

Illuminations

University Honors Program

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh



MAY 2006
ISSUE 6

Congratulations to Our Honors Students for Completing Their Thesis Projects!

by Meghan Iverson, UHP Student Assistant

On Wednesday evening, April 26, the UHP hosted the Spring 2006 Honors Thesis Symposium. Because a record number of Honors students completed theses this semester, it was necessary to plan two sessions to accommodate all seven presentations. For those of you who were not able to attend the symposium, as follows are brief descriptions of the students and the projects on which they have worked for the past year.

Michelle Glines of Racine presented first with "The Tsachila: My Cultural Immersion in Ecuador." This project explores her experience with the jungle tribe called the Tsachila. Her graphic design skills showcase her original photography and research in a hand-bound book. Michelle was assisted by the Art Department's Dr. Edwin Jager. Next year, Michelle

will continue her studies at UWO and will continue her work as an intern at the Instructional Resource Center on campus. She will also be working on another project, the senior exhibition.

Oshkosh native Melissa Jensen presented her project entitled "Triangular Theory of Religious Commitment," which uses her majors, Religious Studies and Psychology, to analyze various scales of everyday religiosity. It does so by looking at what Melissa identified as the three core elements of religious commitment: ritual, belief, and experience. Melissa's thesis advisor was Dr. Susan McFadden of the Psychology Department. A Spring 2006 graduate, Melissa will take a year off to decide on and prepare for graduate school.

Katherine ("Kat") Stillings of River Falls presented her International Studies project: "Regional Economic Integration in Africa: A Comparative Study of ECOWAS and the SADC." The thesis addresses the changing role of regional integration agreements within Africa, focusing on the two most developed organizations: the Economic Community of West African States and the Southern Af-

rican Development Community. Kat completed the project under the guidance of Dr. Kenneth Grieb. In the fall, Kat plans to attend graduate school in Melbourne, Australia.

Heather Freund, our first presenter at the second session, is a Secondary Education major with emphases in both Broadfield Social Science and History. Her thesis, under the guidance of History professor Dr. Michael Rutz, is entitled "Through British Eyes: Exploring Connections Between the American and French Revolutions." The project questions whether eighteenth-century writer Edmund Burke was inconsistent or justified in supporting the American Revolution while condemning the French Revolution. Heather is originally from Lamartine, a small town near Fond du Lac. She is looking forward to student teaching next year and graduating.

Steven Schob of Fond du Lac presented his thesis project entitled "A Guide to 'Psappha'" under the guidance of his advisor, Dr. Alison Shaw of the Music Department. 'Psappha,' written by Iannis Xenakis, is a major piece in today's percussion literature but, as Steven noted, also presents an

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Check it out: www.uwosh.edu/honors

Spring 2006 Thesis Projects (continued from page 1)

enormous challenge for U.S. performers because of its unorthodox notation system, obscure instrumentation, and explanations in French. Steven's "A Guide to 'Psappa'" clarifies those challenges and provides a starting point for U.S. percussionists approaching the piece. Steven plans to attend graduate school.

Michele Mary Poellinger's thesis project, "Good Witch/Bad Witch: The Christian Evolution of Morgan Le Fay," examines the changing role of King Arthur's half-sister throughout the middle ages. Mary put her English major and History minor to use in an analysis of Arthurian literature from the eleventh through the fifteenth centuries. Her advisor was Dr. Margaret Hostletler of the English Department. Mary will be exploring her career and gradu-

ate school options from her hometown of Oshkosh.

As a Journalism major specializing in Advertising and Public Relations, Jennifer Curtis showcased her studies in a thesis entitled "Marketing the Arts to College Students: How to Increase Awareness of and Participation in the Arts." Journalism professor Miles Maguire was her advisor. Through original research, Jen has documented that many UWO students are not involved in the arts in part because arts organizations do not adequately market to them. She also explores creative ways to better involve college students. Jen is originally from Waterford. This summer she will begin in earnest to search for a job that combines her communications and creative skills.

IN THE WORKS FOR SPRING 2007: START PLANNING NOW!

