

Illuminations

University Honors Program

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

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Place Your Bets! by Eric Stetler, Honors Business Major and UHSA President

Hasn't the first half of the semester just flown by? Midterms are finished, the holiday season will be upon us before we know it, and the Packers are on the winning streak, giving fans a bit of hope for a playoff run. Paralleling our hometown team, University Honors Student Association (UHSA) has had an encouraging first half of the semester, having recently hosted an Eyeball Toss at Reeve Union's Children's Halloween Carnival on October 27 (no animals or people were harmed in this event). Giving away a ton of free candy to the little ghouls and ghosts in our community was a lot of fun. If you are still waiting on the sidelines and thinking about joining us, there is still plenty of fun ahead. The UHSA has an exciting second half of the semester planned with many chances to get involved.

On Friday, November 30, the UHSA will host a Cake & Baked Goods Auction from 9AM to 4PM in the Polk Library entrance. We are calling on you, your friends, employers, organizations, teams, and even

professors to bake delicious treats; all donations will then be sold via a silent auction to raise money for two great causes that were proposed to the UHSA by Adam and Chrissy Jeske, two former Residence Life employees at UW Oshkosh. The Jeskes left the U.S. several years ago to work with a micro-finance organization in South Africa. They have discovered that the local school in their new community is in great need of repairs, including the replacement of termite-destroyed hardboard walls. And while some classrooms were built with traditional mud walls, a cheap and practical alternative, such walls need to be redone every ten years, which is currently impossible because the school does not receive maintenance funding. The Jeskes also met a remarkable young man named Masha, who grew up on an herb farm where his family earns about \$6 a day. Masha is a gifted cook who has received a partial scholarship to culinary school; however, he does not have funds to cover all of his tuition. Please use the enclosed form to enter the UHSA's Cake & Baked Goods Auction! All proceeds will benefit the aforementioned classrooms and Masha's education. Plus, the treat that brings in the most donations will be awarded a grand prize. By all means, come by the Polk lobby from 10AM to 4PM on the 30th and bid on a cake; you could win a great dessert and will surely help those in need.

Meanwhile, our group of students is continuously doing projects. In an ongoing

effort, we are still collecting books through Better World Books that go to Books for Africa, the National Center for Family Literacy, and Feed the Children. Please deposit outdated or unused books in the Honors Lounge (Polk 17) or at the Polk Library main entrance.

On Thursday, December 6, we will also sponsor our regular Red Cross Blood Drive from 10AM to 4PM in the Scott Hall Lounge. Sign-up sheets will be available in advance and walk-ins will be accepted too. Please do not forget to bring your Titan ID the day of the event. This opportunity is a great way to get involved and, more important, to save a life.

I encourage everyone to get involved in our various fundraisers and community events. By being active in the UHSA, you will fill up the leadership and activities sections of those resumes and applications! Remember, the UHSA is free and open to all students who want to have some fun, volunteer, and eat free food. We meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM in Polk 17—we'd love to see you there. We will also soon start planning the annual UHP Spring Trip, which has been a lot of fun in the past with places visited such as Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, the Shedd Aquarium, and the Court Theatre on the University of Chicago campus. As the President of the organization, I will also guarantee you that the UHSA Advisor, Adam, is not as scary in person as he sounds in all of those e-mails he sends (just kidding, Adam). Come join us!

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Check it out: www.uwosh.edu/honors/





The UHP's new Student Assistant, Kelly Besasie (Photo courtesy of Adam BellCorelli).

UHP WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBER

There is an exciting new addition to the UHP office staff; Kelly Besasie is our new student assistant! Her duties include filing, designing and decorating the Honors bulletin board, assisting with mailings, and various odd jobs around the office. Kelly is a sophomore majoring in both Accounting and Finance, and she is planning to graduate in May 2010. In the meantime, Kelly loves being involved in the Honors Program and across campus.

When Kelly is not studying or working in the UHP office, she serves as the Vice President of the University Honors Student Association and as a member of the Differential Tuition Finance Committee, a group of students and administrators that funds various programs around campus. She also enjoys volunteering for the UW Oshkosh Odyssey Program and for community organizations, including the MS Society and the Red Cross.

