

2004-2005 REPORT OF THE FACULTY HONORS COMMITTEE

The period from fall 2004 through fall 2005 witnessed a number of significant developments for the L&S Honors Program. Chief among those developments was the announcement by the College and the Facilities Planning and Management Unit that the L&S Honors Program will be the new tenant of Washburn Observatory following its historic renovation scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2008. This period also marked the completion of the program's first full year as an independent unit within the college – a development first noted in the program's last report (2003-2004) to the L&S Faculty Senate. Among the outcomes of the program's more independent operations have been a reorganization of the organizational structure, a dramatic streamlining of its financial and budgetary processes, and major improvements in its information technology capabilities. These developments have enabled the program to function more efficiently, particularly in the areas of its administrative processes, communication and outreach capacity, advising activities, and co-curricular programming.

Other major transitions within the program included a change of Directors from Professor Cyrena Pondrom (English) who served as Director of the program and Chair of the Faculty Honors Committee for four years to Professor Christopher Kleinhenz (Italian) who has served in this capacity since August of 2005. Professor Kleinhenz agreed to serve for a period of one year to bridge the period between Professor Pondrom's stepping down and the time when Professor Charles Snowdon (Psychology) will assume the Directorship in August of 2006 for a full three-year term. The full-time staff within the program has stabilized with Jeffrey Shokler continuing to serve as the program's Associate Director, Mary Czyszczak-Lyne as its Office Administrator, and Molly Todd, who was recently hired as Assistant Director with oversight of the program's advising and curricular operations (see attached organizational chart).

Physical Space – Washburn Observatory

While the immediate- and near-term space needs of the program documented in the 2003-2004 report remain unresolved, the future of the L&S Honors Program looks bright with its future occupancy of Washburn Observatory. In approximately 2.5 years, the Honors Program will move from its current offices consisting of 850 square feet on the fourth floor of South Hall into the newly and historically remodeled Washburn Observatory facility that will provide the program with about 3,500 assignable square feet of office, advising, student activity, instructional, and multi-use space. The Faculty Honors Committee is working with the Dean, FP&M, the project architects, and the University Foundation to explore the possibility of expanding the proposed underground addition to Washburn to provide additional programming and activity space that might ultimately meet the long-term needs of the program. Support for an expanded addition is strong, but the development needs to make the expanded plan a reality are steep. Work is currently underway to identify key donors who may be able to make lead gifts toward this goal.

Immediate relief from the program's current space constraints is unlikely. The program consists of 14 staff totaling 6.25 FTE. Eight workstations are available in the four spaces comprising the current Honors office suite (Room 420 South Hall). The very cramped work environment, a fourth-floor setting lacking handicap access, inadequate reception/waiting space particularly during peak advising periods, and lack of confidential space for student advising and personnel meetings make the current conditions very challenging for program operations. The Honors Director and staff are in communication with Dean Sandefur and Assistant Dean Chris Bruhn about these issues, and it is hoped some relief may be found prior to the move to Washburn some two and one half years from now.

Program Administration

Among the administrative accomplishments are: the successful reclassification of Office Administrator Mary Czyszczak-Lyne from Program Assistant 3 to Program Assistant 4 (now University Services Program Associate B); the promotion of Associate Director Jeffrey Shokler from the payroll title of Student Services Coordinator to Student Services Program Manager III; the continued development and expansion of the Honors Program's website which now comprises over 150 pages of content and has received over 800,000 hits since it went live in November of 2004;

and the assumption of sponsorship by the Program of three new student organizations: the UW Forensics Team, the *Wisconsin Undergraduate Journal of Science (WISCI)*, and the *Journal of Undergraduate International Studies (JUIS)*.

The program now has a fully functional and integrated database system for documenting advising contacts and student administrative actions. The database itself is server-based allowing all staff to access and utilize it simultaneously. This system went live in June of 2004 and has since grown to include over 5,000 entries documenting both advising contacts and Honors Program student administrative actions.

Program Initiatives and Enhancements

Political Trauma and Restoration Conference

The L&S Honors Program undertook sponsorship and planning of an interdisciplinary conference on the topic of "Political Trauma and Restoration" that will be held March 31 – April 1, 2006; it is open to the public. Support was obtained for the conference through the Center for the Humanities, the Wisconsin Union Directorate Spotlight Series, and the Anonymous Fund. Twenty-two undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty from UW-Madison, CIC institutions, and from other institutions across the country will present papers in seven different panels. The conference's keynote address will be given by Marjorie Agosin – an award winning poet, human rights activist, and the Luella LaMer Professor in Latin American Studies at Wellesley College.

Honors Florence Abroad Program

The UW-Madison L&S Honors Program, in conjunction with the University of Michigan Honors Program, offers an Honors study abroad opportunity in Florence Italy for thirty Honors students (fifteen from each institution). Students participating in the program receive a total of six Honors credits. Two credits are earned during a preparatory seminar in the spring, and four credits are received for the four-week experience abroad in Florence.

