did not determinately remark on the question of belief.

However, in a 2017 contest for religious poetry, Professor Southward discovered the academic publishing house, Wipf and Stock. On New Year’s Day of 2018, he submitted a proposal and six months later, his book was published.

The publishing process was simpler than Professor Southward expected. There were no edits necessary for the project, and he already had an idea for the cover image that his editor readily accepted.

Professor Southward is happy with the outcome and says that *Apocrypha* was “everything I could’ve done” with the project. He maintains pride for his passion and patience, characteristics that he advises aspiring writers to grasp. He is currently working on more poetry, a sonnet crown written in contemporary language regarding what he calls the “labyrinth of desire.”

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**The Fate of Judas**

*by David Southward*

“…not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled.”

*(John 7:12, NRSV)*

He knew my faults as if they were his own: my fondness for a bet, my secrecy.
The night we asked him which of us was prone to give him up, his eyes were fixed on me.
I’m one of the diseased who do not change; who promise to reform, yet came to grief -- pretending all we want is to exchange our slow death for a martyr’s swift relief.

Some say I’ve died. Although I can’t divulge my whereabouts, I’ve bought up half an acre.
My bed conceals an awkward silver bulge.
The other day I told the census taker, “Christian.” Why not? Without the likes of me, his tortured faith would hold no poetry.
Honors Drama Club Presents:  
*Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind*

A full house filled Honors 196 with laughs, somber confessions, and much yelling during a cool Fall 2018 weekend.

The Honors College Drama Club production of *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind*, formatted by Greg Allen, rocked the Honors College. Fulfilling an ambitious goal, the Club performed 30 plays in 60 minutes, while letting the audience decide the order.

When one short play finished, audience members shouted out a number between 1 and 30 that decided the next play. Director Juniper Beatty (Art Education) chose plays that were both entertaining and thought provoking, saying “It’s college, so I wanted the plays I chose to really say something.”

Actor Greg Rowan’s (Film) favorite play features two “professors” who dissect the lyrics to Soulja Boy’s “Crank That,” to expose some of the ridiculousness of academic discourse.

Actor William Thiemann (Education) appreciates the effect of performing in the Honors College. He shares that the experience “helped [him] to see the Honors College in a different light, pun intended, by performing silly things for [his] peers in a space that is usually used for serious discussion.”

Audience member Kyle Favorite (Film) “enjoyed the fast paced, high energy, interactive nature of the play. Since the audience got to choose the order of the skits, nobody, including the actors, ever knew exactly what was going to happen next.”

Faculty and Staff Read Edward Albee

Spring 2019 brought about a second captivating Honors College table read. Presented in two installments that spanned the academic year, faculty and staff of the Honors College performed Edward Albee’s *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*.

The performers chose the play as a call-back to the first production of the student-run Honors College Drama Club, which staged Albee’s *The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?* in the spring of 2017.

*Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* peeks into the antics of a volatile, middle-aged couple, George and Martha. Their relationship centers around passive-aggressive mind-games, and the script follows them during one drunken evening in which Martha has invited a younger couple they’ve just met for a visit.

Chaos ensues as the younger pair quickly become consumed by and unwitting players in the older couple’s marital strife, unearthing all types of trying secrets.

Honors College Enrollment Coordinator Amanda Soika and Honors College faculty members Jacqueline Stuhmiller, David Southward, Allan Singer, and Lindsey Daigle performed the reading.

As Martha, Professor Stuhmiller wore a sparkling red dress and Professor Southward played her husband, George. Professors Singer and Daigle read the parts of the inexperienced and out-of-their-depth younger couple, Nick and Honey. Soika provided the play’s narration.

Equipped with minor props and major determination, the Honors troupe read through the performance with an air of lighthearted, yet serious, commitment. The opportunity to hear Albee’s work aloud was thrilling and it was clear the performance was also great fun for the performers.
Social media has become an undeniable part of most students’ daily lives. It is what many students check first thing in the morning and the last thing at night.

Recognizing this, the Honors College chose to embrace the growing platforms available to them by launching an Instagram account and updating its Twitter and Facebook accounts this past January.

Moderated by Honors College advisor Aaron Dierks, along with Honors College students Rebecca Barr and Kaitlyn Diskin, the Honors social media accounts inform and connect with students in ways they are accustomed to.

“A lot of it is about staying current,” states Dierks, and “adapting to what is being used, so we can remain connected to current and prospective students.”

Although these accounts are still new and developing, the team working on them has high expectations for how they can grow in the future.

“One of my ultimate goals is to have prospective students simply stumble upon our account because it is so active and lively,” describes Dierks.

The rate at which the social media pages have grown over the past couple of months is astonishing; more and more students are following daily. There is so much happening in the Honors College to capture, including faculty-led events, students creating innovative work, and sometimes students simply spending time with each other.

