

The Honors Herald

Fall 2013 Issue Six

Awards & Recognitions

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Honor Recipient
Bethany Rippy (Biology)

Student-athlete named to The Summit League's 2013 Commissioner's List of Academic Excellence Honorees
Micah Radler
(Urban Planning & Design)

Benjamin Gilman Scholarship to study in Spain
Paris Clark (Psychology and Spanish-Dual Major)

Eddie Jacobson Scholarship to study in France
Marianne McKenzie (French and Theatre-Dual Major)

Fulbright Grant to study and teach in Belgium
Nathan Hoffmann
(French and Music-Dual Major)

George Gale Philosophy Scholarship for Excellence
Emma Winkler (Philosophy and Physics-Dual Major)

2012-13 UMKC Trustee Scholarship Recipients
Andrew Best
MacKenzie Brazier
Maria Gentry
Zachary Wolf

2013 Phi Kappa Phi Student Initiates
Amy Johnson
Irina Shields
Daniel Wortmann
Stella Yee

Enjoy the Benefits of Being an Honors Program Student

1. Honors Living/Learning Community: Students enjoy their own wing (two floors and two study rooms) in the Oak Street Residence Hall, as well as special programs and events.
2. Miller Nichols Library: Students are allowed graduate-level borrowing privileges.
3. UMKC Theatre Department: Free tickets to theatre productions.
4. Early Registration: Students enroll in classes before other students.
5. Challenging and Inspiring: Students have the opportunity to enroll in Honors-only classes and participate in Honors-only summer study abroad.

HONORS PROGRAM STUDENTS FALL 2013

College of Arts & Sciences	54
School of Biological Sciences	35
Bloch School of Management	18
School of Computing & Engineering	6
Conservatory of Music & Dance	8
School of Education	6
School of Nursing & Health Studies	12
School of Pharmacy	14
Undecided	3



Honors Program Faculty: (From left to right) Dr. Gayle Levy, Honors Program Director and Associate Professor of French; Dr. John Herron, Honors Program Associate Director and Chair, Department of History; Dr. Frances Connelly, Professor of Art History and Honors Faculty Fellow; Dr. Melisa Rempfer, Associate Professor of Psychology and Honors Faculty Fellow.

WHAT CAN YOU DO IN THE HONORS PROGRAM?

Where in the World? Students Who Studied Abroad



Where did you go? For how long?

"I was in Cork, Ireland for a month this summer. While in Ireland I traveled to other cities such as Dublin and Galway."

What is something new you experienced?

"The entire culture was new to me. Most of the people I met were very friendly and helpful. They all seemed to be very chatty, and they didn't hate Americans, which can be kind of rare when in Europe. The scenery in Ireland is incredible. Everything is green and beautiful."

Did you find a favorite food?

"Not really. They eat a lot of the same food as us, except with fewer preservatives."

How has this experience influenced you?

"This trip influenced me by making me love Ireland. It made me want to continue to travel around the world. Also, I met a lot of great people on the trip, from all over Ireland and the US."

What made you want to take this trip?

"I wanted to take this trip because I love to travel, and being able to get six honors credits while traveling seemed like a good bonus. I also liked that the trip was only a month, because I was able to go abroad and still work this summer. It was a perfect amount of time."

—Abigail Menke, Cork, Ireland

"Living abroad with a host family really opened my eyes to how much alike we are—regardless of where we are located on this vast planet, we all have dreams, difficulties, successes, and fears. Being able to see that expressed in a different language really made me feel closer to my global community. Secondly, it was interesting being the "outsider," or foreign to a culture. This really prompted me to think about my self-identity and all the things that have shaped what that is—my culture, my race, my language, and my experiences."

—Paris Clark, 6 weeks in Granada, Spain



Cork, Ireland
Summer 2013

An Honors Program Volunteering Experience

With the Honors Program partnership with the Ewing Marion Kauffman Charter School I co-led both an after-school Spanish Club with fellow Honors student Sarah Pourakbar, and a Computer Club with one of the teachers at the school. I planned lessons for the children and helped enrich their lives with information that supplements what is learned in their classrooms.

For Spanish Club, we spent the first half of club presenting various sets of vocabulary and then looked at Spanish-speaking countries. It was an awesome experience exposing the children to different cultures, music, history, etc. Their favorite week was our "Mexico Week," where we learned about the Aztec empire and *Día de los Muertos*.

For the Computer Club, we showed the students fun and useful things on the internet such as university websites, Google Maps, Mangahigh.com, and I led a journalism activity, where they explored the *Kansas City Star* website and presented on a current event.

The most rewarding aspect of the experience was knowing that I was able to enlighten the students' lives with information that they previously did not know, and that they had a fun time learning the



information. This Honors Program opportunity at the Kauffman Charter School definitely secured my desire of pursuing a career where I work with children.