- English 110: Honors TBIS
- English 229: Honors African American Literature
- Geology 110: Honors Geology
- Interdisciplinary 175: Honors Freshman Seminar
- Interdisciplinary 475: Honors Senior Seminar
- International 403: Honors Senior Seminar
- Philosophy 110: Intro to Philosophy
- Psychology 302: Abnormal Psychology

HONORS

N by Bryce Scherer,
UHP Student Assistant and Webmaster

L The UHP staff is delighted to inform you that new photos from our spring trip to Chicago have been added to the Web site's Honors Showcase section! The UHP traveled to the Windy City to visit the Museum of Science and Industry and attended a production of Tennessee Williams's *The Glass Menagerie* at the Court Theatre (see Julie Russo's article on page 4.) We'd like to remind you that copies of the current newsletter and previous issues are available on the Web site. As always, updates will continue to be made, even through the summer. Be sure to visit the site for valuable Honors information such as What's New, Required Courses, Fall '06 Courses, and Student Association and registration updates. In the meantime, we wish you a safe and happy summer. See you in September!

www.uwosh.edu/honors

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

Looking for Things to Do in Oshkosh This Summer?

by Julie Russo

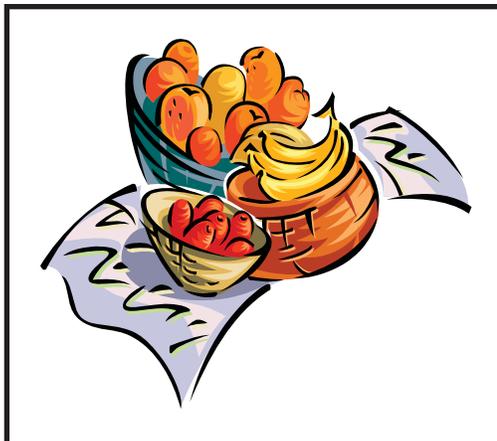


Electric Tiffany--June 3 Through October 6

The Paine Art Center will glitter with fifty examples of a uniquely American, extraordinarily beautiful form of functional art when it presents Electric Tiffany, a magnificent collection of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century lamps. Whether your taste is contemporary, traditional, or somewhere in between, everyone recognizes the craftsmanship and spectacular palette that are synonymous with the designs of Louis Comfort Tiffany Studios. For information regarding this and other events at the Paine, call (920) 235-6903 or visit www.thepaine.org.

The Paine Art Center and Gardens
1410 Algoma Boulevard
Tuesday-Sunday 11-4

Tiffany photos courtesy of The Paine Art Center and Gardens



Oshkosh Farmers Market

Every Saturday Morning from June Through October

The Oshkosh Farmers Market, located at 215 Church Street in the City Hall parking lot (1/2 block east of Jackson Street), will be open every Saturday morning from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. beginning June 3.

The market gets bigger and better each year! Mary Ruppenthal, Market organizer, confirmed that, so far, thirty vendors will be participating this season. Visit with local farmers, artisans, and neighbors—make the Market part of your weekend plans!

- fresh produce • breads and bakery • plants and cut flowers
- free-range eggs and poultry • honey • "For Kids" days • live music!
- crafts • monthly basket drawings
- cheese—a new addition to this year's Market!

Morgan House (circa 1884)--June Through August

Tours of this beautifully restored Oshkosh home, at 234 Church Avenue, are available from June through August on Saturdays from 9 to 12 (visit before or after your trip to the Farmers Market; Morgan House is right across the street!) and on Sundays from 2 to 4. Learn all about Morgan House at www.morganhouse.org.

EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2006--July 24-30

Did you know that for one week out of the year, Oshkosh is home to the world's busiest control tower? EAA AirVenture Oshkosh is a mecca for aviation enthusiasts worldwide; with the assistance of hundreds of staff and volunteers, the event displays more than 10,000 aircraft, accommodates miles of exhibitors and vendors, and hosts hundreds of thousands of visitors from more than seventy countries. Daily air shows, aircraft building and restoring forums, and numerous special events and lectures are part of the draw too. EAA's tagline—The World's Greatest Aviation Celebration—is no exaggeration; this year's fly-in is its fifty-fourth! For more information, visit www.eaa.org.

TRIP TO CHICAGO – SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2006

by Julie Russo

No one *wants* to wake up at 4:30 a.m. Worse yet, my murky window and icy fingers proved the day to be rainy, cold, and of a general misery unforeseen by any weather report the night before. Nonetheless, I was looking forward to a day in Chicago and was among twenty-eight fellow travelers who met the 6:30 a.m. bus in front of Reeve Union.