Honors College social media is meant to be a communication place for students, with content and information based on what students find most interesting. It’s an opportunity for students to have a platform to connect with and share their achievements in the Honors College.

### 2018-19 Honors College Graduates

- Madison Alexander
- Graham Arneson
- Ravil Ashirov
- Christine Elizabeth Bain
- Abigail Behling
- Angela Beling
- Satchel Lawrence Beranek
- Francesca Bisi
- Cassidy Virginia Blanchard
- Eleanor M Borden
- Claire Bourke
- Jonathan Bernard Brunsman
- Madeleine Carroll
- Audra Anne Cashman
- Kira Church
- Eric Paul Cisler
- Erin Lewis Corrigan *
- Victoria Crawford
- Eve Marie Cusack
- Cassandra Doolittle *
- Tibor Edgar Duliskovich
- Jenna R. Dryer
- Ashlee Marie Endres
- Alexander D. Fairburn
- Rebekah Joyce Farnum
- Mariah Ferrari
- Timothy H. Fischer
- Ryanne Clara Gainey
- Ellen Galbraith
- Danielle Gedemer
- Abigail Ginther
- Sydney Goetsch
- Rachel Lee Gremminger
- Danielle Gross
- Sarah Haq *
- Kerri Hebert
- Erin Hoffman
- Tess Julia Klein
- Samantha Lyn Krakow
- Anthony Peter La Licata
- Jessica Dorothea Lee
- Kellyn Lock
- Kyle Lurie
- Hannah Marohl
- John McGuckin
- Hailey Rose McLaughlin
- Conal M. McNamara
- Samantha Jo Meyers
- Johanna R. Michlig
- Corina Mia Miracola
- Ryan A. Moehrke
- Jessica Rae Nitz
- Mallory Nicole Nordin
- Emily Lauren Salinas Ortega
- Haley Paasch
- Derek Gregory Palecek
- Madeline Palecek
- Rachel Erin Pekel
- Britany M. Peterson
- Abigail Peterson
- Adam Leigh Piwoni
- Natasha Plavsic
- Mark Samuel Richter
- Travis J. Rieder
- Hannah Rachel Sallmann
- Jayson Schalk *
- Lydia Schlaif
- Casey Schmeling
- William Schmidt *
- Ciera Schmidt
- Danielle Schmitter
- Gretchen Elizabeth Schneider
- Alana Schneider
- Bethany Anne Schueller
- Ethan Schulting
- Rachel Schulz
- Collin J. Schulz
- Nathan Schulze
- Morganne Victoria Sendek
- Penny Serrano
- Breecha Azhar Shah
- Talis S. Shelbourne *
- Ashveer Singh
- Kathryn Marie Skjoldager*
- Hannah N. Smith
- Inge Manon Stenhen-Hoogstra
- Wade Snowden
- Alexandra Talisky
- Taylor Rose Thede
- Zachary James Thiel
- Emily Trifile
- Mackenzie James Tubrity*
- Lillian Hope Turner
- Brendali Valdes
- Calla Webber *
- Tyler Whisenant
- Emily Jenna Bae Wilder
- Rebecca Willer
- Hannah Marie Wililam
- Chloe Renee Zambrano

* Honors With Distinction
"Punk Aesthetics"

"Punk Aesthetics" is a new course offered by Honors College faculty member Benjamin Schneider. The class is a deep dive into punk and how it is expressed in a variety of art forms. Students discuss all things punk: music, film, fashion, zine culture, comix, television, and literature.

In the spirit of punk, students lead each class period by presenting on a song and a band, ranging from The Clash to Bikini Kill, as well as discussing student-generated questions covering the course readings and screenings.

Professor Schneider shares that the inspiration for the course came from "the inquisitive nature of Honors students, which allows for an idea like punk to be presented to students with the full confidence that students will dig in and find something interesting in it."

A unique aspect of this course is its incredibly high level of student involvement. The course is half self-assessment and half graded final project. Professor Schneider says he is happily "more hands-off in this course" than he has ever been. "The students are the determining factor in the success of this course," he says. "It is as student-centered as it could be and the students have been amazing."

Like many Honors 200 courses, the class goes beyond teaching students about the lives and works of others' and encourages them to look closer at themselves.

In engaging with numerous texts and finding the symbols within them, Professor Stuhmiller hopes students will recognize the patterns present within their lives and perhaps experience their own symbolic wilderness adventure along the way.

Professor Stuhmiller hopes that if students "can dig beyond what's on the surface, even a little bit, they will have a super power nobody else will understand."

In this class, texts are used as the main medium to push students to dig deeper, to explore, and to ask important questions about their choices and how those choices have led them to the places and people they are right now.

Course Highlights

"Encounters with the Wilderness"

Honors College Faculty Member Jacqueline Stuhmiller regularly teaches one of her favorite courses, "Encounters With the Wilderness."