John Kaleekal

MORE THAN YOU THINK!

Lucerna: A New Schedule, a New Staff and a New Attitude

The UMKC Honors Program established this student-run journal in 2005; however, many are unaware of this incredible opportunity for research publication. *Lucerna* fills the gap in published student work left by other UMKC publications such as the *Sosland Journal*, *Number One*, and *Young Scholars in Writing*.

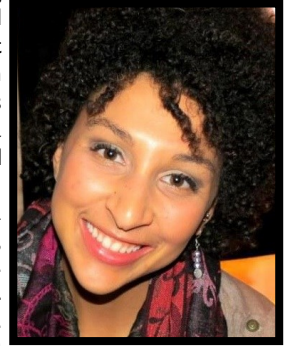
While these other journals focus on student writing in composition classes, creative writing, and research in rhetoric studies, *Lucerna* holds a unique place among them. *Lucerna*, like the others, is peer-reviewed and presents excellent student writing that would otherwise remain unappreciated without these venues. However, *Lucerna* adds fresh perspective to the academic dialogue because it is an interdisciplinary research journal.

Our journal showcases all-inclusive student research, ranging from mathematics to sociology, foreign languages to education, chemistry to philosophy. It is rare that one gets published recognition as an undergraduate student. *Lucerna* provides an opportunity for final research papers and senior theses efforts to be appreciated beyond just a grade in a class. Not only does publication as an undergraduate weigh heavily on one's resumé, but one can look back on their UMKC undergraduate career with work that exemplifies their achievements and progress as a student.

The biggest struggle for this journal since its establishment is quality control and accountability as a student-led publication. This year,

the goal is to foster a working liaison with the UMKC Writing Studio, to provide evaluating and editing workshops for *Lucerna* staff, and to help promote submission to the journal. *Lucerna* staff will also brainstorm new and creative ways of advertising. We hope to take full advantage of social media outlets (Twitter and Facebook) and articles such as this one to continue informing people of the amazing resources and privileges they have as undergraduates at UMKC. We also look forward to again working with Egghead Design students (from the Art Department) who do a fantastic job with the *Lucerna* design and layout.

To fulfill our mission and vision as a journal exhibiting high-caliber scholarship, *Lucerna* will learn from its past publications, becoming more selective and noteworthy as our submission volume continues to grow. This year's journal will launch in January 2014. If you or anyone you know is interested in submitting to *Lucerna* 2015 or becoming a staff member (all Honors students are eligible), please contact me, **Noria McCarther**, Editor-in-Chief, at nmm62f@mail.umkc.edu.



Honors Program/Kauffman Charter School Partnership Continues for AY 2013-14

Last fall, it was an incredibly exciting experience to be there with the Kauffman Charter School as the doors were opened for the second year, welcoming back 87 sixth graders and 100 new fifth graders. The first day of school wasn't what you'd expect from an elementary school—fifth graders began learning the culture of their new school immediately, which is much different from most schools. Students are engaged in a rigorous college prep curriculum and are in school until around 5 pm each day, and even in fifth grade, students rotate between several different classes and subjects. They learn the Kauffman "Prepster" lingo, including a variety of gestures used to silently encourage their peers, that they use throughout the year as they support one another. The charter school will add a new class each year until grades five through twelve are represented.

I recognized several faces from my Enrichment Club from the previous year, and many of the returning sixth graders were already asking when clubs were starting up again. Following the popularity and success of the after-school program the previous year, Kauffman had decided to expand, and wanted even more UMKC involvement. Twelve dedicated Honors volunteers, along with Kansas City community members, came together twice a week to bring Kauffman students clubs and activities like Drama, Spanish, Newspaper, Music, Dance, Soccer, Basketball, Track and Field, and Board Games. Our volunteers teamed up with Kauffman teachers to create club curriculum, lesson plans, and to work with 15-25 students each week.

For Halloween, students enrolled in the Honors Colloquium class planned an after-school party for the Kauffman students that included skits and candy. Honors Program students dressed in costumes and decorated a section of the Kauffman School where they passed out candy and other treats. They also performed skits for the fifth and sixth graders. The event was such a huge success Kauffman has asked us to present another Halloween party this fall.

Our partnership with the Kauffman School has proved to be an

excellent opportunity for UMKC students to give back to their community, and to experience a unique leadership role. Kauffman students look forward to their clubs each week, and have greatly enjoyed building relationships and learning from the volunteers. We are looking forward to working with the Kauffman students and faculty for the upcoming school year, including getting to know a brand new fifth grade class! To learn more about the Kauffman Charter School visit the website at <http://www.kauffmanschool.org>, and for information about volunteering at the school, please contact the new Kauffman School coordinator Lorraine Sands, liss5b@mail.umkc.edu

**Lyndsey Stailey, Honors Program/
Kauffman School Coordinator**



Recent Graduates and Alumni

Lawrence "Les" Stitt

B.A. in History, Summa Cum Laude, University Honors, Honors Scholar

I transferred to UMKC at the beginning of my junior year, and was referred to the Honors Program by Dr. Drew Bergerson, one of my history professors. A form of a paper I wrote from one of his courses, History 400CZ: The Other Europe, entitled "The Necessity of Choice: Reflections on Film and History in Occupied East-Central Europe," was published in the 2012 edition of *Lucerna*.