Our first stop, approximately fifty pastries and countless naps later, was Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. After claiming our group tickets, we were all free to explore on our own. There were dozens of exhibits from which to choose! For me, the most intriguing option was the massive, underground, and meticulously detailed exhibit dedicated to U-505, a 252-foot German submarine that was captured in 1944 by the USS *Chate-lain* off the coast of West Africa. The whole day could have been spent learning about U-505's sophisticated systems operations, its crew, its ultimate defeat by the Allies, and its final, unlikely journey to the Museum's custom-fit, climate-controlled gallery in 1997; however, we had tickets to a 3:00 matinee of *The Glass Menagerie*.

The group gathered at 2:15 for a quick trek through Hyde Park to The Court Theatre, which is in residence at the University of Chicago. A harsh, desperate, and beautifully written profile of the Wingfields, a struggling Saint Louis family in the 1940s, *The Glass Menagerie* is carried by Tom, who doubles as narrator and son, and is said to be a reincarnation of Tennessee Williams himself. A factory worker and the only steady source of income in the household, Tom is torn between his absolute, fervent wish to

experience all that he has read, written, and imagined about the world outside his apartment's hyper-yellow walls and his financial and domestic responsibilities to the overbearing and demanding mother he resents (Amanda) and the fragile, homebound sister he adores (Laura). This was a volatile and intimate interpretation of a painful, hopeful, and sometimes humorous drama—and whether it is a tragedy would make for a lively debate—with expert and genuine performances that won the audience's understanding. (I can only imagine where the cast got the energy for another show at 8:00.) It was impossible not to sympathize with each character's grim circumstances, especially given the time in which the play takes place, nor could I deny Tom's certain right, despite the impossible choices with which he makes his peace, to exist as fully and as furiously as life and art would allow.

After the play, we took a chilly walk back through Hyde Park to a cozy Thai restaurant called The Snail. Marisa, our hostess, had reserved one side of the restaurant for us and immediately started serving a number of appetizers. Many entrées followed including traditional curries, sautéed greens, all sorts of seafood, and Pad Thai, Thailand's signature dish.

We returned a little earlier than expected, which was welcome given our early start, and the ride back to Oshkosh was a quiet one. While much of the bus was dark with sleeping passengers, a few of us read, did homework, or chatted. I intended to catch up on some long-neglected magazines but eventually realized that I hadn't read any of the articles at all; I was staring out the window, wondering about Laura, Amanda, and the glories Tom found beyond the Mississippi River.

UHP STUDENTS HONORED AT AWARDS CEREMONY

The UHP is proud to acknowledge the following Honors students who were recipients at the 2006 Honors and Awards Ceremony on April 28:

Arianne Baldomero
Katrina Bell
Aaron Burg
Melissa DeBoth
Kellie Dougherty
Melinda Dorn
Cole Edwards
David Flagel
Heather Freund
Heidi Galica
Elizabeth Graham
Brent Grinwald
Louisa Guenther
Megan Hanke

Bowen Hobbs
Noelle Hoffman
Richard Johnson
Andrew Jungwirth
Courtney Kahl
Carolyn Kirchoff
Sarah Konop
Katie Kubicki
Jennifer Kuklinski
Danielle Leach
Julie Leibold
Sara Lloyd
Nicole Lyon
Catherine McMahon

Paul Mijal
Amber Miller
Katie Miskowiak
Phillip Prusinski
Jessica Rettman
Laura Roematt
Eric Saeger
Jeremiah Slinde
Paul Stearns
Eric Stetler
Sarah Tauchen
Jackie Thering
Jennifer Thomas
Patricia Wood

TRAVEL: THE BEST FORM OF EDUCATION

BY MEGHAN IVERSON, STUDENT ASSISTANT

I have always believed that traveling is the best form of education. Not only in the strictest sense because my traveling often included assisting schools but in a much more general and important way. It made me a better person. Among other things, travel can make a person more open-minded, questioning, and worldly. You meet new people and expose yourself to different ways of life. In many ways traveling shaped the person I am today. I went on my first major trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico, as a freshman in high school. Since then I have traveled to England, Puerto Rico, and on two different occasions to Spain.

