

THE HONORS HERALD

FALL 2012
ISSUE FIVE

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

10 Things You Need to Know about the UMKC Honors Program – Now!

1. The Honors Program has been around for 33 years! The program was created by Professor Bruce Bubacz, Department of Philosophy.
2. Eight! The number of years Dr. Gayle Levy, Associate Professor of French, has served as Director of the Honors Program.
3. For fall 2012, the Honors Program welcomes 52 new students to the program – the largest incoming group in the history of the program.
4. Applications for the spring 2013 semester are due by October 31st.
5. The Honors Student Advisory Council (HSAC) decides on the theme for the Honors Colloquium each semester and creates the schedule, working closely with UMKC faculty and guest speakers, and planning activities for Colloquium. If you have suggestions for Colloquium, please let HSAC know – or join the Council yourself!
6. The UMKC Honors Program is a member of the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC), the professional association of undergraduate honors programs and colleges; honors directors and deans; and honors faculty, staff, and students. We are also a member of the Great Plains Honors Council.
7. All Honors Program students have graduate-level borrowing privileges at Miller Nichols Library.
8. Courses that qualify as “honors credit” have an “H” added, which appears on the student’s transcript.
9. 42% of Honors Program students are from the College of Arts & Sciences; the other 58% are from each School and the Conservatory of Music and Dance.
10. The Honors Program publishes UMKC’s only undergraduate research journal, *Lucerna*. Submissions for *Lucerna* are open to all UMKC undergraduates, and the journal is published annually. Let Dr. Levy know if you would like to work on the 2013 *Lucerna*.

Honors Program Students Awards & Recognition

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Honor Recipients

Angela Fitle (French & History)
Emma Frank (Chemistry)

U.S. Fulbright Student Award

Julliette Bates (German & Studio Art) – Teaching
Assistantship / Germany
Ryan Occeña (Music Education) – Research Award /
Kecskemet, Hungary

Harry S. Truman Good Neighbor Award

Sydney Llewellyn, Spring 2013 – Buenos Aires, Argentina
Joseph Salazar, Fall 2012 – St. Petersburg, Russia

2012 Phi Kappa Phi Initiates

Kayla Barnes (Secondary Education/Spanish)
Phillip Bolin (Business/Marketing)
Natalie Frank (Political Science)
Alexa Hemphill (Business Administration/Finance & English)
Viraj Patel (Pharmacy Program)

2012-13 UMKC Trustee Scholarship Recipients

Haley Crane (Music Therapy)
Daniel Galarza (Software Engineering)
Tee Jay Hughes (Mechanical Engineering)



FALL 2012 HONORS PROGRAM STATS AT A GLANCE

Honors Program Students - 144

Arts & Sciences 61	Education 9
Biology (including pre-med) 20	Medical School 1
Business/Accounting/Finance 17	Music 6
Computing & Engineering 7	Nursing 7
Dance 1	Pharmacy 15

UMKC HONORS PROGRAM ALUMNI CONTINUE THEIR HONORS



After graduating with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, **Michelle Bloss** ('12) began practicing at Children's Mercy Hospital as a Pediatric Pharmacist. In this position, her time will be spent in two roles. In her clinical role she will be working up patient profiles, rounding with the medical team, attending codes, educating patients about appropriate use of medications and solving other drug-related problems. The other portion of her position involves completing more technical tasks such as checking IV and oral doses to be sent to the floor, verifying physician orders, ensuring compliance with pharmacy law and overseeing other general pharmacy operations. Beyond this her role will continue to evolve with her level of experience. Michelle's goal is eventually to incorporate teaching, lecturing, and writing into her practice. She plans to complete the UMKC School of Pharmacy Teaching Certificate Program this fall. This is a year-long, voluntary certification course intended to help interested practitioners learn and gain more experience in a variety of pharmacy education settings. She will be involved in teaching workshops, practice experiences, and development of both a teaching philosophy and portfolio so that she will be more prepared as a pharmacy preceptor and be able to take students on senior rotations (this usually does not happen until after year one and two). In regards to the Honors Program, Michelle states that she is grateful to have had the opportunity to be around and know such innovative and forward thinkers. For her, befriending and learning the habits of effective leaders served to reinforce her inner drive to go "above and beyond" and helped propel her desire to achieve beyond the level of an average graduate. Michelle states that the Honors Program gave her a strong foundation from which to succeed and a stronger desire to serve and be impactful within her life and profession.