Inaugurated in the summer of 2004, the program has focused on such topics as Florence and the Idea of the Renaissance (2004) under the direction of Professor Mike Shank of the Department of History of Science, and Approaches to the Renaissance: History, Society, Culture (2005) with Professor Ernesto Livorni of the Department of French and Italian.

Now in its third year, the Summer Honors Program in Florence will concentrate on modern Italy, as it considers the heritage of the Renaissance. The four-week summer program will offer students a rigorous academic curriculum focusing on Italian identity and European integration, in both the cultural and economic sense, as well as the Italian "renaissance," past and present. Students will enroll in two classes, "National Identity in Modern Italian Art: The Macchiaioli & Giorgio Morandi" with Prof. Barbara Buenger (Dept. of Art History, UW-Madison) and "European Integration: Economic Unity and Cultural 'Output'" with Prof. William Adams (Dept. of Economics, University of Michigan). In addition, a series of lectures and site visits, designed to introduce students to the rich cultural and artistic heritage of Florence and Tuscany, is planned.

Planning is currently underway for the Honors curricula for the next three-year period, 2007-2009.

UW Forensics Team

The L&S Honors Program assumed sponsorship of the UW Forensics Team about two years ago. Forensics had effectively died at the UW in 1992 but was resurrected by a core of active students three years ago. These students, on their own initiative, began training and competing in local and regional forensics meets and, shortly thereafter, began seeking official sponsorship at the university. The Honors Program agreed to sponsor the Forensics Team and has obtained grant funding through the Pathways to Excellence Project to support their attendance at enough meets

to allow qualification for competitions at the state and national levels. The program has also subsidized the salary of a coach for the team, Ben Jedd, who has been able to make great strides in making the team competitive at all levels. Last year the team placed 8th in the nation at national competition and this year they took 2nd in state competition. Nationals will take place next month and the team is expected, once again, to be quite competitive.

WISCI and JUIS

The program has become the sponsor for two undergraduate research journals, both initiated through L&S Honors Program Leadership Trust Awards: *The Wisconsin Undergraduate Journal of Science (WISCI)* and the *Journal of Undergraduate International Studies (JUIS)*. Both of these journals were entirely honors student initiatives (*WISCI* by Mustafa Hyder and *JUIS* by David Coddon) that have since become institutionalized and will continue beyond the initial period of support provided by the Leadership Trust Awards. Recently, the Coddon family, through their foundation, provided \$10,000 in support to ensure publication of *JUIS* over the next five years; to date two issues of *JUIS* have appeared. The first volume of *WISCI* is in print and will be distributed by the end of March.

Challenges

Among the challenges facing the program is the longstanding issue that many of its key student-focused programs, most notably the very successful Sophomore Apprenticeship Program, are funded through annual grant processes. The Sophomore Apprenticeship Program, for example, is funded by grants from the Brittingham Foundation, the Kemper Knapp Foundation, and the Regents Scholars Fund. Combined, these grants provide the more than \$55,000 needed annually to enable 37 first- and second-year Honors Students the opportunity to apprentice with a UW faculty member on their research over the summer months. While we have seen a steady decline in Regents Scholars support over the last two years (a trend which at this time is not likely to reverse), we have managed to compensate for that decline with increased awards from the other two funding sources.

Similarly, funding for the Common Book Program for new first-year Honors Students was formerly provided by the Evjue Foundation. With our last award the Evjue Foundation indicated that subsequent funding would likely not be forthcoming and the future of the Common Book Program was in jeopardy. Fortunately, Director Kleinhenz succeeded in obtaining long-term support for the Common Book Program through a generous commitment by Ken Frazier, Director of the UW Libraries, and the Parents' Enrichment Fund. The entire budget for the Honors Student Organization's activities and the UW Forensics Team (which the Honors Program sponsors) depends on another annual grant process through the Pathways to Excellence Project currently administered by L&S Student Academic Affairs.

The above-noted programs and initiatives, and others, are thus vulnerable to changes in funding priorities by the respective funding bodies (as was seen with the Evjue Foundation support), and this is an ongoing cause for concern for the Program. The L&S Honors Program will soon embark on a development initiative that will include the goal of securing stable, long-term support for many of these key program activities and initiatives.

2005-2006 Faculty Honors Committee Members:

Christopher Kleinhenz (Chair, Italian)
Michael Shank (History of Science)
Rebecca Walkowitz (English)
Charles Snowden (Psychology)
Jon Pevehouse (Political Science)
Karen Strier (Anthropology)
Karen Steudel (Zoology)
James Weisshaar (Chemistry)
Eric Wilcotts (Astronomy)

