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HONORS NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Relevance. To those of us who have been academics for at least a decade, the word is familiar, yet already archaic. It is part of our cultural baggage, recalled only through a willful act of memory, a deliberate attempt to conjure a moment no longer vital. Already it is tainted with the residue of failed experiments, however noble their design. Universities without walls, experimental colleges, pass-fail grading systems, elected studies degrees, and, at the University of Minnesota, the crown jewel of them all—the dual transcript system—are all either discarded or under attack. All are now monuments to a notion whose time has come and gone. No longer is our major worry convincing students to check the passion of the moment in favor of some more disinterested view of their futures. No longer need we demonstrate that, while present interests are important, statistics may be of use in the future and should be learned.

Relevance has fathered career planning, no doubt the fruit of a relationship between it and vocationalism. Now we are to take note of the market. We are to tailor instruction to jobs and we are to attempt to be certain we can sell our product when we have finished manufacturing it.

Students themselves have, on the whole, abandoned such niceties as doing their own thing. The focus now, at least among honors students, is upon a very narrow professionalism. Most of the honors students in the College of Liberal Arts have as their goal entry into professional school. They are intent on gaining entrance, yet are frightened by what they understand to be the difficulty of admittance. Few, therefore, are disposed to explore disciplines they know nothing about and which they believe to be of no interest to professional school admissions committees. Possibilities of the present are mortgaged to their sense of the future. Sad to say, few of our students have bothered to discover what requirements for entry into professional schools really are. They have heard many things, the worst they choose to believe. For students across the country this is also true. Indeed, so deep is their fear of rejection that one hears regularly of sabotaged laboratory experi-

ments, of widespread cheating on examinations, and of term papers purchased. It is certain that these activities are not new, but they have a frenzy about them not seen before.

To tell students today that they should explore subjects they will not have the opportunity to study later is to say the incomprehensible or the preposterous. Everything they do must in their view be geared to facilitate their future education.

Through all these changes from relevancy to vocationalism the responsibility of the Honors Division has remained unchanged. It is our charge to train high-performance students to the limits of their ability, to push them as far as they can go. We are not responsible for training people to be doctors or lawyers or to fill other careers in the narrow sense. It is our charge to teach people how to think, as it is the charge of all liberal arts colleges. Today, that charge entails turning students toward the present, encouraging them to take risks and to be adventurous. It entails renewing curiosity about things unknown. Those things so touted a few years ago are the very things we must today seek to foster in a measured way, for it is clear that to limit oneself solely to one's sense of the future is as debilitating as to care only for the moment.

Peter H. Robinson

DIRECTOR REAPPOINTED

Peter H. Robinson, associate professor of French, has been reappointed to a second three-year term as director of the Honors Division. Professor Robinson will be on leave fall quarter. Dr. Stephen P. Blake, presently executive assistant, has been appointed acting director during his absence.

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COLLEGE HONORS SEMINARS FOR 1977-78

For the coming year juniors and seniors in the Honors program will be offered a series of interesting and challenging courses covering a wide variety of topics. College Honors Seminars augment departmental honors courses by introducing advanced students to subjects outside their specialties. Students may not take seminars in their major area of concentration.

Seminars may be taken on either A/N or S/N grading, and will count as Honors opportunities. Registration procedures remain substantially the same. In order to draw a class card from the Class Reservations Office, students must first obtain a clearance card from the Honors office. Once the registration limit for a seminar has been reached, no additional students will be admitted. There is no entry by special permission and no possibility of auditing; there are no waiting lists.

The schedule of College Honors Seminars for 1977-78 is listed below. Final listings, including times and places, are published each quarter in the *Class Schedule*. Course descriptions and scheduling information are provided with registration materials.

