

# Illuminations

University Honors Program

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

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## McNair Takes Off, Prepares Students for the Demands of Grad School by Amanda Krohn

My name is Amanda Krohn and I am a Senior Nursing Major in the University Honors Program. As the University Honors Student Association College of Nursing Liaison (try to say *that* five times fast!), I am here as a resource to all UW Oshkosh Nursing majors who have questions about the University Honors Program and its requirements. I also know a lot about other programs on campus that promote leadership and student involvement, and I'd like to offer some information and advice to students who are considering graduate school.

Recently, I was a recipient of a Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program scholarship. This federally funded program honors the accomplishments of McNair, a PhD graduate of MIT, NASA astronaut, and father of two, whose life was lost in the tragic *Challenger* space shuttle mission in 1986. UW Oshkosh was able to launch the program last spring when it was one of 190 grantees to receive funding from the U.S. Department of Education. Twenty-five students will receive assistance this year from what is known on campus as the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program.

To be eligible for the program, you must be a junior or senior first-generation college student with demonstrated financial need or you must qualify as a member of a group of students that is underrepresented at the graduate level. You must also be someone who wishes to pursue a PhD in your academic field; McNair scholars are also required to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. The program includes a paid summer research internship with the guidance of a faculty mentor, allows students to attend and present at national and regional research conferences, and offers networking opportunities with UW Oshkosh alumni.

When I first learned about the program, I had no research experience but I was ready for the opportunity to learn more and to develop as a student and as a graduate school candidate. As a member of the first group of thirteen students in the McNair Program here at UW Oshkosh, I worked with and got to know fellow scholars from the College of Education and from the College of Letters and Science. Research projects ranged from interracial dating studies to environmental studies as well as genetic research. As for my summer research project, I worked with Dr. Suzanne Marnocha from the College of Nursing to study the effects of deployments on spouses of military members.

Another part of this program is the graduate school preparation; I was able to visit graduate schools in the Midwest, learn about post-Bachelor degree options to Nursing and other majors, and attend seminars to practice for the GRE. What is the GRE, you ask? The Graduate Record Exam is the qualifying test to get into graduate school. More information can be found on [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org), which offers free GRE test preparation information, or

by visiting UW Oshkosh Testing Services in the lower level of Polk (room 3B).

So you want to go to graduate school? Then how do you get there? The first step is to find what degree you are interested in and to start the "grad school hunt." A valuable tool, I found, is the Web site [www.gradschools.com](http://www.gradschools.com). Once you narrow down some of your options, look at the requirements for admission. Do you have the financial ability to apply to multiple schools? What scores on the GRE are required? Also, be aware that many schools have deadlines in the year before you would start the grad program. The research and the actual completion of applications require a major time commitment, so start as early as possible.

While you study for your finals, don't forget to take a few minutes to seriously consider 1) where you would like to be in five, ten, or fifteen years and 2) whether additional education is necessary to achieve some of your career goals. If you were like I was until recently and can think of nothing but walking across that stage on Graduation Day, you might find it difficult to imagine attending *even more* school. It is exciting, though, to take your education past your undergraduate years. Before you know it, the applications will be due, the GRE test will be right around the corner, and don't forget that those references won't write themselves. To learn more about the opportunities that the McNair Scholars Program can provide, you are welcome to visit [www.uwosh.edu/mcnairsscholars](http://www.uwosh.edu/mcnairsscholars) or to e-mail [krohna75@uwosh.edu](mailto:krohna75@uwosh.edu) with any other questions about UW Oshkosh, the University Honors Program, or the McNair program.

Best of luck this semester—and beyond!  
Amanda Krohn

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Check it out: [www.uwosh.edu/honors/](http://www.uwosh.edu/honors/)



## UHP Alumni—Where Are They Now?

**Stefanie Adkins** (BA in Political Science; minors in Criminal Justice and Legal Studies, Spring 2008). After graduation in May, Stef went on a cruise, camped in northern Wisconsin, went to as many Brewers games as possible, and accepted a marriage proposal. At the end of the summer, her fiancé and she moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, where she is attending Hamline University School of Law. She is enjoying the Twin Cities, where there are many distractions from her studies. However, as she puts it, "I absolutely LOVE law school! It's more work than I could have ever imagined but the [professors] are very approachable and helpful, which is what I enjoyed about Oshkosh. The material is very interesting to me and the people here are great." She also ran for and was elected to the Student Bar Association and hopes to get more involved with volunteering as the year progresses. In the meantime, Stef is working with the Twin Cities Urban Debate League, where she coaches inner city kids at a middle school about the fundamentals of debate. "It's a very rewarding job," she says, "and the kids gain so much from their experience."

