

Illuminations

University Honors Program

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh



FEBRUARY 2006
ISSUE 3

The Final Honors Decision: Thesis or Seminar?

by Dr. Roberta Maguire, UHP Director

For many of you, it's that time of year, when you are making decisions about how you are going to spend your last year or so at UW Oshkosh—which courses you want to be sure to take, what activities you want to be involved in: in other words, what you want your life to be like as you close out your undergraduate years. As a member of the UHP, you have another important decision to make, and that is whether to take the senior Honors seminar or produce an Honors thesis for your capstone Honors activity. How do you make that decision? It depends a great deal on who you are—whether you work better in relative isolation or if you thrive in group settings, how self-disciplined you are, what your future plans are, etc.

First, let me say that I know of no one

in our Program who has regretted having taken the thesis option. And while many students have thoroughly enjoyed their seminar experience, others have said to me, "Maybe I should have written a thesis; maybe I should have pushed myself a little harder." Many more students take the seminar over the thesis option, so on the basis of sheer numbers it is not surprising that the range of opinion regarding seminar is greater than that for thesis. Nonetheless, you don't want to be someone who in the end is even mildly regretful about a decision as important as this one—not if you can help it. So here we offer some questions and answers to help you make the decision that is right for you.

Have you developed a passion about something you have studied? If you have, then consider finding a way to create a thesis project that allows you to delve into it further. The most important ingredient for a successful thesis is interest—because you are going to be living with the material for a long time, typically two semesters. By contrast, the seminar theme is chosen by the instructor. While there is some leeway in terms of what you will focus on for your seminar project, it must intersect with the seminar theme.

Have you taken a class or developed a relationship with a professor who shares your passion? While conduct-

ing the research for and writing a thesis are independent activities, the thesis advisor still plays an indispensable role. This is the person who gets you pointed in the right direction, helps you focus on what is valuable about the material you are gathering, offers support when the project seems impossible, and insures that your project meets your own, your advisor's, and the Program's high standards. Producing a thesis offers you a special opportunity to work closely with a faculty member you admire and often is the foundation for a professional relationship that extends beyond your undergraduate years.

Do you like to work independently? If so, the thesis option is for you! Aside from six meetings over two semesters (the first is the "planning" semester; the second is the "completion" semester) with the Honors Director and five to six additional Honors thesis students, you have no "class" time. You and your advisor decide how often to communicate, and you develop your own timeline for finishing your project, making sure you are ready to present your findings at the Honors Thesis Symposium held near the end of your "completion" semester.

Does your schedule better accommodate the thesis or the seminar option? This is often the factor students

A LOOK INSIDE...

Thesis Meeting Dates/Spr. Graduates...	2
UHP Student Assistant Application ...	3
Campus and Community Events	4-5
UHP Spring 2006 Calendar.....	6
Fall 2006 Honors Courses.....	6
College of Business Luncheon.....	7

Continued on page 2

The Final Honors Decision: Thesis or Seminar? (Continued from page 1)

give the most weight when determining which option to choose. You can begin the thesis project during either the fall or spring semester, but it typically requires work over two full semesters, whereas the seminar is completed during one spring semester. Is the thesis then “more work” than the seminar? Yes—and no. The seminar requires attendance at regular class sessions (three hours per week), shared readings and class discussion, plus an independent project. The seminar project, while a major component of the grade, is still only part of the grade because of the in-class work that the whole class undertakes. A thesis is typically longer—or more involved—than a seminar project, since it is all that determines the grade. Not to worry: You will work hard if you choose either option. But if you choose seminar, you must clear out time during a spring semester to take the course.

Are you planning to go on to graduate or professional school? If your answer to this question is “yes,” even if you do not plan to enroll immediately after graduation, we strongly encourage you to choose the thesis

option for two reasons: First, it helps prepare you for the kinds of independent projects you will undertake as a graduate student. Second, it distinguishes your application among those of other qualified students, helping to make you more competitive for admission, grants and scholarships, etc. This is not to say you won’t be admitted to graduate school if you do not take the thesis option—many Honors students who choose seminar go on to graduate and professional school—only that the thesis option is especially good preparation for graduate work and enhances your application.

Which option better accommodates a “creative” project (film, musical performance, fiction, graphic design, etc.)? Both the thesis and seminar option can conceivably accommodate a “creative” project, although the thesis option far more readily does so. Keep in mind that the thesis requires original work and research, which means that the “creative” option will include a written component in addition to the “creative” product. That written component, however, is typically much shorter than that for a more traditional

“scholarly” thesis.