Nick Serafin ('06) received a BA in Philosophy at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Nick is currently working as a research assistant and applying to Ph.D. programs in political and moral philosophy. Ultimately he would like to enter legal academia. Prior to obtaining a law degree from Yale, he studied philosophy in the Master's program at Tufts. Nick specifically recalls the semester in which the Honors Program focused on urban development and the history of Kansas City. During a seminar at Yale on Climate Change and the Law, which covered the Environmental Justice movement and urban history, he reflected back on how the UMKC Honors Program had prepared him to engage in this discussion. Nick finds it beneficial to know that the good faculty and programs at UMKC are easily on par with those at universities that have much wider name recognition.

Damion Alexander ('12) returned to college (UMKC) in 2009, falling into the "older, non-traditional" demographic. He joined the Honors Program fall 2010. "What can I say about the Honors Program? The program challenged me to go beyond mediocrity and not to simply settle for 'good enough' by challenging me to go beyond the required coursework for each class by completing honors contracts for honors credit. It also offered me the opportunity to develop leadership skills as an honors Spanish discussion group leader. To those who are currently involved in the Honors Program or are considering joining, I offer this advice: Get involved. The Honors Program affords many opportunities to develop character, leadership skills, and to network with people - faculty, staff, employers, or fellow students - who are in positions to assist you now or possibly in the future. Also, the programs, such as the Kauffman afterschool program and the study abroad program, engage the student with the local community and the world providing experience which will broaden one's horizons. I was unable to participate in the honors study abroad program, but was able to go to Spain in Summer of 2011 with the university program, and it rocked my world! So be committed, work hard, and get involved. Trust me, it will return rewards in the future."



Currently, **Robin Hamilton** ('01) serves as executive staff assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. In this role, she supports the Vice Chancellor in his strategic planning initiatives for the University and especially for student development. Robin also assists in problem-solving for students. The broad range of experiences she had as a student has helped her be more intentional in planning and able to see how to connect the dots, so to speak. She feels that the most influential experiences were leadership-building opportunities. Robin especially enjoyed being able to lead the Western Civ honors discussion group. She states that it was also very rewarding to be a part of a cohort with the same passion for learning and who encouraged everyone to keep pushing. The Honors Program provided a greater level of mentoring and advising. She says, "It was truly an amazing experience studying in London for a semester, especially since the Honors Director at the time was also on that trip." Robin also thoroughly enjoyed the capstone experience, writing a senior thesis with her faculty mentor. Because of the Honors Program, she continued at UMKC and earned her Master's degree in English Literature.



"I'm glad I was able to take advantage of the Honors Program and what it offered. I continue to travel and broaden my horizons because I learned that you never stop learning."

After completing his BA in Communication Studies, Damion was employed as a graduate research assistant with the Bloch School of Management over the summer doing research focusing on the elderly. He is also a staff writer with UNews, UMKC's school newspaper, and an employee of FedEx. Damion serves on his church's AMEN men's ministry conference planning board, sings in the men's choir, and assists with the church's media ministry. Damion will be pursuing his Master's in public administration beginning this fall at UMKC with a double emphasis in nonprofits and urban planning. He has also been offered the opportunity to teach Communication Studies 110 for fall semester. "My concern is investing in people and trying to enrich lives. I hope to work for or create a multi-faceted nonprofit organization based on Christian principles that will serve specific populations such as the poor, homeless, those in prison or recently released, orphans, and the elderly. I also hope to write some books, do public speaking, and serve in church ministry."



The Kauffman School Experience from the Perspective of the Partnership Coordinator Angela Fitle ('12)

In the beginning, I was skeptical that the Honors Program-Kauffman School Partnership would meet the expectations of its designers. I wondered if we could pull off tripling the number of volunteers after increasing their responsibilities and limiting their flexibility, while working with a school that was in the process of being built from the ground up. All ten of us who signed up as volunteers walked into it blindly, hoping for the best.