**Charity M. Bratz** (BSE in Elementary Education; minors in French and Math [Elementary Education], Fall 2007). Charity interviewed with the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Programme in Chicago last year and was hired to be an Assistant Language Teacher for a year at Inazono High School in Amagasaki, Japan. Charity is busy assisting with both English and French classes. She does not know yet where she might settle but hopes to continue working and traveling abroad in the meantime.

**Sarah Harris** (BA in Theatre [Design] and BA in Theatre [Acting]; minor in Spanish, Spring 2008). Over the summer, Sarah worked as a props intern for Saint Michael's Playhouse in Burlington, Vermont. She was hired as props master for one show and also assisted in scenic painting. Presently, Sarah is in Arizona. She hopes to get design work in the area soon but is keeping busy as a scenic intern for Phoenix Theatre's production team. Their season includes *The Producers*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Les Misérables*, and *Company*. Sarah plans to continue her studies in scenic design and will apply to graduate schools next year.

**Meghan Iverson** (BA in Spanish, Spring 2007). After completing her BA, Meghan took a summer course in Web design at UW Oshkosh. She enjoyed it so much that she then attended Milwaukee Area Technical College, where she studied Web design and coding for one year. When Meghan presented her work at an MATC portfolio show last spring, she met employers from the Marcus Corporation. Shortly thereafter, she began working for Marcus and loves her job. Though most people know Marcus for its movie theaters, the company also owns and manages about twenty hotels. Meghan's talents have focused on Marcus Hotels and Resorts; she assisted with the complete site redesign for the Grand Geneva Resort and Spa. She feels lucky that there is a "bottomless amount of Web work to be done" for many different venues, which keeps the job interesting. A native of Bayside, Wisconsin, she is glad to be back in the area and it doesn't hurt that her downtown Milwaukee workplace is "right in the middle of the action."

**Cassie M. Kautzer** (BSE in Elementary Education; minor in Mathematics, Fall 2007). After graduating last December, Cassie moved to Arkansas to be closer to her family. There she began working as an Education Coordinator for ClubZ! of Northwest Arkansas, which is a one-on-one, in-home tutoring company that hires certified teachers or degreed professionals to tutor in their areas of expertise. While still working with Club Z!, she recently began teaching fifth grade in Springdale, Arkansas. "My colleagues are fabulous," she says, "and the administration is so supportive. I am at a brand new school, working with 85% or more below the poverty line. I love my kids, even though they are the loudest class I have ever worked with." Cassie, who says that "good luck could not have hit me any harder," admittedly does not get much sleep and simply states, "[I] am continuing to learn so much! I just have trouble giving up things that I enjoy and find so meaningful."

**Mindy Korish** (BA in Psychology; minor in Spanish, Spring 2008). Mindy moved to Madison last summer and is working full time as a community support coordinator with Dungarvin, an organization that provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities throughout the U.S. Providers work within individuals' homes and offer all sorts of assistance, including physical therapy, cooking, and cleaning. "Some homes are needier than others," Mindy explains, "and the home that I work in is the only home in Madison that is licensed by the state, so we have more guidelines and rules to follow. As a coordinator, I am in charge of managing individual finances and planning activities for individuals.... I work with individuals with disabilities ranging from autism and mental retardation to traumatic brain injury." Currently, Mindy is working on graduate school applications to UW Milwaukee, UW Madison, and Marquette University.

**Amanda Longdin** (BSE in Elementary Education; minors in Language Arts and French [Elementary Education], Spring 2008). Amanda is currently living in Fond du Lac and working as a long-term substitute French teacher at Waupun Area High School. While she graduated last spring with a minor in French and is licensed to teach French at the elementary and middle school levels, Amanda was recently accepted at UW Oshkosh as a re-entry student and will pursue her teaching certification in French for secondary education.

**Bryce Scherer** (BA in Radio/TV/Film; minor in History, Spring 2007). The last we heard from Bryce, she was living in Los Angeles, California, and was working as a Production Assistant for the reality show *Wipeout*. She described the show as one in which "people go through difficult obstacle courses [and] usually fall off or get run into by things and land in big mud puddles."