The class offers an in-depth exploration into the ways in which the wilderness has been used as a metaphor in literature to symbolize the human experience.

Through a series of influential texts, the course pushes students to see how culture has used nature as a way to investigate people’s life struggles.

Professor Stuhmiller values Henry David Thoreau’s *Life in the Woods* greatly, not only in her course. She believes all young people should read the book, which demonstrates the importance of finding one’s own purpose in life rather than letting others dictate to them. The class delves into these ideas throughout the semester.

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Familiar Faces

Dr. Jacqueline Stuhmiller

Two things stand out in Honors College faculty member Jacqueline Stuhmiller’s office: the large window overlooking the street that lights several small, healthy green plants and the many posters, flyers, and student artwork that adorn the walls.

Jacqueline has accumulated souvenirs from the places she has been and the work she has done with the Honors College and its students, and her involvement is only growing.

Jacqueline, or “Jas” to some of her students, joined the Honors College after attending University of California, Berkeley for degrees in English and Biology, and then Cornell University for her Master’s degree and PhD. The courses that she teaches reflect her wide range of study, including “Telling Tales,” “Monsters and the Monstrous,” and “The Symbolic Animal.”

“In all of my classes, I aim for a combination between the personal and the academic,” she says. Her goal is for students to “see the world and [themselves] as texts and know how to read that.”

“I only have 15 weeks,” she explains. “I feel like ‘this is the one and only time I have. Let’s use it as well as possible.”

Likewise, as part of her commitment to the Honors community, Jacqueline is active in many student groups and events. She advises the Creative Writing Club, the Drama Club, the Honors Association for Research and Publication (HARPY), and The Flood, a political activist group.

Jacqueline facilitates the annual Honors College Monster Conference and the Beastly Conference and participates in Honors faculty drama productions, such as the table-read of Edward Albee’s Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

Though her days are spent in the Honors College, Jacqueline still finds time for yoga, traveling, and weightlifting.

Anne Lamb

Honors College Program Associate Anne Lamb’s cheeriness is evident in every interaction. Anne is the first face people see and Honors would not run as it does without her dedication and support.

Before coming to UWM, Anne spent ten years working with Milwaukee non-profits and another ten in Veterinary Medicine as an animal nurse.

Soon though, Anne felt life pushing her towards her alma mater, UWM. To start, Anne worked with the UWM Health Sciences Student Affairs Office, before the Honors College asked her to join its family.

For the last three and a half years, Anne has anchored the Honors College Community. “It’s our job to put the students first,” she shares. “I wouldn’t be happy here if I wasn’t putting them first. I know it sounds cliché, but I just LOVE helping people.”

Her dedication to service is evident; even during our interview, she handled a phone call from a confused student.

Indeed, each day she calmly answers phone calls from parents and students, promotes Honors events, coordinates appointments for advising staff, and, above all, exudes compassion in everything she does.

When not at work, Anne enjoys her garden, volunteering, taking classes, biking, and curling up with her pets and a book.

Anne’s gardening is not only a hobby, but also a talent she was recognized for in 2012 when she earned the status of Master Gardener. In the future, she hopes to take classes on carpentry, plumbing, and electrical handicrafts, so that she can do her own home improvements.

Anne never stops giving back to her community and, most of all, never stops learning. In everything she does, she displays an infectious tenacity and an open mind. She embodies the values of the Honors College and puts them into practice every day. We are fortunate to have Anne Lamb in our Honors College family.
The Aggregate’s Voice

This issue of The Aggregate features the arts in the Honors College. It is our fourth issue since the newsletter’s inception and the first themed issue we have attempted.

We are proud to be featuring the many artists and art-adjacent members of Honors and we only regret not having space to include more stories about the inspirational work being done by our peers.

The issue’s lead story champions our amazing and evolving theater community. The Drama Club now stages plays every semester and has become an official campus organization. The Club’s productions have inspired our faculty and staff to stage dramatic readings of their own.

The issue highlights visual artists Isabel Castro and Kelsey Robinson. They are our classmates, but are also making significant impacts on our communities that make us proud to be Honors students.

Honors College faculty member David Southward’s Apocrypha is inspirational as well. His work testifies to the many great things our professors do outside the classroom, and the ways in which their creative aspirations mirror our own.

Our article on the many Film students in Honors reminds us that any separation between arts and academics is false and underscores the attention given to visual culture and the arts in our curriculum.

Art constantly develops and we hope that The Aggregate will do the same. We will continue to write about our peers’ outstanding work, both individually, collectively, and as part of our diverse communities.

Every Honors student creates unique work because every Honors student is distinctively motivated. We would like to thank our peers for being the motivation for this issue.

- The Aggregate

Honors College Calendar

2019

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
September 22 Alternative Spring Break Fundraiser at Shorewood Farmer’s Market
December 15  Fall UWM Graduation