

# The Honors Herald

The Newsletter of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Honors Program

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ISSUE FOUR

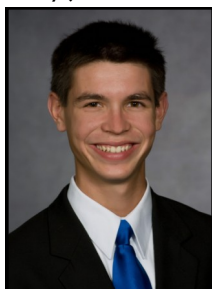
## UMKC HONORS PROGRAM ALUMNI CONTINUE THEIR HONORS

"The Honors Program gave me an outlet to use what I was learning in the classroom and apply it to the world around me. By giving me an opportunity to work in a local school, I was able to discover my passion for being an educator. I truly believe that this is the purpose of college, and I am so fortunate that the Honors Program provided that outlet" - Hannah Lofthus, 2007 graduate.

Hannah Lofthus is an alumna of Teach for America, a national organization dedicated to educational opportunities for all children. Currently, she serves as principal of the new Ewing Marion Kauffman charter school (see article on page 3). Before joining the Kauffman team, Hannah served as lead teacher at Leadership Preparatory Charter School in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn (part of the Uncommon Schools network).

Hannah is an advocate for community engagement and service. She encourages students to get out of the classroom and apply what they are learning in their classes to what is happening in their community. "The UMKC Honors Program offers you a unique opportunity since the university is located in the heart of a vibrant city. Get involved, volunteer, and impact your community,"

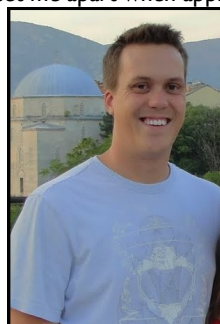
After graduating from UMKC in 2007, Justin Smith went to Mizzou to study law. This past May, he graduated second in his class of almost 150 students. He recently joined the firm of Shook, Hardy & Bacon in Kansas City as an environmental attorney. Justin wrote to Dr. Gayle Levy recently — "Writing the extra papers and completing the extra assignments for my honors contracts taught me how to go the extra mile in class, how to give my very best in order to succeed. The Honors Program challenged me in many new ways. Because of the Honors Program, I believe I was much more prepared for law school and for the law firm. But more importantly, I also was more prepared to serve. At Mizzou, I participated in the Family Violence Clinic, and the lessons I learned from those experiences and from many others were invaluable. And I might never have had them were it not for the Honors Program."



J.R. Chiodo-Benmuvhar has never left the world of higher education! He pursued an MS in Education in Higher Education Leadership and Policy Study at KU. While a graduate intern, he even got to work with the Honors Program at KU. He also interned in the Registrar's Office. Today, J.R. serves as Residence Hall Coordinator and Summer Conferences Coordinator at Santa Fe University of Art and Design in Santa Fe, New Mexico. When asked about his experience with the UMKC Honors Program, J.R. said, "I've been using the work ethic learned from the Honors Program as well as the 'if you want it, do it' attitude so present in the program to make my experience at the university what I want it to be." His advice for current Honors Program students — "Be involved! All the research shows that the more involved you are on campus the more you will succeed. Interact with your faculty, volunteer to be a part of the amazing opportunities presented by the program. From leadership, to volunteer work, to class work, the Honors Program made me love being a Roo!" J.R.'s future plans will focus on either moving through the ranks of Santa Fe University or moving on to another institution to pursue his doctorate.



Tim Stuckmeyer speaks highly of the Honors Program and encourages students to actively participate. "The Honors Program gave me the opportunity to network with high-achieving students and exposed me to professors, programs, and resources from around the university. My participation in the program helped set me apart when applying to graduate programs and interviewing for jobs."



After graduation, Tim headed to Washington, D.C. to pursue a career in international development. He serves as project associate with Chemonics International, the second largest contractor for the U.S. Agency for International Development, which manages development projects

(continued on page 3)

## Honors Program Students Awards & Recognition

**Deborah Raithe** (School of Pharmacy) - Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Honor Recipient

**Alexa Hemphill** (Business Administration) - Coro Kansas City Internship in Public Affairs Recipient. Coro KC is designed to develop future community leaders through exposure to community issues, leadership development, civic leaders and organizations. The Coro KC Internship is presented in partnership with Park University's School for Public Affairs.

**Tamara Kamatovic** (German) - National Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship

**Jackie Hoermann** (English) - Jackie was selected to represent UMKC at Undergraduate Research Day at the State Capitol in Jefferson City. She was among 40 students selected from the four UM campuses to share their work with legislators and other stakeholders. Jackie received a SEARCH grant to conduct archival research on women's rhetorical performances. In addition, Jackie presented her research at the 45th annual National Collegiate Honors Council conference held in Kansas City fall 2010.