**Eric Stetler** (BBA in Accounting, BBA in Finance, and BBA in Economics [Business], Spring 2008). Eric, who served as Vice President and President on the UHSA Executive Board, graduated summa cum laude in May and was a *Wall Street Journal* Student Achievement Award Winner in this year's "Best in Class" selection. In June, Eric joined Robert W. Baird and Company in Milwaukee as an investment banking analyst. As a member of the Consumer and Industrial Group, Eric provides analytical support on equity offerings, mergers and acquisitions, and other financial advisory services. He has passed the Certified Management Accountant and Certified Financial Manager exams and is currently a CFA level II candidate. He is also a licensed investment advisor.

**Greta Voit** (BSE in Physics [Secondary Education]; minor in Mathematics [Secondary Education], Spring 2007). Since graduation, Greta has been teaching Physics, Mathematics, and Biotechnical Engineering at New Berlin West High School. In her first year of teaching, she received the Wisconsin Society of Science Teacher's Frank Zuerner New Teacher Scholarship. Greta is also beginning the master's program in Curriculum and Instruction (Physics Education emphasis) at UW Oshkosh.

## FALL 2008 HONORS THESIS SYMPOSIUM

The University Honors Program is pleased to announce that four University Honors Program Seniors are completing Honors Thesis projects this fall. They will present their thesis projects at the Honors Thesis Symposium on Monday, December 1, at 5:00PM in Reeve 306

**KIRWINS CHARLES** "TESTING WEAK FORM EFFICIENCY IN AN EMERGING MARKET: EVIDENCE FROM EASTERN CARIBBEAN SECURITIES EXCHANGE (ECSE)"  
Advisor: Dr. Bruce Nierndorf, Finance and Business Law, College of Business

**SAMUEL MARK** "DEVELOPING THE SHORT FILM: PREPRODUCTION TO PREMIERE"  
Advisor: Mr. Troy Perkins, Communication Department, College of Letters and Science

**NICK PETERSON** "IS 'PROXY' ACTUALISM *ACTUALLY* ACTUALISM?"  
Advisor: Dr. Larry Carlin, Philosophy Department, College of Letters and Science

**BENJAMIN VOLLBRECHT** "VISUALIZING MULTIPLAYER GAME DECISION TREES"  
Advisor: Dr. Thomas Naps, Computer Science Department, College of Letters and Science

### **TITAN TRANSIT ANNOUNCES EXTENDED BUS SERVICE.... FREE TO ANYONE WITH A TITAN ID!**

In case you haven't heard, extended evening bus service (Mondays-Saturdays until 10PM) and late night bus service (Thursday-Saturday til 3:00AM) began this fall. The Oshkosh Transit Company now offers students and members of our community a safe, convenient, cheap, and green mode of transportation to and from campus. Whether we drive or stroll, the bus service provides a long-needed alternative to operating a personal vehicle or what can sometimes only be described as suffering on foot (oh, the northwest winds of our famous winters). The bus service is being offered on a trial basis and is an Oshkosh Student Association (OSA) initiative. Routes were designed with your needs in mind and it could not be any cheaper—don't forget your ID!

**Extended Evening Bus Service** is offered from 6:00PM to 10:00PM from Monday through Saturday (excluding major holidays, service is available during the 14-week semesters) and consists of three routes (West Side, North Side, and Frontage Road).

#### **Fares for Extended Evening Service:**

UW Oshkosh faculty, staff, and students = **FREE**  
General public: 6 years or older = \$ 0.75 (children <6 years of age are FREE)  
Seniors (60 years and older) = \$ 0.25; Disabled individuals = \$ 0.25

**Late Night Bus Service** is offered from 10:00PM to 3:00AM on Thursday, Friday, Saturday (only during the 14-week semesters, excluding major holidays). The Late Night service is one route that continuously runs through the campus, northside off-campus housing, and downtown.