Fall Quarter

Compulsory National Health Insurance

Professor Harold Chase
Department of Political Science

Disease and Human History

Professor John Eyler
Department of the History of Medicine

The Great Depression of the 1930s

Professor George Green
Department of History

Social Values and Economic Mechanisms

Professor Leo Hurwicz
Department of Economics

The History of Who You Are

Professors David Lelyveld and John Modell
Department of History

The Psychology of Eating Disturbances

Professor Gloria Leon
Department of Psychology

Meaning Now and Then

Professor Melvin Waldfogel
Department of Art History

Radiation in the Environment

Professor Lawrence Williams
Department of Nuclear Medicine

Winter Quarter

Imperial Capitals in Asia

Dr. Stephen Blake
Honors Division

Government in the Economy

Professor Edward Foster
Department of Economics

Psychoanalysis, Shakespeare, and Feminism

Professor Madelon Gohlke
Department of English

Physical Laws and Biological Systems

Professor Kenneth Keller
Department of Chemical Engineering

Geology, Resources, and Environment

Professor Matt Walton
Department of Geology

Health Services Consumerism

Professor Albert Wertheimer
Department of Pharmacy

Spring Quarter

Radical Conceptual Change: History of Geology

Professors Bonnie Barton, Malcolm Kottler,
Michael Root, and John Wallace
Departments of Geography, History of Science,
and Philosophy

James Joyce's Ulysses

Professor Barbara DiBernard
General College

Exploration and Discovery in Nonfiction Prose

Professor Patricia Fergus
Department of English

Indian-White Encounters in Early U.S. History

Professor John Howe
Department of History

Shakespearean Tragedy

Professor Robert Moore
Department of English

Mathematics in Medieval Europe

Professor Aldo Rescigno
Department of Physiology

Biological Communication

Professor Jack Sheppard
Department of Biology

American Architecture and its European Relatives

Professor Donald Torbert
Department of Art History

PROGRAM CHANGES

Several changes have taken place in the Honors program this year. As of fall quarter 1977 the Honors contract will no longer be available. Started as an experiment over four years ago, the contract has not proven successful enough to merit continuation. Flexibility, its major advantage, could not outweigh its defects: the absence of quality control and the decrease in departmental offerings it engendered. The freshman-sophomore colloquia have also been changed. In the fall of 1977 for the first time they will be offered for credit; registration for 2 credits on either S/N or A/N grading systems will replace the old no credit, S/N-only option. Experienced graduate students and faculty, not undergraduates, will teach these courses. Finally, the cultural events stipend has been increased and the population it serves expanded. The amount of money available for attending a wide variety of cultural activities in the Twin Cities area is now \$20 and is now open to freshmen and sophomores as well as to juniors and seniors.

POSTGRADUATION OPPORTUNITIES

On May 27 the Honors Division held a meeting for CLA juniors on postbaccalaureate opportunities. Dean Grabb from the Law School and Professor Donald Harper from the College of Business Administration discussed entrance requirements and employment prospects for their respective areas. Ms. Dede Meade of the Graduate School talked about the range of fellowships and scholarships available for graduate study. Juniors interested in graduate fellowships should visit the Fellowship Office in 422 Johnston Hall as soon as possible. Listed below are approximate deadlines for a few of the major fellowships:

Fulbright: early October
Marshall: early October
Rhodes: middle October
Danforth: late October
National Science Foundation:
middle November
Churchill: middle November
U of M Endowed Fellowships: early February

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Ms. Carole A. Robertus, Honors Division sophomore, was selected the first Harry S. Truman Scholar from Minnesota. Ms. Robertus bested a field of candidates from other colleges and universities in the

state and will receive, along with 52 others from across the United States, an award of up to \$5,000 annually for tuition, fees, books, and room and board. The scholarship is renewable for 4 years: 2 years of college and 2 years of graduate school. The successful candidate had to show not only evidence of academic achievement, but also outstanding potential for public service.

HONORS SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Seventeen freshmen who entered the Honors Program last fall received \$500 scholarships provided by the Alliss Foundation and the CLA Century Fund. Awards from the latter were based solely on academic promise, while financial need was also considered for the Alliss grants. Again this year scholarships will be available for entering freshmen; we will be making offers to applicants in a few weeks. The following is a list of scholarship winners for 1976-77:

Kathy Ahlers, Indian Hills High School, Oakland, N.J.