Whenever she gets away from campus, Kelly enjoys spending time with family and friends back home in Hales Corners, WI. Other interests include snacking on sea-salt and vinegar chips while she files UHP paperwork, reading fun fiction novels, and playing tennis (she was a doubles champ in high school). Next time you are in the Honors Office or Honors Lounge, look for Kelly's radiant smile and let her know what you think of her most recent bulletin board.

UHP Alumni—Where Are They Now?

🔥 **Margaret LaBorde** (BA in Environmental Studies, BA in International Studies [Latin American Studies], and BA in Spanish, Spring 2007) spent her summer as a National Park Ranger at Olympic National Park in Washington and began a 27-month commitment to the Peace Corps in September. Currently, Margaret is working as an Agro-Forestry and Environmental Education Volunteer in El Salvador where she is teaching more sustainable agricultural methods to rural farmers, and working with rural schools to incorporate environmental education into their curriculum.

🔥 **Catherine Schmitz** (BSE in Mathematics [Secondary Education]; minor in Spanish, December 2006) is in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where she is teaching Spanish at Sabish Middle School and Fond du Lac High School.

🔥 **Alexander Zinoviev** (BBA in Marketing, Spring 2007) is working in Minneapolis at Risdall Advertising Agency Interactive, the largest interactive firm in Minnesota. Alex is learning a lot about web development and would like eventually to design for their web projects as well. He is also busy visiting ad agencies and making connections at AdFed, the Advertising Federation of Minnesota. Future plans may include a master's degree.

WANTED: UNWANTED BOOKS

UHSA continues to collect books for Better World Books, a for-profit organization that distributes and sells books to supply and to fund literacy programs worldwide.

All books are welcome—from outdated textbooks to that novel you just never got into....

Please use the drop boxes in Polk 17 and in the Polk Library entranceway.

Thank you for contributing!

UHP Council Revises GPA, Active Participation Rules

Roberta S. Maguire, UHP Director

Remember how after joining the University Honors Program, you received an information sheet at an orientation session detailing what you needed to do in order to stay in the UHP? That sheet included information about how many Honors credits you needed to accumulate and which courses were required, as well as what grade-point average you were to maintain as a freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior. Maintaining that minimum GPA, which increased by .1 each year—from a 3.2 to a 3.5 at graduation—insured that you would receive the Honors Medallion and have your transcript, as well as the university commencement program, list you as an Honors Program graduate. In theory, that made sense to lots of folks. In practice, it doesn't really work. Given the sheer number of credits students accumulate over several years of classes, it is virtually impossible for a student with, say, a 3.4 at the end of her junior year to raise that GPA to a 3.5 upon graduation the next year. So what's an Honors Program to do?

After much discussion, the University

Honors Council has hit upon what we think is a very fine solution, reflecting that while the Honors Program is something students choose to participate in for a number of reasons—small classes, the Honors community, faculty mentoring, early registration, etc.—one reason rises above the rest: Students join the Honors Program in order to challenge themselves. And that's what participation in the Honors Program communicates to professors, peers, graduate and professional school admissions offices, and future employers. Given that, as well as the fact that the sliding GPA rule isn't exactly sound, the Honors Council has decided to offer two levels of participation in the UHP. Students who complete the UHP curricular requirements while also achieving a minimum GPA of 3.5 at graduation will still be University Honors Program Graduates—and they will receive the Honors Medallion, plus recognition as UHP Graduates on their transcripts and in the commencement program. Students whose GPA falls below 3.5 but is at or above 3.2 at graduation will be designated University

Honors Program Associates. While the Medallion is reserved for Graduates, the names of Associates will be listed as such in the commencement program, and of course Honors courses completed appear on transcripts as well. We settled on 3.2 as the minimum for recognition as UHP Associates, since we invite students who achieve a 3.2 GPA during their first semester at UW Oshkosh to join the UHP.

What all of this means in practical terms is that you don't have to worry that you will be dropped as a UHP participant as long as you maintain a 3.2 GPA or better. We certainly encourage everyone to shoot for the 3.5+ GPA, because that absolutely indicates an especially high level of accomplishment. But students whose GPA is within the "Associates" range are also special students, as their decision to complete the UHP's challenging curriculum and requirements indicates that they have been willing to take academic risks in order to get as much as they can out of their education. And that, too, deserves recognition.

