

Vice Chancellor for Student
Affairs and Enrollment Manage-
ment Honor Recipients:

- Allyson Walker and Sadia Aslam from the College of Arts and Sciences
- Maria Iliakova and Sean Doran from the School of Biological Sciences

National Awards:

Institute for Study Abroad-
Julliette Bates and
Ariel Green

Sherman & Irene Dreiseszun-
Julliette Bates, Ariel Green,
and Olivia Sambursky

Benjamin Gilman-
Julliette Bates

Sue Shear Institute for
Women in Public Life-
Maria Iliakova and
Rachel Waldemer

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Thanks to Kira Mayo,
editor of The Honors
Herald, 2009.

The Honors Herald

FALL 2009

ISSUE TWO

Honors Program Overview

The UMKC Honors Program was created in 1979 by Dr. Bruce Bubacz of the Philosophy Department. In 30 years, it has grown from 12 to 88 students, and 25% of honors students have double or triple majors. The average ACT score of the 2009 class is 30.

Admission: First-year students applying for the Honors Program should rank in the top 10th percentile score on the ACT or SAT **and** the top 10th percentile of their high school class. Students who do not meet these criteria are also invited to apply. Current students need at least a 3.5 GPA at UMKC and two recommendations from professors. Transfer students can qualify with

SAT/ACT/class status, or have a 3.7 GPA, or have been in their previous university's honors program.

Requirements For Graduating With Honors: The only specific requirement is attending Colloquium 3/4 of the time the student is enrolled in the Honors Program. Otherwise, students must complete 21-28 honors credit hours. Students have options for earning honors credits. These include enrolling in a special section of an honors course, such as English H225; proposing an honors contract for additional course work with the course professor; or attending weekly discussion groups with other honors students. To graduate as an Honors Scholar, students must complete a senior

thesis, which can count for up to 6 credit hours, not included in the minimum 21 hours.

Benefits: Honors students have their own wing at Oak Street Hall, early registration privileges every semester, graduate-level library privileges, free tickets to UMKC theater productions, the Honors House, advising for national scholarships, and special courses just for honors students.

How To Apply: Applications can be downloaded at cas.umkc.edu/honors/overview.html. The deadline is October 31 for Spring 2010, and March 15 for Fall 2010. Contact Dr. Gayle Levy for more information at

levyg@umkc.edu.

Quotes From A Current Student

Sadia Aslam

Sadia Aslam will earn a B.A. in History and a B.S. in Chemistry as an Honors Scholar. In Fall 2009, she will start law school a year early in UMKC's 90+ program. An excerpt of her honors thesis entitled "A Hand-Up, Not A Handout: William Volker as a Progressive Philanthropist, 1938 to 1941" will appear in the 2009 LUCERNA.

"The Honors Thesis presents the option for honors students to graduate as an Honors Scholar, an extra distinction recognized at commencement and on the transcript. More important than the recognition are the research skills one develops as a result of doing in-depth, original work. Allowing and encouraging students to do undergraduate research is invaluable, since many honors students plan to go on to graduate school."

"The Honors Program presents a forum for students to get to know people from other programs and majors, therefore encouraging collaborative and interdisciplinary learning. It has been a great way for me to get to know fellow students and get involved on campus. Through the program I have been able to work more closely with some of my professors, an opportunity that has been integral to my achievements at UMKC."

Right:
2009 LUCERNA
designed by
Corey Light. Full
issue available at
www.umkc.edu/honors/lucerna

Below: Honors
students at the
2008 LUCERNA
launch.



LUCERNA—The Undergraduate Journal

LUCERNA, a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary journal, is the only undergraduate journal at UMKC. Any UMKC student can submit a research paper between 1200 and 1500 words, written anytime during their undergraduate career. The 2009 LUCERNA entries include:

Ariel Green: "The Role of High Risk HPV E6 Protein in Cervical Cancer Formation"

BethAnn Steinbacher: "Are Classrooms Selling Our Kids Short?"

Karen Anton: "The Audible in Joyce's Texts"

Michael Devitt: "The Rhetoric of Shell Shock"

James Comninellis: "Reasoned Piety: A Summary and Explication of Discussion of One of al-Ghazali's Incoherence of the Philosophers"

Sadia Aslam: "A Handup, Not a Handout"
Cameron Buie: "The Bernoulli Brothers and the Brachistochrone"

Magie Hogan: "The Great Moral Tragedy"

Andrea Ridlen: "Closing Pandora's Box"

Maria Iliakova: "El Sueño de las comedias del Siglo de Oro: El nacionalismo, la religión, y el gobierno"

Editor: Ariel Green.