We hope the above questions and answers help focus your thinking as you consider which culminating project to choose, and we urge you to contact us with other questions you have. One great place to share your questions is at the first Thesis Planning meeting of the semester, which will be on February 7 at 4:30 p.m. in the Honors Lounge. Everyone is welcome to attend—students who are preparing to make a decision between the two options, students who are certain they want to complete a thesis by next December, and students who just need more information. See you on the 7th!

Thesis Meetings

February 7: Thesis Planning Meeting #1, 4:30 p.m., UHP Lounge (Polk 17)

February 8: Thesis Completion Meeting #1, 4:30 p.m., UHP Lounge (Polk 17)

Attention, Spring 2006 Graduates!

If you are planning on graduating this spring, please stop down to the University Honors Program office and pick up a UHP Graduation Information Form. Please fill out this form completely and return it to the UHP office no later than April 1, 2006. If you don’t fill out this form, we will not know you are graduating and you will not receive the appropriate information about receiving your Honors medallion and further recognition (i.e., transcript and commencement program).

Honors students completing their requirements will be awarded their Honors Medallions at the Graduation Awards for Excellence Ceremony on Tuesday, May 2, 2006, 5:30-7:00 p.m. in Reeve 227.

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
University Honors Program
800 Algoma Boulevard
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Offices: Polk 8, 9, 10, 17
Phone: (920) 424-1303

Director: Dr. Roberta Maguire
maguire@uwosh.edu

Advisor: Carey Molinski
molinski@uwosh.edu

USA: Julie Russo
russoj@uwosh.edu

Student Assistant: Bryce Scherer
scherb46@uwosh.edu

Website: www.uwosh.edu/honors

Illuminations is published during the academic year by the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Honors Program to provide information for its student members.

University Honors Program

Student Assistant Position Application

The University Honors Program is currently accepting applications for one student assistant position. Projected starting date is the week of February 20. Position will consist of 6-8 hours during the normal business week. If interested and available, please complete this application and submit it to the UHP Office (Polk 8) no later than Monday, February 13.

Name: _____ Student ID: _____

Local Address: _____

Phone: _____ Year (i.e., junior, etc.): _____

E-Mail Address: _____ No. Semesters in UHP: _____

Briefly describe why you would like to be a student assistant in the University Honors Program.

Please state skills you would bring to the office as a student assistant (i.e., computer program knowledge, web development, filing, typing, computer experience, design [for fliers], writing skills [for newsletter], etc.).

Please list Honors courses you have completed or are enrolled in this semester.

Please list your availability for the Spring 2006 semester.

Thank you for your interest in the student assistant position in the UHP!

EVENTS ON CAMPUS . . .

With all that is on your plate, it can be difficult to fit a concert or lecture into your rigorous schedule. But don't forget how beneficial such an "escape" can be. Whether you decide to attend an event with friends or spend some time on your own, doing so will give you a boost and will further enhance your University experience. Remember to make time for yourself... Enjoy one of the upcoming campus and community events listed below!

Please note: For students enrolled in INTRDSCP 271 and 272, we hope this list will also be useful when considering events for Culture Connection assignments.

Gail Steinhilber Art Gallery

Jan. 30-Mar. 10: Erin Tapley: "Printstallation"

Mar. 21-Apr. 21: UW Madison MFA Exhibit

Allen Priebe Art Gallery

Feb. 2-16: 5th Annual Student Honors Exhibition: survey of the work of sophomore-senior art majors

Mar. 3-23: 33rd Annual Juried Exhibition of State High School Art

Mar. 29-Apr. 22: Pete Poplaski: UW Oshkosh grad, widely collected painter, and author of a leading study on underground cartoonist R. Crumb

Apr. 25-28: Fine Art Senior Exhibition

May 3-7: Graphic Design Senior Exhibition

May 9-12: Fine Art Senior Exhibition

Spray Paint Art

Feb. 14: Reeve Union Board Creative Concepts: Joe and Lefty. Reeve Union Concourse, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Experimental Theatre

Mar. 2-5: Student Directed One Acts, 7:30 p.m.

Fredric March Theatre

Feb. 9-11 (7:30 p.m.) and Feb. 23 & 19 (2:00 p.m.): *The Visit*. Written by Fredrich Durrenmatt, adapted by Laurice Valency, directed by Richard Kalinoski

Apr. 20-22 (7:30 p.m.) and Apr. 23 & 27 (2:00 p.m.): *Zombies from the Beyond*. Books, music, & lyrics by James Valeq, directed by Merlaine Angwall

Music Department

(All events held in Music Hall unless otherwise indicated.)

Feb. 13: Chamber Arts Series: *Baltimore Consort*, 8:00 p.m.

Feb. 21: Faculty Recital: Frank Hoffmeister, tenor, 8:00 p.m.

Mar. 1: Faculty Recital: David Cowley, cello, 8:00 p.m.

Mar. 5: UW Oshkosh Choirs; conductor: Carl Chapman, 3 p.m.