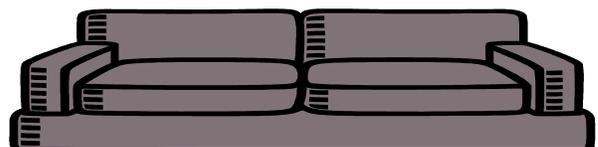
Check out Polk 17—It's More Than a Place to Lounge

by Sarah Konop, Business Major and UHSA's College of Business Liaison

We have made it more than halfway through the semester already! As projects and studying take over, don't forget the excellent resources in the Honors Lounge in the Lower Level of Polk Library: three computers (including a new Mac), a scanner, a printer, and, usually anyway, a quiet place to unwind. And while the Lounge may usually be used to catch up on homework or to study, it is also a place to check e-mail or to meet with friends and relax on the comfortable couches. We hope you will stop by before, between, or after classes.

Please note too that the Lounge is now open Mondays through Thursdays until 8:00PM or later. Also, because their goals include improving UHP's involvement in your College and making sure that your experience as an Honors student is valuable, Uni-

versity Honors Student Association (UHSA) Execs and College Liaisons will also have a greater presence in the Lounge. They will be available to assist you and answer questions during regular hours as posted in the Lounge. We hope you will make your opinion known by meeting with one of the Execs individually or by attending a UHSA meeting (the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM), where free food is always an added bonus! Whatever your level of participation in the UHP, we hope that you find the Honors Lounge to be a great place to meet, share ideas, study, or relax as the school year continues.



What's Going on: Campus and Community Events

Every First Saturday (December 1), 6PM to 9PM: Art Walk, Main Street, Oshkosh. On the first Saturday of each month, galleries and businesses extend their hours, provide refreshments, and display local artists' creations. A relaxing way to start off your evening, tour our downtown, and appreciate the efforts of artists in the community, the Art Walk has become an Oshkosh tradition. Check out the Art Walk's new Web site and see which shops and galleries will be participating this month, print maps to plan your evening, and more: <http://www.oshkoshgallerywalk.com/>

Wednesday, November 14, 8PM: The University Speaker Series presents Loung Ung, "Daughter of Cambodia Remembers," Reeve Union, Room 227. Ms. Ung, who is the author of *First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers*, will speak as a survivor of the Khmer Rouge genocide; from 1973 to 1979, more than one million of her native country's people lost their lives. Tickets are FREE for UW Oshkosh students with ID; general admission is \$2. For more info, please call Sara Ann Suwalski at (920) 424-3446.

Wednesday, November 21, through Tuesday, January 1, 5PM to 9PM: Celebration of Lights, Menominee Park, Oshkosh (entrance is at Irving Avenue and Hazel Street). Oshkosh's lakeside comes alive each evening with a mile of decorations and colorfully lit displays. When Santa's in town (scheduled appearances are listed on the Web site), stop by his workshop, purchase hot chocolate and other treats, visit live reindeer, camels, and donkeys, and tour the gift shop! Horse-drawn carriage rides are also available; call 559-1661 or 559-0427 to make your reservation. Entrance cost per vehicle is \$8, or there is a reduced fee of \$6 with canned-food donations. For more information, call the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce (303-9200) or visit www.oshkoshcelebrationoflights.org.

Tuesday, November 27, 10AM to 7PM: USED BOOK SALE, Oshkosh Public Library, 106 Washington Avenue, Oshkosh (enter the north side of the building and follow the signs to the basement). Several times a year, the Oshkosh Public Library (OPL) transforms its basement into a second-hand store where you can "permanently borrow" a surprisingly wide range of good-quality, well-priced (often very cheap!) books and CDs. The Library, which has served Oshkosh citizens since 1900, was designed by William Waters and is a beautiful example of neoclassical architecture. Proceeds from the book sale will go to Library improvements as specified by Friends of OPL. For more information regarding the sale, please call 236-5202.

Sunday, November 28, 7:30 PM: UW Oshkosh Jazz Ensemble, Music Hall, Arts and Communications Center. Tickets are FREE for UW Oshkosh students with ID; \$5 for general admission, \$3 for senior citizens and non-UW Oshkosh students, and \$1 for children. Contact the Music Department at (920) 424-4224 for details.