On the day of orientation, I simultaneously felt both a wave of relief and a tinge of anxiety. The Kauffman School's faculty was incredibly organized and professional. The school was run like a disciplined Fortune 500 company. School days are long (students do not leave for home until 5:30 pm or later), and the school year runs from the end of August to mid-June. For academic year 2011-12, students spent approximately 35 percent more time in school than other public school students. All students are expected to be in class every day and to meet academic expectations. Coursework is rigorous, with a strong focus on math and reading. Some volunteers found the atmosphere to be intimidating, especially considering that the 100 students were only in 5th grade. It is certainly a unique school environment, and I welcomed the innovative approach to education. But what worried me was that the charter school had a great expectation for our contribution. No longer were we considered "club leaders" but "enrichment teachers," who would be responsible for creating a detailed, time-managed syllabus and implementing it in the classroom in five cycles over the course of the entire school year. Could I personally handle the challenge? Would the other nine volunteers have the determination and motivation to fulfill our obligations to the end?

The answer is yes. Once we got into our classrooms it was not difficult to see the worth of the program. Each of us taught a class of our choosing. My class was French. The other classes taught by Honors Program volunteers were Debate, Theatre, Dance, Art, Writing, Science, Physical Fitness, Dance, and Chinese. The faculty was very supportive of our contributions to the school, and provided us with the resources and assistance we needed. Most importantly, the students were very receptive to our classes—at least as receptive as they could be at the end of a 9-hour day at school!

One day, toward the end of the school year, the students in my enrichment class were feeling discouraged by the strict discipline and high expectations at the Kauffman School. I talked to them for a while about how frustrating it can be to have to follow rules, but that the teachers have high expectations for them because they care about them, and because they truly believe that the students have the ability to do great things. At dismissal time, I was surprised when one of the students, the one who was the most disgruntled at the beginning of class, gave me a big hug and a "Thank You." Moments like this serve as a constant reminder that the Honors Program-Kauffman School Partnership is a valuable asset to our community and that we truly can make a difference in the lives of these young people. In return for my participation in the partnership, I have accumulated a wealth of experience and a treasure trove of memories.

Lucerna: What Can It Do for You? Taylor Barton ('13)

What is *Lucerna*? Put simply, *Lucerna* is UMKC's only all-discipline undergraduate research journal. A new issue is published every year showcasing the best and brightest UMKC students and the work they dedicate their time and effort to. *Lucerna* publishes research completed at UMKC, and the honors student editorial board chooses the essays selected for publication competitively and anonymously. But the real question is, what can *Lucerna* do for you?

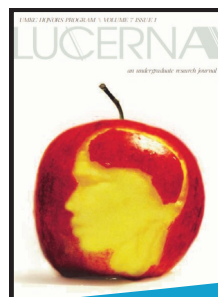
As we go through our academic careers, it is sometimes easy to get caught up in the routine of classes. Write a paper, turn it in, never think about it again. Repeat. If you're like me, you have at least a dozen old papers on your computer that you haven't looked at or thought about since the day they were due. But each of these papers represents something more than just a percentage of a grade for a course. They document your progress as a student and as an individual at UMKC. If they were written for a class at UMKC, pull them out, dust them off, and look over them again. That paper may represent your opportunity to present a new idea to your fellow students or reconsider an old topic in a new light. Essays are accepted from all disciplines and are reviewed on a competitive basis against other students' submissions. Any UMKC student (not just those in the Honors Program) may submit to *Lucerna*. Being published as an undergraduate student can really enhance your resumé or CV and will set you apart from your competition as you move on to graduate or professional school, or into the job market. Being published is an accomplishment that will help propel you toward your academic, professional, and personal goals.

As a member of the Honors Program, *Lucerna* needs you in two ways. First of all, you have the opportunity to participate in the journal's production. *Lucerna* is run by students, for students. As the past and current Editor-in-Chief, I invite all of you to contact me to help with *Lucerna*. I am looking for talented and hardworking individuals to be on my staff to help select essays for publication, work with the authors to edit the essays, solicit submissions, publicize the journal among your fellow UMKC students, and publish a professional, academic journal that will be available to the entire community.

The second opportunity *Lucerna* has to offer you, as honors students, is the opportunity to showcase your hard work and your passion. Remember those old papers I mentioned previously? Well, take a look at them again and consider your more recent papers too. *Lucerna* is an awesome opportunity for you to expand your horizons, get some great experience, and even get published as an undergraduate. Please contact me with any questions or comments at tjb8t7@mail.umkc.edu. Whether you are new to the Honors Program or not, I would love to talk with you about how *Lucerna* can benefit you or what you can do to help produce the most creative and interesting edition of *Lucerna* yet! Please visit the *Lucerna* web site at <http://cas.umkc.edu/honors/lucerna.asp>.

Congratulations to the UMKC students whose papers were selected for the 2012 *Lucerna*!