Mar. 5: UW Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra; conductor: Lucia Matos, 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 7: UW Oshkosh Jazz Ensemble; director: Marty Robinson, 8:00 p.m.

Mar. 26: Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Bands; conductor: Rob McWilliams, 3:00 p.m.

Mar. 30: Student Recital, 3:00 p.m., Vocal Studio of Frank Hoffmeister

Apr. 9: Student Recital, 3:00 p.m., Piano Studio of Beverly Hassel

Apr. 13: Chamber Arts Series: *Georgia Guitar Quartet*, 8:00 p.m.

Apr. 27: UW Oshkosh Percussion Ensemble; director: Alison Shaw, 8:00 p.m.

May 2: UW Oshkosh Jazz Ensemble; director Marty Robinson, 8:00 p.m.

May 3: UW Oshkosh Symphonic Band; conductor Rob McWilliams, 8:00 p.m.

May 4: UW Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra; conductor Lucia Matos, 8:00 p.m.

May 7: UW Oshkosh Choirs and UW Oshkosh Wind Ensemble; conductor: Carl Chapman, 7:00 p.m.

AND IN YOUR COMMUNITY

International Film Series

Feb. 8: *The Seventh Seal*, Dir. Ingmar Bergman (Sweden), Halsey 109, 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 15: *Fallen Angels*, Dir. Wong Kar-Wai (Hong Kong), Halsey 109, 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 22: *The 400 Blows*, Dir. Francois Truffaut (France), Halsey 109, 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 1: *M*, Dir. Fritz Lang (Germany), Halsey 109, 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 8: *Tae Guk Gi: Brotherhood of War*, Dir. Je-gyu Kang (Korea), Halsey 109, 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 15: *Bad Education*, Dir. Pedro Almodovar (Spain/Mexico), Halsey 109, 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 22: *Audition*, Dir. Takashi Miike (Japan), Halsey 109, 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 29: *The Passion of Joan of Arc*, Dir. Carl Theodore Dreyer (France), Halsey 109, 7:00 p.m.

Apr. 5: *The Scent of Green Papaya*, Dir. Ahn Hung Tran (Vietnam/France), Halsey 107, 7:00 p.m.

Apr. 12: *Battleship Potemkin*, Dir. Sergei Eisenstein (Russia), Halsey 109, 7:00 p.m.

Apr. 19: *Dr. Strangelove: or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*, Dir. Stanley Kubrick (USA), Halsey 107, 7:00 p.m.

University Speaker Series

Feb. 12: Daryl Davis, "KlanDestine Relationships." Reeve Ballroom, 8:00 p.m.

Feb. 22: Kevin Roberts, "The Munchies." Reeve Ballroom, 8:00 p.m.

Mar. 28: Matt Glowacki, "Expectations." Reeve Ballroom, 8:00 p.m.

Apr. 12: Dan Zevin, "Life After College." Reeve Ballroom, 8:00 p.m.

Grand Opera House Film Series

(Tickets \$4 & available at the door)
www.grandoperahouse.org

Feb. 23: *Shakespeare in Love* (1998), 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 16: *Finian's Rainbow* (1968), 7:00 p.m.

Apr. 27: *North by Northwest* (1959), 7:00 p.m.

May 4: *Hello Dolly* (1969), 7:00 p.m.

The Paine Art Center

www.thepaine.org

Through Apr. 9: *Passionate Pursuits: Visions of Work and Play*, Main Gallery.

Feb. 11-May 14: *Chinese Myths, Legends and Symbols*, Gothic Gallery.

Oshkosh Public Museum: A Titanic Coup

by Julie Russo

Feb. 4-Apr. 30: It was ninety-four years ago when the engineering and design marvel known as the Titanic made her first and only attempt to cross the Atlantic. While the Titanic's history can compete with the grimmest of tragedies, it is also one that continues to intrigue and grip our imaginations. *Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition*, which will be docked at the Oshkosh Public Museum from Saturday, February 4, through Sunday, April 30, will include some one hundred objects recovered from the wreck plus reproductions of the ship's first- and third-class accommodations. Oshkosh is just one stop on a tour that since 1991 has delighted and fascinated visitors in cities all over the world (Athens, Buenos Aires, Las Vegas, and Seoul to name a few). Come see what the Oshkosh Public Museum calls "the most successful and enduring traveling exhibit in history."

The Oshkosh Public Museum is located at 1331 Algoma Boulevard (at Congress Avenue) and is open Tuesday-Saturday 10:00-4:30 and Sunday 1:00-4:30. The Museum is closed Mondays.

Tickets are \$10 each (\$6 each for groups of 15 more).