Two more recent trips to Madrid, Spain, and Albuquerque, New Mexico, stick out in my memory. As a high school sophomore in Madrid, I grew up fast. Coming from a suburban school in Wisconsin, I found the small classroom of students from France, Ireland, Italy, Russia, etc., to be quite a change. There, I was forced to speak Spanish because it was the common language. I gradually overcame my fears of having to use a foreign language for communication. Four years later, I found myself continuing my language interests at the University of New Mexico-Albuquerque where I studied for a semester through the National Student Exchange (NSE) program. There I realized that traveling in the United States can be beneficial too. Exploring the cul-

ture and history of New Mexico was an endless adventure and in my Spanish class, the History of New Mexico, many of the students spoke a unique dialect. Most important, I learned more about individuals in my own country by understanding the negative stigma Spanish has in New Mexico and the hardships many New Mexicans endured when New Mexico was annexed to the United States.

Although I spent a lot of time studying Spanish in school, it was due to my travel experiences that I really became passionate about language and culture. Now in school studying to be a Spanish and ESL (teaching English as a second language) teacher, I'd say traveling abroad has changed my life. This June I will be packing my bags for my next travel abroad experience, a UWO-led, month-long trip to Peru. If you have been thinking about going on a travel experience, whether it be in the United States or abroad, I highly suggest it. In fact, what's holding you back? Here are some facts to counter reasons students frequently hesitate to travel.

"It's too expensive!"

The NSE program started last year at UWO. This program lets you go to a different university for one semester or one year in the United States, Puerto Rico, or Canada. This is a low-cost option be-

cause you pay the same tuition you pay here and financial aid still applies. Just be mindful of room and board costs--for some universities it will be more, some less. Visit www.nse.org for details. Note: For non-university faculty-led programs, you can often apply directly to the school abroad and avoid costly second-party fees. Trips and home stays are often handled through the school itself.

"I don't have time!"

Abroad trips are available for different lengths of time for many programs. In addition, you can take required course(s) in a fun and unusual way!

"What's the point?"

- Travel looks great on applications
- You get to make connections with faculty, other students in your program, future job locations, etc.
- You will have new and interesting experiences

For more information about traveling abroad, visit the Office of International Education in Dempsey 146 or visit their Web site at www.uwosh.edu/oie/oie.html. For more study abroad stories, visit the Honors Web site at www.uwosh.edu/honors and click on the Honors Showcase for "Chronicles of an Honors Student Abroad." You can also e-mail me with questions or concerns: iversm06@uwosh.edu

*The world is at your fingertips!
UW Oshkosh has resources to help you with your study abroad experience. For information, visit the Office of International Education or go to www.uwosh.edu/oie*



Congratulations, Spring 2006 Graduates!



Bridget Alsum, BSN - Nursing

Michelle Baur, BS - Mathematics; minors in Business & Operations Research

Julie Becker, BA - Journalism; minor in Spanish

Jessica Burki, BS - Biology; minor in Criminal Justice

Nicole Ciano, BBA - Business Resources Management ; minor in Spanish

Jennifer Curtis, BA - Journalism; minor in Spanish

Brandon S. Delrow, BBA - Accounting & Finance

Joshua Lee Demski, BSE - Broadfield Natural Science; minor in Biology (Secondary Education)

Kim Dohm, BFA - Art; minors in Spanish & Business

Jessica Drecktrah, BA - Political Science

Justin Thomas Garrett, BA - Economics

Sarah Beth Gietzel, BSE - English (Secondary Education); minor in Library Science

Tania Hanford, BS - Psychology; minor in Theatre

Noelle Susan Hoffman, BA - Theatre & German

Theresa Nicole Hoffman, BA - Psychology; minor in Spanish

Melissa Jensen, BS - Psychology & Religious Studies

Mary Kleist, BSE - English (Secondary Education); minor in Communication

Robyn Konyon, BSE - Elementary Education; minor in Spanish

Alicia Nall, BA - History & International Studies; minors in European Studies, Political Science, & Spanish

Matt Parmentier, Green Bay, BBA - Marketing; minor in Spanish

Kelly Paull, BS - Biology; minor in Chemistry

Michele Mary Poellinger, BA - English; minor in History

Emily Pogue, BA - Religious Studies; minor in Psychology

Steven Schob, BA - Music and BS - Philosophy

Paul Stearns, BBA - Operations Management

Katherine Stillings, BA - International Studies; minors in Political Science and Japanese Language & Culture

Jennifer Sugden, BSN - Nursing

Sarah Tauchen, BME - Music Education; minor in Spanish