**Kathleen Brueggemann** (Accounting), **Ivan Figueroa** (Biology), and **Alaina Shine** (Biology) - UMKC Trustee Scholarship Recipients

## Honors Colloquium

Each semester, students who are members of the Honors Student Advisory Committee (HSAC) choose a theme for Colloquium, the Honors Program's weekly seminar. UMKC faculty and outside guests are invited to present at Colloquium and discuss their research and experiences with students. This provides students with the opportunity to interact with professors and community members in a manner that would not normally present itself. We are able to discuss a wide variety of topics in an academic setting. In addition, activities are planned throughout the semester, and students also contribute to the Colloquium blog.

For fall 2010 semester, the topic was "Sports: It's Not Just a Game." Students learned about the politics of sports from David Ficklin, VP of OnGoal, LLC; the philosophy of sports from



Dr. Wayne Vaught, Department of Philosophy; and the competitive spirit of sports from Luis Belaustegui, Director of the Language Resource Center and a participant in the 2011 Dakar Rally, a grueling international 9,000-kilometer off-road endurance race. One of the main activities for the semester was a rousing game of Capture the Flag. Students were divided into four teams and given campus-wide boundaries to play the game.

During spring semester, Colloquium explored the theme of "A Day in the Life of a College Student: Sleep, Work and Play." Topics included love (presented by Dr. Clancy Martin, Dept of Philosophy),

night eating syndrome (presented by Dr. Jennifer Lundgren, Dept of Psychology), and the hookup culture (presented by Jane Webb, Dept of Sociology, KU).

The 2010-11 academic year was the first year for our new Honors Colloquium blog! Please visit the Honors Program website to read our blog and learn more about Colloquium.

The theme for fall 2011 is travel. Colloquium guests will include the UMKC study abroad coordinators, a pilot, a KCI travel security representative, and a physicist. Students will continue to blog throughout the semester, and will also attend a multicultural event in KC.

Kayla Barnes, HSAC  
Secondary Education-Spanish  
and Computer Science

### UMKC Honors Program Faculty and Staff

- Dr. Gayle Levy, Honors Program Director and Associate Professor of French
- Dr. John Herron, Honors Program Associate Director and Associate Professor of History
- Dr. Frances Connelly, Honors Faculty Fellow and Professor of Art History
- Dr. Melisa Rempfer, Honors Faculty Fellow and Associate Professor of Psychology
- Ms. Sally Mason, Honors Program Administrative Assistant

### 2011 HONORS PROGRAM STATS AT A GLANCE

Honors Program Students — 111

Arts & Sciences 46	Education 5
Biology 10	Pre-Law 1
Business Admin/Accounting 8	Medicine 9
Computing/Engineering 4	Music 7
Dance 1	Nursing 6
Dentistry 3	Pharmacy 11

The average GPA for Honors Program students for Spring 2011 semester was 3.68.

# LUCERNA 2011

Congratulations to the students whose papers were selected for the 2011 *Lucerna*: Lauren Gepford (Political Science), Jackie Hoermann (English), Brianna Holmes (Liberal Arts), Tamara Kamatovic (German), Molly Krokstrom (Secondary Education/English), Alex Lewis (History), Michele Smith (English), and Melanie Somogie (Psychology).

*Lucerna*, UMKC's only undergraduate research journal, is published annually prior to the beginning of the fall semester and is available online and in hard copy.

The first issue of *Lucerna* was published in the fall of 2006, and the

goal of Honors Program students is the same now as then — to cultivate and showcase scholarship from the entire UMKC undergraduate community, to provide students with an opportunity to be published during their undergraduate career. Any UMKC student may submit a paper for consideration; students do not have to be in the Honors Program. Papers are accepted during both the fall and spring semesters, and each paper is blind- and peer-reviewed by members of the Honors Program.

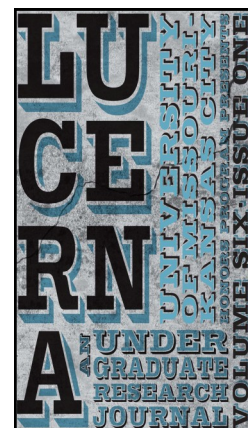
A very special thank you to the students who served on the 2011

Editorial Board: Michele Smith, Editor-in-Chief; James Comminellis, Secretary; Sara Tucker, Treasurer; Jackie Hoermann, Managing Editor; Alex Lewis, Managing Editor; Amy Johnson, Assistant Managing Editor; Heather Inness, Public Relations Coordinator.

Taylor Barton will serve as Editor-in-Chief for *Lucerna* 2012.

For more information and for issues of *Lucerna* please visit our website:

<http://cas.umkc.edu/honors>. Copies of *Lucerna* are also available through the Honors Program office, Haag 204.



