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Have a Great Story?
We are looking for great stories from our alumni. We want to know what you're doing, where you are, what's been going on since graduation, how the Honors Program affected your life, or anything interesting you want to share with us about your life since Honors.

Please contact us:
laurast@umflint.edu

Missing Something?
Is there something or someone you want to hear about? Your favorite Biology Professor? What's changed on campus?

Dear Students, Colleagues, and Alumni;

You may have noticed this issue of The Honors Discovery is covering two semesters. That's because we're late. Yes, that's the simple truth of it. Instead of saying nothing, or putting out one issue right after another, we decided to give ourselves a break and do a combo issue. No excuses. That's how we roll.

Sincerely,
Laura L. Staudacher, Administrative Specialist
University Honors Program

Honors Student Presents at the 2014 APS March Meeting
Ayana Ghosh, Honors Physics Major, Concentration in Abstract Math
By Miyako Jones

As a physics student, Ayana dreamed of presenting her research at the American Physical Society (APS) March Meeting, which she learned about from her professors. Each year, it brings together nearly 10,000 physicists and students from industry, universities, and major labs throughout the world.

During her off-campus study at New Mexico State University in 2013, Ayana worked on two experimental condensed matter projects under the
Some stats you're craving? Let us know, and we'll do our best to put it in a future issue.

Chris Houston, Ph.D.
Class of 1994
BS, Chemistry
Senior Principal Scientist
Bausch + Lomb, Rochester, NY
By Miyako Jones

Dr. Chris Houston is currently a Senior Principal Scientist for Bausch + Lomb who specializes in problem solving, particularly involving trace analysis and identification of unknown chemical entities. He received his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry with a minor in Biochemistry from Indiana University-Bloomington. "One of the greatest things about the Honors Program, for me, was the peer group," said Dr. Houston. "Starting college as a shy teenager, I immediately met and became close with a variety of bright, interesting people that really enriched my college experience."

Dr. Houston entered the Honors Program as a Freshman in the 1989 cohort alongside his future wife, Kristy. He is fond of his cohort and the interesting discussions and debates they had during class. He believes that he "could not have asked for a better support system through the trials of college." To this day, he remains in close contact with several members of that cohort.

He is also grateful to the Honors Program for helping him to develop his writing.

Ayana gave two oral presentations at the APS March Meeting, which was held at the Colorado Convention Center from March 3rd to March 7th. The first, titled "Strain measurements of Ge epilayers on Si by Spectroscopic Ellipsometry", introduces a theoretical model used to explain the different optical properties of the semiconductor Germanium, which is widely used in electronics such as cell phones. The second presentation, "Dielectric function of NiO and Si from 25 meV to 6 eV: What's the difference?", discusses how full-zoned band structure can be used to explain the small absorption peaks detected by a second derivative analysis of the NiO spectrum conducted by spectroscopic ellipsometry.

Ayana Ghosh

For Ayana, this experience was one of the best so far from both an academic perspective and a career perspective. She thoroughly enjoyed her time in the picturesque Rocky Mountains and looks forward to presenting her research at another APS conference in the future.
Though he does a lot of technical report writing as part of his job, the enjoyment he received from writing in Honors courses has led to a hobby of blogging about his experiences as a private pilot.

In the future, Dr. Houston intends to continue to hone his skills and become the scientific equivalent of a master craftsman. His advice to current and future Honors students: "I have done a lot of interviewing of scientist job candidates over the years. The resumes that drift toward the top of the pile are those that describe a unique or differentiating experience from all the others. The Honors Program, with its amazing off-campus study opportunity tailored directly to you as an individual, is an amazing way to differentiate yourself from your peers. Take full advantage of it!"

Six Win Maize and Blue
By Miyako Jones

Six Honors Students won the Maize and Blue Distinguished Scholar Award this Spring, which is the highest academic award available to graduating seniors. Imad Aljabban will receive a B.S. in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology; Simran Bhatti will receive a B.S. in Biology; Amanda Kaspar will receive a B.S. in Elementary Education; Emily Krueger will receive a B.S. in Health Sciences; Erika Trigg will receive a B.A. in Communication; and Heather Workman will receive a B.F.A. in Studio Art along with a B.A. History.

Within the next five years, Imad hopes to begin medical school following the completion of a master's degree in Immunology at Harvard Medical School while Erika intends to complete a master's degree in Student Affairs Administration at Michigan State with the possibility of pursuing a Ph.D. Erika also plans to get married next summer.

Both Imad and Erika have enjoyed the opportunities that the Honors Program have made available to them. Being encouraged to research topics outside of his discipline has helped Imad gain insight and respect into fields unrelated to his own

Dr. Amy Gresock
Assistant Professor of Management
By Miyako Jones

Dr. Gresock received her B.S. and M.S. degrees from the Pennsylvania State University and her Ph.D. in Business Administration with concentrations in Strategy and Entrepreneurship and a minor in Research Methods from the University of Central Florida. She has also earned a graduate certificate in Teaching with Technology. Currently, she is Assistant Professor of Management in the School of Management. She has been involved with the Honors Program for two years and is a member of the Honors Council.