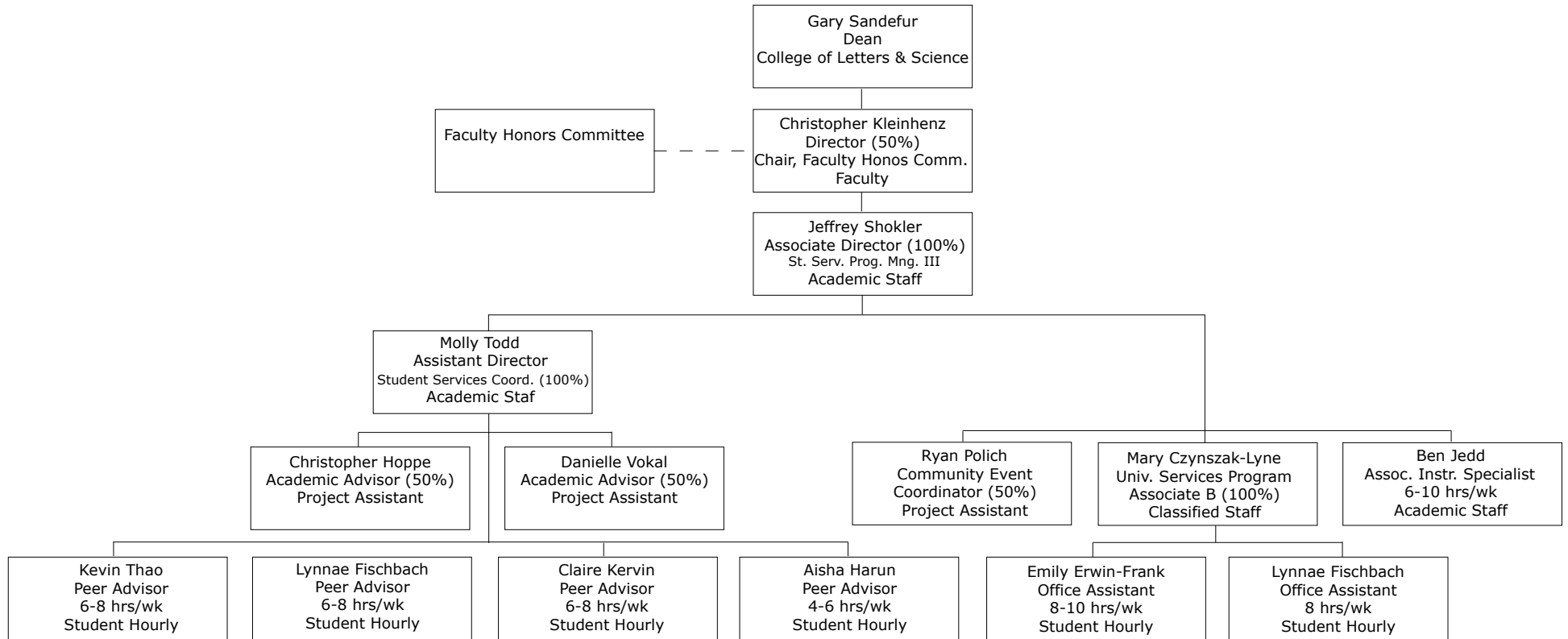
Julie Curti (Student Representative, Geography and Political Science)

Ex Officio:

Jeffrey Shokler, Associate Director
Molly Todd, Assistant Director

Attachments: L&S Honors Program Org. Chart
 Policy Actions of the Faculty Honors Committee Fall 2004-Fall 2005

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE HONORS PROGRAM



Faculty Honors Committee Actions Fall 2004 – Fall 2005

The Faculty Honors Committee approved changes requested by the English Department to their Honors in the Major curriculum (December 16, 2004)

The Faculty Honors Committee approved Honors curriculum changes requested by the Department of Mathematics (September 20, 2004)

The Faculty Honors Committee approved changes to the language of the L&S SAA Policy Book regarding the following (May 12, 2005):

1) Language on use of graduate courses for Honors credits and means of recording on the transcript.

VIII. Honors Students in Graduate Courses (p. 265)

“Juniors and seniors in the Honors Program who have a 3.5 grade point average may count as degree credit one graduate course per semester with the consent of the instructor. Honors students who wish to count two (or, in rare cases, more) graduate courses in a single semester must have the permission of the Honors Program as well as the consent of the instructor.

All graduate courses numbered 700 or above are to be counted as ‘automatic’ Honors credits, as long as the student earns a grade of ‘B’ or better. These credits count toward satisfaction of the 15-credit automatic honors requirement for HLA.

On rare occasions, these rules may be applied to courses numbered below the 700 level; in such instances, the academic department must verify that the course in question is designed for and taught at the graduate level and that undergraduate students are not required to complete ‘extra honors’ assignments. Upon receipt of this verification, the Honors Program advisors will submit a DARS exception form.

Upon request from the student and, when necessary, the academic department, the Honors Program advisors will (1) submit a DARS exception form, indicating all graduate courses being carried for degree credit in that semester, and (2) instruct the Registrar’s Office to post on the student’s transcript an ‘H’ along side the course in question, to highlight that the course constituted Honors work.”

2) Language regarding the use of one thesis for Honors in two majors

For information only, required no action. Completion of the *Dual Thesis Authorization Form* now required for students seeking to satisfy the thesis requirement for Honors in the Major in two majors with one thesis.

3) Clarification of language on 3.3. minimum GPA

IX. The Honors Degree (pp. 267-269)

C. 2. b) “Maintenance of a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3.”

C. 2. c) “Maintenance of a minimum GPA in the major of 3.3 or higher as set by the major department, generally not over 3.5.”