## Honors Program/Kauffman School Partnership



The Honors Program has been provided with the extraordinary opportunity of working with the new Ewing Marion Kauffman charter school, beginning with the fall 2011 semester. Hannah Lofthus, school principal, was instrumental in setting up the original model for this partnership in 2003 when she was an undergrad at UMKC and a member of the Honors Program. This led to our partnerships with University Academy and Southwest Early College Campus, and now with the Kauffman School. We are excited that the partnership Hannah envisioned is still in practice, and we look forward to working with the new Kauffman School.

The Kauffman School is a tuition-free public school open to students who reside in the boundaries of the Kansas City, Missouri, school district. The school's mission is to prepare students to excel academically, graduate from college, and apply their unique talents in the world to create economically independent and personally fulfilling lives. This fall, Kauffman will enroll 100 fifth graders; a new fifth grade class will be added each year until the school is complete from grades five through twelve. The Kauffman School vision is to be recognized as the premiere public school in the state of Missouri and as a national model for the entire public school sector.

For the fall semester, Honors Program students will serve as club leaders for clubs such as music, creative writing, poetry, public speaking, and Mandarin Chinese. Plans are for students to eventually serve as both club leaders and tutors for subjects such as math and science. Students may also work with Kauffman teachers.

The Kauffman School is supported by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. The school is located in the Westport area of Kansas City, Missouri.

For more information about the partnership, please contact Dr. Gayle Levy ([levyg@umkc.edu](mailto:levyg@umkc.edu)).

Tim Stuckmeyer continued —

in more than 75 countries, focusing on technical sectors ranging from private sector development and financial services to conflict resolution and disaster recovery. Tim has conducted international assignments in several countries, including Albania, Bolivia, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Ukraine. He is currently applying to MBA programs and would like to join a U.S.-based management consulting firm. Ultimately, he hopes to return to the international development industry. Tim encourages students to learn more about the many interesting jobs in D.C. that focus on domestic and international issues. Students who are interested in learning more about careers in international development may contact Tim at [tim.stuckmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:tim.stuckmeyer@gmail.com).

## Three Recent UMKC Graduates Answer Five Important Questions

**What was your major? What were some of the highlights of the Honors Program for you?**

**Where are you headed next? What is your career goal?**

**What advice do you have for first-year students who are new to the Honors Program?**

### Phillip Shinn

I received a dual degree in Theatre and German with a minor in French (Spring 2011).

The Honors Program does a good job of broadening your horizons, as it constantly introduces you to new situations, both intellectually and socially. The semester where we pulled pranks was amazing!

This fall I will be pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree in acting at Columbia University in New York City.

My career goal is to be a stage and film actor and director.

My advice to students is to take risks! One of the program's greatest assets is its personalized attention. If you want to venture off the beaten path, don't be afraid to talk to a teacher and figure something out. Also, find time to relax and enjoy yourself. College is a great time to establish a lifelong balance between work and play. The next four years will fly by, so enjoy every moment!

### Tamara Kamatovic

I received a Bachelor of Arts in German and minored in French (Fall 2010).

I especially enjoyed attending the French Table/discussion group. It was a good occasion to practice my French with other students and with native speakers.

Beginning with the fall semester, I will be attending the University of Chicago as a PhD candidate in the field of Germanic Literatures and Languages.

I don't really have a career goal at the moment. Many PhD candidates in my field are competing for tenured professorships (which are few and far between), and with the whopping blows being dealt to the humanities and to modern languages programs at state universities and the chronic withering of public institutions, I can't really see myself teaching in the United States. My hope is to work in an institution where continued learning is possible, and I have been entertaining the notion of going into publishing or archival work.

My advice to students is to study abroad for at least a year. Challenge the narrow notion of what will earn you your degree (don't let Arts & Sciences Advising be the only resource that guides you when structuring your curriculum). Take your education into your own hands.

### Ariel Green

I majored in biology, chemistry, and philosophy. I received a B.A. in all three (Spring 2010).

One important highlight was working as the managing editor and then the editor-in-chief for *Lucerna*. I learned a lot about team dynamics, deadlines, publicity campaigns, management, and many other things. I really enjoyed the whole process and think the final product is something of which to be proud. I also really enjoyed working as a discussion group leader, particularly for cell biology. Dr. Stephen King (SBS) was willing to work with me very closely throughout the process. I think I learned more about cell biology in those discussions than I did in the class. I hope it was fun for the students involved as well.

I will be attending Stanford Law School in the fall of 2011. My plans are to receive my J.D., but I am considering completing a Masters in bioengineering while I'm at Stanford.

At this point, I would like to practice intellectual property law.

My advice to students is to take advantage of the opportunities to bond with professors and your fellow classmates. I met several lifelong friends through the Honors Program, so don't just look at it as an accolade.