Wednesday, December 5, at 5:30PM: Graduation Awards for Excellence Ceremony, Reeve Union, Room 227. Honors Medallions and other awards will be distributed to exceptional UW Oshkosh December graduates. A reception with light refreshments will follow.

Weekdays 8AM to 2PM and Sundays 8:30AM to 12PM (hours are extended on Wednesdays until 7PM): Nativity Collection, United Methodist Church, 1174 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh (where Algoma meets New York Avenue). Located just down the street from the university, the lower level of this church houses an enormous display of hundreds of nativity sets from all over the world. Many of the pieces, which are both handmade and commercially manufactured works of art, are miniatures and are of countless materials including crystal, paper, stone, metal, and wood. Call 231-2800 for more information.

Saturday, December 1, 12PM to 9PM, and Sunday, December 2, 12PM to 4PM: Victorian Christmas at Morgan House, 234 Church Avenue, Oshkosh. Morgan House, a meticulously restored Queen Anne home from 1884 that once doubled as a beauty salon, will be beautifully decorated for the holidays and open for touring. This event has been planned by The Winnebago County Historical and Archaeological Society, which preserves and maintains Morgan House. For more information, please visit www.morganhouse.org.

Through December 31 (Monday through Saturday 9AM to 5PM and Sundays 11AM to 5PM): Memories in Color & Steel—Railroad Photography of Kevin Hass, National Railroad Museum, 2285 South Broadway, Green Bay. Kevin Hass, a self-employed photographer who makes his home in Los Angeles, has had a longstanding interest in trains that began when he made the first of many railroad trips as an infant to and from the Midwest. This exhibit is the first time that Mr. Hass's mysterious, detail-drenched train images have been presented as a one-person show. Admission price is \$8.00 and includes the photography exhibit. Visit www.nationalrrmuseum.org or call (920) 437-7623.

RED CROSS/UHSA ANNUAL FALL BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, December 6

In this season of giving, blood is one of the most valuable and lasting gifts you can offer. And it won't cost you a dime....

The Red Cross and UHSA are cosponsoring a Blood Drive on **Thursday, December 6**, from 11AM to 4PM in the Scott Hall Lounge.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR ID!

For best results, make sure that you've eaten beforehand. You'll also be asked to provide a brief medical history. Please allow one hour for the whole process, which will include a rest period afterwards.

For more information, eligibility guidelines, and to review the Top 10 Reasons to Give Blood, please go to www.redcross.org.

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UHP Info 24/7

Illuminations is published several times each semester; you can also stay up-to-date with the UHP via the Web:

<http://www.uwosh.edu/honors/>

Visit us for Program updates, announcements, course listings and descriptions, Honors requirements, and UHSA activities.

Also available on our site: back issues of *Illuminations*

CONGRATULATIONS, FALL 2007 GRADUATES!

These Honors students have completed both their academic and UHP requirements and will be awarded the Honors Medallion at the Graduation Awards for Excellence Ceremony on Wednesday, December 5, in the Reeve Ballroom (227) at 5:30PM:

- ✦ **CHARITY BRATZ** - BSE IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION; MINORS IN FRENCH AND MATH (ELEMENTARY EDUCATION)
- ✦ **BRIAN GARROW** - BA IN FRENCH AND IN THEATRE; MINORS IN STUDIO ART AND WOMEN'S STUDIES
- ✦ **JENNIFER HAMMERLY** - BSE IN BROADFIELD SOCIAL SCIENCE; MINORS IN HISTORY AND SPANISH (SECONDARY EDUCATION)
- ✦ **LYNN JAWORSKI** - BFA IN ART EDUCATION
- ✦ **COURTNEY KAHL** - BBA IN ACCOUNTING AND IN FINANCE
- ✦ **CASSIE KAUTZER** - BSE IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION; MINOR IN MATHEMATICS (ELEMENTARY EDUCATION)
- ✦ **ERIN RAMMER** - BS IN HUMAN SERVICES; MINOR IN PSYCHOLOGY
- ✦ **ASHLEY VELDBOOM** - BBA IN ACCOUNTING AND IN HUMAN RESOURCES