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Executive Secretary: Tiffanie Fowlkes.

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WHO'S WHO



Dr. Gayle
Levy,
Honors
Program
Director



Dr. John
Herron,
Honors
Associate
Director



Dr. Andrew
Bergerson,
Honors
Faculty
Fellow



Sally
Mason,
Honors
Secretary

Breakdown by School

Arts & Sciences	44%
Biological Sciences	16%
Bloch School	9%
Computing/Engineering	2%
Conservatory of Music	2%
Education	11%
Law	1%
Medicine	5%
Nursing	1%
Pharmacy	9%

STATISTICS: 2009-10 At A Glance

The average GPA for 2008-09 honors students was 3.78

American Studies	1	Education	7	Law	1	Physics	1
Art	1	English/ Creative Writing	5	Medicine	4	Political Science	2
Biology (includes pre-Dental)	14	Environmental Science	1	Music	3	Psychology	3
Business	8	French	2	Music Educ	2	Spanish	2
Chemistry	6	Geology	1	Nursing	1	Theater	3
Civil Engineering	1	German	1	Pharmacy	8	Urban Educ	1
Communications	2	History	1	Philosophy	3		
Dance	2	Information Tech	1				

SWECC Partnership Continues To Grow

The Southwest Early College Campus is a math and science school for grades 6-12. The school gives students an opportunity to earn 20-60 college credits before graduation, and their partnership with UMKC's Honors Program helps them out. Honors students can work as student assistants or organize extracurricular clubs with SWECC students. Five honors students led clubs in 2008-9, and three worked in the classroom. The clubs included science (organized by

Tiffany Fowlkes), improv (Corey Light), college prep (Michelle Campbell), chess (Joseph Frye), and art (Allison Meyer).

"Running a club really helps the [UMKC] student learn about time management and leadership. I personally feel I learned a great deal from the experience," says Michelle Campbell, the 2009-10 student liaison. "Next year we are going to have both the student-run clubs and work-study at SWECC. I found many of the kids loved the programs we put on.

They were astounded by all the opportunities and tools they had available to them. My college prep kids especially loved the scholarship searches we did and when we mock applied to universities. Since SWECC expands via matriculation, next year we will have 6th, 7th, 9th and 10th grade students.

I am very excited to begin the planning process and see where the students' fresh new ideas will take us!"

*"I feel I learned a great deal from the experience."
Michelle Campbell*



Southwest Early College Campus

Colloquium—No Laughing Matter

In Spring 2009, honors students met weekly in Colloquium to discuss and explore "Humor." Guest lecturers included professors from Psychology, History, and Theater, and subjects covered dark humor, stand-up, political humor, and satire. Students organized campus pranks, including a fake Free Bagel Day at Einstein Bros, as well as a protest for or against the alleged tuition increase for the construction of squirrel houses on campus.

The Fall 2009 Colloquium subject will be "Food." Students will explore food's relationship to and influence on cultures, family dynamics, and the environment. Guest lecturers will include professors from Sociology, Political Science, History, Geosciences, Psychology, and Chemistry.

Colloquium topics are chosen by honors students and change each semester.

Dr. Levy teaches Colloquium



Left: Photo by Derek Simons: Squirrel sanctuary supporters protest in the Quad

Oak Street Residence Hall: Honors Living-Learning Community

Honors students have a separate wing designated for them in Oak Street Hall, with special study nights and events organized there. They have both an R.A. (Residential Assistant) and an A.A. (Academic Advisor) in their building. No one is required to live in the wing, but it is encouraged, especially for freshman year. Matthew Varon was the 2008-09 A.A., and organized events like Comedy

Movie Night, Faculty/Student Dinner, and attending the world premiere of Master and Margarita by the UMKC graduate theater department. Sadia Aslam says the LLC is "my favorite aspect of the program. It was great to really get to know the people I lived with through the organized activities offered by the A.A."

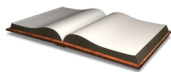
Matt Varon says, "I have really enjoyed living in the Living-

Learning Community over the past three years. In addition to being a much quieter place to live, I think that the Living-Learning Community provides honors students a great opportunity to not only get to know each other better, but to form a more cohesive group."

The 2009-2010 A.A. will be Jennifer Kaminsky.