#### **Fares for Late Night Bus Service:**

**FREE** to UW Oshkosh faculty, staff, and students as well as general public.

For more information and to access service maps, please visit  
<http://reeve.uwosh.edu/services/titan-transit>



## Campus and Community Events

**Thursday, November 20, 7:00PM: Black Thursday Remembered, Grand Opera House, 100 High Avenue, Oshkosh.** The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and the Wisconsin Humanities Council invite you to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of Black Thursday, when student protestors, many of whom were eventually arrested and expelled from what was then known as the Wisconsin State University-Oshkosh, led demonstrations against campus administrators. This evening's program will include a presentation, panel discussion, and dessert reception. A corresponding multimedia exhibition will open at the Gail Steinhilber Gallery in Reeve Memorial Union at 10:00AM the next morning (Friday, November 21) and will run through February 2009 (Mondays through Fridays 10:00AM to 4:00PM and on weekends from 12:00PM to 5:00PM). For more information, visit <http://www.blackthursday.uwosh.edu/>.

**Sunday, November 23, 7:00PM: UW Oshkosh Jazz Lab Band, Music Hall, Arts and Communication Center, 926 Woodland Avenue, Oshkosh.** General admission is \$5; FREE for students with ID. For more information and to view the Music Department's Calendar of Events, visit <http://www.uwosh.edu/music/calendar/index.php>.

**Tuesday, November 25, 10:00AM to 7:00PM: Friends of the Oshkosh Public Library Used Book Sale, 106 Washington Avenue, Oshkosh.** Every other month, the Oshkosh Public Library transforms its basement into a second-hand store where you can purchase a surprisingly wide range of good-quality, well-priced books, CDs, DVDS, vinyl, and other materials. 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. For more information regarding the sale, please call 236-5202 or visit [www.oshkoshpubliclibrary.org/](http://www.oshkoshpubliclibrary.org/).

**Tuesday, November 26, through Thursday, January 1, 5:00PM to 9:00PM: 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 (see Web site for scheduled appearances), visit 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 a 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 at 303-9200 or visit [www.oshkoshcelebrationoflights.org](http://www.oshkoshcelebrationoflights.org).

**Tuesday, December 2, at 11:10AM: Frank Rich: The Post-Bush Era Begins, Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Lawrence University, 510 East College Avenue, Appleton.** Frank Rich's double-column editorial in the Sunday *New York Times* is a vital and provocative read for those who depend on his insights into and reflections on the past week's news and the political, cultural, and historical events of the day. The lecture, which will be preceded by a Q&A with Mr. Rich in the Memorial Union at 9:30AM, is part of Lawrence University's 2008-2009 Convocation Series. This is a FREE event that is open to the public. For more information, call (920) 832-7000 or visit <http://www.lawrence.edu/visitors/index.shtml>.

**Thursday, December 4, at 7:30PM: UW Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra with Rob McWilliams, Conductor, Music Hall, Arts and Communication Center, 926 Woodland Avenue, Oshkosh.** General admission is \$5; FREE for students with ID. To view the Music Department's Calendar of Events, visit [www.uwosh.edu/music/calendar/index.php](http://www.uwosh.edu/music/calendar/index.php).

**Thursday, December 4, Through Saturday, December 6, at 7:30PM: Odell and Myrna by Amelia Wolff, Directed by John Kishline, Experimental Theatre, 926 Woodland Avenue, Oshkosh.** A retired couple discovers a manuscript, which is determined by experts to be original, unpublished work by Henry David Thoreau. They are offered a large sum of money in exchange for it, and Odell and Myrna must weigh their financial security against family history and upsetting the balance of their relatively simple life. *Odell and Myrna* is the author's first play to be produced; Ms. Wolff is a graduate of UW Oshkosh who completed a BA in English and a minor in Spanish last spring.

**Saturday, December 6 (and every first Saturday of each month), from 6:00PM to 9:00PM: Art Walk, Main Street, Oshkosh.** On the first Saturday of each month, Oshkosh 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 Web site to learn more: <http://www.oshkoshgallerywalk.com/>.

**Saturday, December 6, at 7:30PM: Janet Planet Holiday Show with the UW Oshkosh Jazz Ensemble at the Grand, Grand Opera House, 100 High Avenue, Oshkosh.** For ticket information, please call the Grand at 424-2350.

**Sunday, December 7, at 3:00PM: UW Oshkosh Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Bands with Rob McWilliams, Conductor, Music Hall, Arts and Communication Center, 926 Woodland Avenue, Oshkosh.** General admission is \$5; FREE for students with ID. To view the Music Department's entire Calendar of Events, visit [www.uwosh.edu/music/calendar/index.php](http://www.uwosh.edu/music/calendar/index.php).