Dr. Gresock has taught business courses at the university level for 10 years, the last four being here at UM-Flint. She typically teaches capstone courses (Strategic Management) and Introduction to Entrepreneurship both at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

When asked what she enjoys the most about working with Honors students, she said, "Our Honors students love learning! They have a desire to go above and beyond because of the passion they have for their subject areas. It's very exciting to work with students who have the level of dedication and creativity that they do! They exceed expectations, and I learn so much from them!" These interactions are what encouraged her to run for Honors Council. "I've met some incredible students who have tremendous potential. Working with them beyond the classroom... and having the chance to contribute to make the Honors Program even more beneficial to the students, was something that I was extremely interested in."

She brings previous professional experience as a Strategic Consultant, a Business Plan editor, and an entrepreneur to her students. She guides them by monitoring their progress and by offering advice and insight on business and research issues. Her own research, which is conducted on resource accumulation processes prior to firm launch, has been presented at conferences such as the Babson Entrepreneurship Conference and published in outlets such as the Journal of Small Business and Enterprise Development.
and has taught him to appreciate the value of diversity. Erika believes she benefited the most from the off-campus study and thesis requirements as they allowed her to thoroughly explore the topic of new student programs and learn about the role that support networks play in first-year student retention and success. This knowledge has been used to enhance the development of UM-Flint’s new two-day, overnight orientation program.

Congratulations to our May 2014 Maize and Blue winners and good luck with all of your future endeavors!

35 Years of Honors
Come Celebrate!
By Laura Staudacher

Honors will be celebrating 35 years this year, and we would like all of our alumni, Honors Faculty, current students, and anyone who feel a connection to Honors to celebrate with us!

Go to Stratford and see A Midsummer Night’s Dream with Honors 155 students on Oct. 9.

On Oct. 10, meet us for breakfast at the Flint Crepe Company, downtown Flint. Then take a campus tour and see what’s changed on campus. Afterwords, come along on a walking tour of Flint and see all of the great things happening downtown. In the evening is the Main Event! A formal dinner in the Grand Ballroom, North Bank Center. Don’t miss a magical night!

Why not end on a big note! Saturday Oct. 11, Michigan vs. Penn State at Ann Arbor. We’ll tailgate, and all sit together for a fantastic game!

For more details, visit: https://go.umflint.edu/Honors35

Dr. Gresock looks forward to continuing her work with the Honors Program and working closely with Honors students. She had this to add: "Many students in our program truly enjoy it, and they can see the value added. I’ve had students mention that the program has been of particular benefit when applying to graduate programs. Graduate schools appreciate that extra effort put in to be part of the program. Also, I have witnessed lasting friendships evolve between students and research collaborations with faculty. Yes, the program is extra work, but students find that it is ‘worth it’, and I definitely agree!"

Honors Graduates

May 2013

- Haneen Afaneh: BA, Human Biology & BA, Psychology
- Tara Bartle: BSN, Nursing
- Kaitlin Borton: BS, Biology
- Joshua Connelly: BA, Spanish & BBA, Business Management
- Samantha Grathoff: BS, Biology
- Matthew Lewis: BS, Biology
- Alison Martin: BS, Health Sciences
- Caitlin McCarthy: BA, Human Biology & BS, Molecular Biology & Biotechnology
- Kelsey McMahan: BS, Elementary Education
- Zachary Murphy: BA, Math & BA, Philosophy
- Samantha Robinson: BS, Health Sciences
- Kortney Smith: BS, Health Sciences
- Housam Tahboub: BS, Biology
- Kelly Thorman: BS, Biology Teacher’s Certification Program
- Rabi Zaher: BBA, Business Administration - Finance

August & December 2013

- Kayla Cornell: BA, Communication
- Thaer Farhan: BA, Psychology
- Shahd Karrar: BA, Psychology & BS, Molecular Biology & Biotechnology
- Saad Qureshi: BS, Biology
- Miri Weidner: BS, Healthcare Administration

May 2014

- Watan Abuaita: BS, Biology
- Imad Aljabban: BS, Molecular Biology & Biotechnology
- Alexa Barres: BS, Chemistry
- Simran Bhatti: BS, Biology
- Alex Carignan: BS, Math
- Stephanie Chapman: BSW, Social Work
- Alexander Coles: BS, Biochemistry
Quick Links

- umflint.edu/honors
- umflint.edu/nse
- umflint.edu/honors/alumni

Off-Campus Photos

England, Kevin Johnston

Scotland, Elena Sobrino

Scotland, Grace Carey

Scotland, Elena Sobrino and Grace Carey

Ireland, Jacquelyn Leary

- Schuyler Ferguson: BA, Political Science
- Amelia Fonger: BA, Psychology
- Douglas Grattan: BA, Philosophy
- Gabrielle Guthaus: BS, Biology
- Benjamin Hart: BS, Computer Science
- Melanie Hayes: BA, English Teacher's Certification Program & BA, Math Teacher's Certification Program
- Amanda Kasper: BS, Elementary Education
- Emily Krueger: BS, Health Sciences
- Sydney Lorey: BS, Health Sciences
- Laura Mark: BS, Biochemistry
- Rachel McCauley: BS, Molecular Biology & Biotechnology
- Sharnée Mead: BA, Natural History Biology & BS, Biology
- Marguerite Mitchell: BS, Health Sciences
- Sarah Richards: BA, Human Biology & BS: Biochemistry
- Mohammad Sabbagh: BS, Molecular Biology & Biotechnology
- Anthony Seitz: BS, Chemistry
- Salaam Tarakji: BS, Psychology & BS, Math Teacher's Certification Program
- Erika Trigg: BA, Communication
- Daniel Tucker: BSN, Nursing
- Heather Workman: BA, History & BFA, Fine Arts - Studio Art