**For more information, call
(920) 424-4731 or visit
www.oshkoshmuseum.org**

Fall 2006 Honors Course Schedule

- Biology 108: H: Concepts in Unity, Michelle Michalski
Lecture: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10:20-11:20 a.m.
Discussion: Thursday, 12:00-1:00 p.m.
Lab: Thursday, 1:20-4:20 p.m.

- Communication 112: H: Fundamentals of Speech, Monday, 5-8 p.m., Anthony Palmeri

- English 110-001: H: Composition, Tuesday/Thursday, 9:40-11:10 a.m., Don Dingledine
- English 110-002: H: Composition, Tuesday/Thursday, 1:20-2:50 p.m., Christine Roth

- English 228: H: Modern American Literature, Tuesday/Thursday, 1:20-2:50 p.m., Robert Feldman

- Interdisciplinary 175 001-003: Honors Seminar, Monday, 6-9 p.m.
- Interdisciplinary 175 004-005: Honors Seminar, Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 1:20-2:50 p.m.

- Interdisciplinary 271: H: Culture Connection 1, Arranged, Roberta Maguire
- Interdisciplinary 272: H: Culture Connection 2, Arranged, Roberta Maguire

- International 228: H: Diplomatic Practice, Tuesday/Thursday 3-6 p.m., Kenneth Grieb
- International 309: H: Revolution and Development, Wednesday, 2-5 p.m., Kenneth Grieb

- Psychology 104: H: Introduction to Psychology, Monday/Wednesday 1:50-3:20 p.m., Baron Perlman

- Religious Studies 110: H: World Religions, Monday/Wednesday 1:50-3:20 p.m., Jeffrey Kaplan

UHP SPRING 2006 CALENDAR

Students: Please be aware of the University Honors Program calendar and the dates that pertain to you. Thesis meetings are scheduled for Feb. 7 & 8 (see article on page 1). Also, please note that registration begins Feb. 27.

February 7: Thesis Planning Meeting #1, 4:30 p.m., Polk 17 (Honors Lounge)

February 8: Thesis Completion Meeting #2, 4:30 p.m., Polk 17 (Honors Lounge)

February 13: UHP Student Assistant job applications due in UHP office (Polk 8)

February 15: Spring Volunteer Fair, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Reeve Concourse

February 22: UHP office begins to distribute Class Cards during normal office hours

February 27: UHP seniors begin registering

February 28: UHP juniors begin registering

March 1: UHP sophomores begin registering

March 2: UHP freshmen begin registering

March 3: COBA Luncheon, 11:45 a.m., Clow 241

March 13-17: Spring Break!

April 1: UHP Graduation Information Forms due in office (Polk 8)

April 27: Celebration of Scholarship

May 2: Graduation Awards for Excellence (Honors Medallions awarded), 5:30 p.m., Reeve 227

ATTENTION, COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION HONORS STUDENTS!

*The College of Business Administration invites
Honors COBA students and students interested in
taking courses in the College of Business to a*

Lunch with Professors

Friday, March 3, at 11:45 a.m. in Clow 241

*This is a great opportunity for COBA to connect better with
UHP students and find out how the College of Business can
better address Honors students' needs.*

Honors Advising

by Carey Molinski

According to Dictionary.com, the verb 'advise' means "to recommend, suggest; to offer advice to, counsel." We all need advice once in a while, whether it be to break the rule of wearing white after Labor Day or, more importantly, how to make the most of your undergraduate education at UW Oshkosh. One of the immediate benefits of active involvement in the University Honors Program is the opportunity to register early for all of your classes each semester. To glean the most out of this perk, it is essential to PLAN AHEAD. The UHP Office offers Honors advising,

and we also have a good idea of what courses will be offered for Spring 2007 (in addition to what is offered for Fall 2006). If you would like help integrating Honors requirements into your class schedule, we would be more than happy to sit down and assist you in creating your several-semester plan. The details are for the short-term, but Honors advising cannot take place without ideas for the long-term as well.

Honors advising is offered semester-round (although, obviously, crunch time is during the registration sea-

son) and many students make appointments each semester to verify or change their plan.

The UHP will offer advising hours beginning on Monday, Feb. 20, and throughout the rest of the semester. An appointment sign-up form will be outside the office on the bulletin board next to Polk 8. Simply sign up for a timeslot that works with your schedule and bring your STAR report to your appointment. Don't forget that registration begins Feb. 27. The first day class cards will be distributed is February 22.

Opportunity Knocks!

There are a lot of possibilities and opportunities for you presented inside this newsletter. Make note of:

- The invitation to the COBA Luncheon
- The UHP Calendar (including registration dates and thesis dates).
- Campus and Community Events and exhibits
- Fall 2006 Honors Courses
- The UHP Student Assistant Application

For more information, please visit
www.uwosh.edu/honors.