Juliette Bates (German)
Melissa Childress (Psychology)
Jesse Hamer (Mathematics)
Rachel Kauffman (Psychology)
Alex Karanevich (Mathematics)
Max Shockley (Economics)
Jeremiah Shuler (Sociology)
Greg Steel (Biology)
Lawrence Stitt (History)
Erin York (English)



UMKC HONORS PROGRAM FACULTY



"The students in the UMKC Honors Program can do anything they set their minds to--the possibilities are endless!"



Dr. Gayle Levy, Honors Program Director and Associate Professor of French

Gayle Levy began her life-long love of French at the age of five when she learned how to say "jus d'orange" in kindergarten. She honed her francophilia as an undergraduate at U.C.-Berkeley and during her graduate studies at The Johns Hopkins University, Duke University, and the Ecole Normale Supérieure-Ulm in Paris. Currently, her research centers on French resistance fighters during World War II who then went on to fight in the wars of decolonization. She generally teaches 19th- and 20th-century French literature courses, but she also team teaches an interdisciplinary course on the Holocaust and one on French modernism. Prof. Levy was named director of the Honors Program in 2004. She loves helping to organize the program and meeting and working with these exceptional students. She is particularly proud of the way the students have taken leadership roles in and helped shape the Honors Program initiatives, especially the Honors-Kauffman School Partnership, *Lucerna*, and Colloquium. She looks forward to continuing her work on the proposed Honors College so that the honors students at UMKC can ultimately participate in more specially-designed seminars and workshops.



"I am delighted to continue for a second term as an Honors Faculty Fellow. One of the things I have most enjoyed is the opportunity to work with honors students across all disciplines. It is also great to hear about the research projects of UMKC faculty who present at the Honors Colloquium."



Dr. Frances Connelly, Professor of Art History and Honors Faculty Fellow

Frances Connelly teaches art history and specializes in the art of 19th and 20th-century Europe. She taught the honor's section of Art History 110 fall 2011 semester. As an undergraduate at Wake Forest University, her coursework was focused in English literature, creative writing, studio art, and cultural anthropology. A few years later, she discovered that art history was a marvelous way to bring these diverse interests together. She received her Ph.D. in Art History from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Connelly's research explores the cultural role of images, and this has led to publications on primitivism, the globalization of art, and the role of the grotesque in modern art. Dr. Connelly serves as faculty advisor for *Lucerna*, UMKC's undergraduate research journal, which is published annually by the Honors Program.

"Working with Honors students is easily the most rewarding part of my UMKC career. To watch nervous first-year students enter the program, grow in confidence and ability, and then leave our campus as accomplished scholars is an amazing process. I am very proud to be a part of this tradition and, at the same time, very humbled to have the opportunity to work with such an amazing group of devoted students."

Dr. John Herron, Honors Program Associate Director and Associate Professor of History



Having had enough of the picture perfect weather of southern California, John Herron arrived at UMKC in 2003. He is an Associate Professor of History with a research interest in American environmental studies. He received his Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico.

Among his books are: *Human/Nature, Science and the Social Good*, and the forthcoming *Heartland Green*. Interested in working with UMKC's most ambitious students, Dr. Herron began with the Honors Program as Faculty Fellow before becoming the program's Associate Director. He has led the honors-only Summer Study Abroad Program to Sweden, and he hopes to add a second study abroad site to Ireland in the near future. He is always available to meet with students who have questions about the program, study abroad opportunities, or American League baseball.



"I am looking forward to another great year for the Honor's Program! Colloquium is set to be an informative and lively semester, as we explore "Politics" in honor of the 2012 US Presidential election.



I would like to give a special thanks to our excellent HSAC group for putting together a great series of speakers."

Dr. Melisa Rempfer, Associate Professor of Psychology and Honors Faculty Fellow

Melisa Rempfer, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology, teaches General Psychology, PSYCH 210 (including an honor's section) and graduate courses in clinical psychology. She received her undergraduate education at the University of Iowa and completed her doctoral degree in clinical psychology at the University of Kansas. Dr. Rempfer's research and clinical expertise relate to serious mental illness and cognitive assessment. For AY 2012-13, she will be working closely with the Honors Colloquium. Dr. Rempfer also serves as faculty advisor for the Honors Student Advisory Council (HSAC).

VISIT THE HONORS PROGRAM WEBSITE AT <http://cas.umkc.edu/honors>