Todd Arbogast, Eisenhower High School, Hopkins, Minn.

Lynn Belgea, St. Agnes High School, St. Paul, Minn.

David Carlson, Robbinsdale High School, Robbinsdale, Minn.

Eric Clementson, Mora High School, Isle, Minn.

Van U. Dierauer, Roosevelt High School, Minneapolis, Minn.

Curtis Hom, Fergus Falls High School, Fergus Falls, Minn.

Shannon M. Hurley, Moundsview High School, Moundsview, Minn.

Elizabeth LaVelle, Alexander Ramsey High School, Roseville, Minn.

William D. Palmer, Marshall High School, Marshall, Minn.

Randall Petersen, Rochester Mayo High School, Rochester, Minn.

Jane Purcell, Derham Hall High School, St. Paul, Minn.

Shelley Ritala, Horace Mann High School, Biwabik, Minn.

Ruven Schwartz, Highland Park High School, St. Paul, Minn.

Shelly R. Smith, Crestwood High School, Cresco, Iowa

Jacquelyn White, Spring Lake Park High School, Spring Lake Park, Minn.

Gregory J. Witry, Park Center High School, Brooklyn Center, Minn.

Honors Student Senate Activities

HONORS STUDENT SENATE ACTIVITIES

Hi! It's been a long year, but a productive one. The Student Senate has laid the groundwork for many new and exciting programs. Due in part to student complaints, the colloquia are being upgraded and offered for credit next year. As a result of the One-to-One program last fall, a lot of new friends were made—people who look familiar in that sea of faces. A lot of brainstorming got done this year too.

We want to expand Student Senate activities; we want to have answers to the perennial question "But what do you do?". There are several possibilities. Only you, the students in the Honors Division, however, can decide which is the best option. We could function as a policymaking body, informing the staff of what we want. We could be a social organization: helping the many unique and friendly people in Honors get acquainted. We could be an informational service: telling our constituents about requirements, programs, speakers, and loopholes. These are some of the possibilities we've discussed this year. But we need your help to implement them. Honors Senate is an opportunity to really get involved in college life. We're a new organization with a lot of great ideas, but we desperately need your help to translate these ideas into action. Think about these options over the summer and let's plan on an even greater next year. I'd like to thank all of the people who have helped make this year what it has been. It's been an unforgettable experience. Have a great vacation.

Cheri Olson, President
Honors Student Senate

STUDENT SURVEY

At the end of winter quarter we drew up and passed out to all Honors students a survey. Here are the results. The response to the question about discussion groups was an overwhelming yes. As speakers they would like to hear, students most often cited legislators, government officials, people in the media and fine arts, business people, and University professors. Due to this interest, the Honors Student Senate plans to arrange several discussion groups for the 1977-78 school year. About half of the 300 students who participated indicated interest in a dinner party during Welcome Week. As a result, we are making plans to have such an affair in September. More information about this will be sent out during the summer. Half of the people expressed interest in continuing the One-to-One program for incoming freshmen. Forms for this will also be sent out during the summer. The reaction to whether the Honors Student Senate should be a policymaking body or a social committee was interesting: it divided exactly in half. Those interested in policymaking were invariably uninterested in dinner parties or incoming freshmen. We will try to incorporate both policymaking and social activities in our operations next year. Colloquia and Honors courses topped the complaints list. The colloquia, it was said, were badly taught and ill-organized. Students also complained that not enough Honors courses were offered. Next year a Student Senate newsletter will be sent out quarterly. Anyone who is willing to work on the newsletter or with the Senate or who has ideas, suggestions, or complaints will be welcomed. We need your help.

Lisa Schroepfer
Student Newsletter Editor

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
215 JOHNSTON HALL
101 PLEASANT STREET S.E.
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

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