I am now living in New Orleans and will be applying to graduate school in the fall. I am currently working as a landscaper, but I intend to pursue a graduate degree in public history.

The Honors Program was important to

me during my undergraduate career because it put me in contact with other committed students and helped me to set a high bar for my coursework. Most of my academic growth at UMKC happened in leaps, rather than in small steps, when I took challenging courses. I would advise future students, in their first or second year, not to be afraid to take upper-level courses with engaging professors.

These courses can lead to mentorships, which I think are an incredibly important, if underemphasized, element of university education. The education I received during the office hours of my instructors was as important as what I got from reading, studying, and attending lectures.

I guess the short version of my advice

would be: go to class, take Colloquium, find mentors, apply for internships, join extracurricular organizations, complete an honors thesis, and have fun!



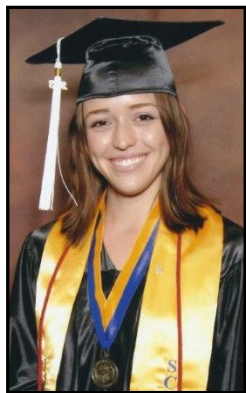
Frankie Banhart

B.A. in Chemistry and Spanish, Cum Laude, University Honors, Departmental Honors

I will be attending UMKC's School of Dentistry Fall 2013. The Honors Program was an amazing experience; I was able to meet people who were driven and passionate to learn and make the world a better place. It also allowed me to interact with students from different schools, with diverse plans of study, and learn about numerous disciplines. I would advise new students to reach out to people from a variety of academic sectors because you will have many more opportunities and make a lot of new friends.

Katie Steever

B.A. in Chemistry, Magna Cum Laude, Trustee's Scholar, University Honors



I start Dental School August 15th (I was accepted through the Reserved Admission Program). The Honors Program was a big part of my undergraduate experience. I loved getting to know so many smart, driven, and diverse peers. I really enjoyed Colloquium. Getting to learn about interesting/different/various aspects of subjects outside my area of study, or even different angles or viewpoints of my area of study. Advice: get involved and stay involved. Find at least one extracurricular to give 100% to.

Ania Wlodek

Dual degree in History and French, Spring 2009—Magna Cum Laude, University Honors, Departmental Honors

After graduating from the UMKC Honors Program, I attended William & Mary Law School in Williamsburg, Virginia. Currently, I am a research attorney for some of the judges in the civil division at the Johnson County District Court. Essentially, what I do is read the attorneys' briefs on the motions they file, do research for the judges, and write proposed decisions for the judges to issue in response to the motions.

My best memory from the Honors Program is the study abroad in Uppsala, Sweden. I went with one of my best friends, who is still one of my best friends, and we had a blast. I really enjoyed getting to be in another culture and getting to experience everything that comes along with it. One of the most interesting experiences was the simple task of going to the grocery store where nothing was in English and I couldn't understand anything.

I believe that the Honors Program helped mostly to put me in a position to show law schools and future employers that I'm "serious." I believe I got into a better law school than my LSAT score would otherwise have gotten me into, and I think part of that is because I could honestly say that I had challenged myself in college by taking honors-level classes. I also believe that the strong work ethic that I developed as a student in the Honors Program has made me attractive to employers.



Jackie Hoermann

B.A. in English, Communication Studies and Political Science dual minor, Spring 2011—Summa Cum Laude, University Honors, Honors Scholar

I recently accepted The Radford Fellowship for doctoral studies in Rhetoric and Composition through Texas Christian University's (TCU) English Department. The fellowship is intended to set Ph.D. students on the fast track to graduation, providing full financial support and relieving them of all teaching responsibilities for one year.

At TCU, I intend to pursue research in writing program administration and new media composition studies with an added emphasis in international perspectives on both of those fields. I will also be pursuing a New Media Writing Certificate and a Women's Studies Certificate through that program.

Until then, I'll spend the summer working in local writing centers in Iowa, teaching for Upward Bound, writing a grant for a non-profit organization (called Preservation Iowa), and freelancing for *The Des Moines Register's* *Datebook* and *Juice Magazine*.

Basically, just having a lot of fun and really enjoying grad school, AND still very thankful for all the great people, experiences, and opportunities UMKC and the Honors Program brought me.