Honors students Emma Frank and Nick Cale outside Oak Street Residence Hall





Quotes from a Current Student: Ariel Green

Ariel Green is a philosophy, biology, and chemistry major, set to graduate in May 2010. She plans on attending graduate school in pharmacology or medicinal chemistry, then law school. Ariel served as Editor-in-Chief of *Lucerna* for 2008-2009.

"The Honors Program is a fantastic way to get involved on campus. You meet a lot of great people, both students and professors. The program will teach you to take responsibility for your education and provide a pathway for you to excel."

"The only thing I would change about the Honors Program is to make it an Honors College."

"The most important aspect of the program is the debate of ideas that occurs within Colloquium and in discussions between us and the professors. Through arguing my views, I have learned how to refine and adapt to different circumstances. It teaches you how to learn and how to interact with others."

"The program has motivated me to do well in all of my studies.

The contract requirements pushed me to foster relationships with my professors. I've met a lot of brilliant and great people through the program."

Honors students and faculty at graduation
(May 2006)



MISSION STATEMENT

The Honors Program at UMKC seeks exceptionally motivated and academically talented undergraduates to study in an environment that encourages excellence. Traditional and non-traditional undergraduates, from every School and College at the University, will develop their academic and leadership skills within the context of a broad interdisciplinary education, which will ultimately prepare them for graduate studies and professional careers.

INTERVIEW WITH AN ALUMNUS: Allyson Walker, May 2009

What is your degree? I received a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies, Summa Cum Laude, as an Honors Scholar in May of 2009. I was also in the pre-law program that UMKC offers, and because American Studies is an interdisciplinary major I looked at politics and law through history, philosophy, and political science. This Fall, I'm starting law school at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Why did you come to UMKC? I came to UMKC in 2006 from a small town in Missouri, near the University of Missouri-Columbia. I loved the way UMKC had the feel of a small, liberal arts private college, but was still a member of the UM System. After seeing Mizzou up close, I was also attracted to UMKC for its size and personal attention.

Why did you join the Honors Program? The Honors Program was a natural attraction to me as a way to get involved in a big University and become part of a smaller community with like-minded peers.

How involved were you in the Honors Program? I participated in numerous Honors discussion sections, the weekly Colloquium, and lived in the Honors Living-Learning Community. I had one article published in *Lucerna* called "The Seussian Universe" and took another paper to the Great Plains Honor Council Conference as the UMKC Honors Program representative. It was entitled "Walt Whitman's America: A United Chasm." Outside of the Honors Program, I was involved in UMKC Student Government, was a student Bible Study leader, and a student lobbyist for the Associated Students of the University of Missouri (I later became Legislative Director). I also worked in the Missouri Attorney General's Office for two years.

Do you have any advice for freshman year? Live in the Honors LLC! Living in the Honors wing gives you a diverse campus experience as you live in the dorms, but also gives you a wonderful, supportive community, which makes the transition into college that much easier. I think that every freshman needs to pursue an interest. I loved politics, so I jumped in to Student Government. If you decide you don't like it, then try something else. That's what's so great about the Honors Program—you have a broad collection of students studying any number of issues, so it's very easy to find new things to interest you.

What would you change about the program? I think it would be awesome if the Honors Program became a visible campus organization that is seen out and about. Particularly, I think the Honors Program should consider adding a service component to their curriculum, so that whether it be in the community or on campus, the best of UMKC are giving something back.

What is the most important part of the program? I definitely think the most important part of the program is the sense of community that develops through Colloquium, the dorm community, and sharing honors sections of courses. I really enjoyed my honors discussion sections because they challenged me to dig deeper, but took place amongst a cross-section of my peers who were supportive and questioning at the same time. This sort of atmosphere, that the Honors Program builds, develops a much richer college experience.

Describe the Honors Thesis process. The honors thesis is a two-semester project under the supervision of a professor of your choosing. Each semester you sit down with the professor, fill out the honors contract, and discuss what you are supposed to accomplish and a grading system. The first semester is spent primarily on researching and outlining and the second semester focuses on writing. Finally, the thesis must be presented to the Honors Colloquium and a copy of the thesis given to the Honors Program to be bound and kept there. My topic was ethanol and biofuel policy for the state of Missouri—it was written in the format of a policy proposal to the Governor.

How has the program impacted your undergraduate experience? The Honors Program was the backdrop to my college experience, a sort of constant as I progressed through school. I think the honors discussion sections and courses forced deeper learning, and the many Colloquium subjects we studied made my education and the consideration I put towards issues much more broad.