**Monday, December 8, from 2:00PM to 8:00PM: Christmas in the Air, EAA AirVenture Museum, 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh.** Join us for EAA's 25th Annual Christmas in the Air, which is the museum's annual FREE holiday celebration and open house. Just "Plane" Chocolate, a competition for the area's best chocolate dessert, will take place as well as performances by more than twenty local musical groups. Don't miss Santa's arrival by helicopter at 6:30PM; he will visit with children until 8:00PM. For more information, please call 426-4818 or visit <http://museum.eaa.org/activities/events.asp>.

### Ongoing Exhibits and Events

**Weekdays 8AM to 2PM and Sundays 8:30AM to 12PM (note: hours are extended on Wednesdays until 7PM): Nativity Collection, United Methodist Church, 1174 Algoma Boulevard (where Algoma meets New York Avenue), Oshkosh.** 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.

**Permanent Exhibit Mondays through Saturdays 10:00AM to 5:00PM and Sundays 11:00AM to 5:00PM: Pullman Porters: From Service to Civil Rights, National Railroad Museum, 2285 South Broadway, Green Bay.** See a restored 1920s-era Pullman sleeper car and learn about the typical responsibilities expected of railroad porters, their role in significant labor and civil rights movements, and their cultural and economic influence in American society. Admission is \$9.00 (FREE for WI residents on Mondays until 12:00PM). Visit [www.nationalrrmuseum.org](http://www.nationalrrmuseum.org) or call (920) 437-7623.

# University Honors Student Association's Cake and Baked Goods Silent Auction



**Date:** Monday, November 24, 2008

**Where:** Polk Library Main Entrance

**When:** Bidding and buying will begin at 9:00AM and will end at 2:00PM



**Drop-off Info for Participating Bakers:** Please bring your baked goods to the Polk Library (no items that require refrigeration, please!) between 8:00AM and 9:00AM.

Winners will be notified and may pick up between 2:00PM to 3:00PM.

If you have questions, please contact:

Kelly Besasie, UHSA President (*besask23@uwosh.edu*) or  
Adam BellCorelli, UHP Associate Advisor, at 424-1362.

Thanks for your participation! All proceeds will go to Father Carr's Place.

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## UHP WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBER

Hello, everyone! My name is Ashly Kammerer and I am the new Student Assistant this year. I am from Cedarburg (one of the communities north of Milwaukee) and I love it there. I graduated in 2007 from Grafton High School, and then ended up here! Currently, my major is Journalism (emphasis in Advertising) with a minor in Studio Art. My hope is that someday I will work for an advertising agency or for a magazine, but I am not exactly quite sure what the future has in store for me.

I have been fortunate enough to travel to many places in the last few years. Last year during winter break was my first time traveling abroad, where I had the chance to visit London and Paris. The food in Paris was amazing, and the sites were equally as impressive. My goal is to study abroad sometime before I graduate, and I would love to study in Ireland. Traveling is one of the most important things in my life, and I hope that I will be able to continue to travel as much as possible in the future. I'm a fun, easy-going type of person who loves to learn new things, and to meet new people. Feel free to stop by Polk 10 and say hello!

# CONGRATULATIONS, FALL 2008 GRADUATES!

This December five students are graduating and will be recognized at the  
Graduation Awards for Excellence Ceremony  
Wednesday, December 3  
Pollock House at 5:30PM

The following students, having completed the Honors curriculum and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher, will be awarded the Honors Medallion:

🔥 **ALEXANDRA BREHMER** - BBA IN MARKETING AND BA IN SPANISH; MINOR IN  
GLOBAL BUSINESS

🔥 **KELLY HIROSKEY** - BSE IN ENGLISH (SECONDARY EDUCATION); MINOR IN  
COMMUNICATION (SPEECH EDUCATION)

🔥 **SAMUEL MARK** - BS IN RADIO-TV-FILM; MINORS IN HISTORY AND MATHEMATICS

🔥 **NICK PETERSON** - BA IN MATHEMATICS AND BA IN PHILOSOPHY; MINOR IN  
JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Students who complete the Honors curriculum and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.2 to 3.49 receive an Honors Program certificate. Our certificate recipient this fall is:

🔥 **KIRWINS CHARLES** - BBA IN FINANCE; MINOR IN FRENCH

