

W I N T E R 2 0 1 1

the

# Conscientia

Oklahoma City University Honors Program



## SNOW DAYZ at OCU 2011



- How did you spend your three-day snowy break?
- Beth Lipton: I spent almost all of it writing lyrics for a flash-mob musical.
- Kyle Randolph: Two words: cranium and quelf.
- Anna Stovall: I played with my puppies and had a Star Trek marathon.
- Jason Blakeburn: I spent the break trying to travel to Austria so I could study abroad for the semester.





### Calendar of Events—Spring 2011

February 14	Pizza with the Professor—Dr. Amy Cataldi The Psychology of LUV—Banning Lobby, 11:30
February 23	Proposals due to Dr. McCombs for National Honors Council conference
March 23	Pizza with the Professor—Dr. Abigail Keegan Major Scholarships and Internships 12:00
March 24, 25	Honors Priority Pre-enrollment Be sure to make an appointment with your adviser!
April 1	Deadline for Undergraduate Research Day proposals
April 1-3	GPHC—Arlington, TX
April 14, 15	Undergraduate Research Day
April 20	Pizza with President Henry 12:00 PM
April 21	SPARK Easter Egg Hunt Quad—3:30-5:00
	Academic Awards Dinner Bass Atrium 6:00 PM

## What did you do over Christmas Break??

Beth Elaine Lipton: I laid on my floor and listened to countless tracks of 80's pop and rock. Wedding singer auditions anyone?

Kyle Lacey: Had a fantastic New Years Eve Party at my house with 75 guests!

Susannah Waite: Went to NYC and got stuck in the blizzard!

Madi Alexander: I went to see my cousin perform in Carnegie Hall!



February 2011

**Directors' Column**

Welcome back to OCU and the Spring semester! Did I say Spring? Sure doesn't seem like it. I hope that you thoroughly enjoyed your snow days.

We have a range of activities coming up this semester, so stay tuned for announcements. But for a preview of what's happening, read on.

We have quite a line-up for Pizza with the Professor this semester. Dr. Amy Cataldi will talk about the psychology of love on Valentine's Day, Dr. Abigail Keegan will talk about major fellowship, scholarship, and internship programs in March, and President Robert Henry will join us in April. We'll also have a presentation on study abroad opportunities March 7, with Mary Benner.

Don't forget **Undergraduate Research Day on April 14 and 15**. We'll have both poster and paper competitions, and we award CASH for the best presentations. New this year will be a power point category.

The annual **Easter Egg Hunt for SPARK children** is scheduled for **April 21**, and we will need volunteers to help stuff and hide eggs before that time. The Egg Hunt is always a big hit for the SPARKs. You all are great with the children! Please come out to support this event again.

Be sure to watch for future newsletters and email announcements about additional events this semester.

**PORTZ SCHOLAR COMPETITION**

OCU may nominate one student paper (not exceeding 30 pages) for the 2011 Portz Scholar competition. The postmark deadline is June 2011. However, papers should be submitted to me by April 30, to be considered. The three 2011 Portz Scholars will receive a \$250 stipend each and present their papers at the Phoenix conference. Perhaps the same paper you submit to URD could be submitted for the Portz competition! See Dr. McCombs for information.

**HONORS CONTRACTS**

Have you thought about an Honors contract in a modern language course or one of your major courses? Have you done anything about it? This is a great way to earn Honors credit, particularly if you are on a tight schedule and find it hard to enroll in Honors courses. **All Oikos Scholars should consider doing Honors contracts in your Oikos courses!**

Here's the process for those who haven't done a contract before:

1. Pick up a contract form from Walker Center 228. You'll find them on the secretary's desk, just inside the door.
2. With your professor fill out the form. Be sure that you fill out all parts of the form and that you PRINT legibly the course name, number and section number and the professor's name.
3. Return the form to Dr. McCombs so she can sign it. She'll make two copies for you and your professor.
4. At the end of the semester, Dr. McCombs will contact your professor to see if you completed the work. After she collects the information for all contracts, she submits a list to the registrar so that the Honors credit will be added to your transcript. This usually does not happen until approximately two weeks after the grades are posted.
5. Please submit all Honors contracts to Dr. McCombs before Spring Break.

Remember, you can do Honors contracts in courses in your major, modern languages, many general education courses, internships, and study abroad. The only course category not open for Honors contracts are those courses routinely taught as an Honors section.

## CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

Stewards of our Colliding Worlds: Rights, Wrongs, and Responsibilities  
Phoenix, Arizona  
October 19-23, 2011

**All submissions due to Dr. McCombs by February 23.**

The NCHC conference has long been a student-friendly conference, and students make up almost one-half of all those who attend. The OCU Honors Program requires that students make a presentation in order to attend, and there are several categories in which students can participate. Read on and you will find descriptions of most of these categories. Students may also submit research papers to be part of interdisciplinary research panels.

Please note: **Except for the paper panels, your project for the conference does not need to be completed by February 23. What is due is the proposal. The actual project will need to be completed by next fall. That said, if you submit a proposal and we submit it, you should be committed to attend the conference.**

Proposals in all categories are reviewed, and not all proposals are accepted. Your chances of acceptance are improved if you: 1) choose the category that best fits your project or research; 2) write a clear, grammatically correct description and abstract. The student research papers will be the most closely screened, since students must submit the entire paper.

**“Regular” Session Proposals:**

These sessions are designed to highlight Honors Programs and how they work. Your best bet here might be a panel consisting of several Honors students and a faculty member discussing an innovative Honors class. If you have a special topic in mind, and you would like to join with students from other Honors Programs to create a panel, let me know and I can post a request on the Honors listserv. An example of this might be an idea you had for student activities, an Honors student organization, etc. This would be most successful in being selected if your idea worked!

**Idea Exchange:**

Along with a continental breakfast on Saturday morning, the Idea Exchange provides an informal setting of tables and displays for people to learn about projects and activities in Honors education around the country, from students, faculty, and administrators. It is designed to enable a sharing of resources, information, and ideas. This is also a nuts and bolts opportunity. Sometimes proposals for regular session proposals get re-routed to the Idea Exchange.

**Poster Sessions:**

The poster sessions provide an opportunity for students to present and display research or fine art in a visual format. There will be presenters from all disciplines, including photography and other visual arts. The posters will be displayed in either a morning or afternoon session. Presenters are expected to set up their posters at the beginning of the session and be available to speak with interested observers. OCU students have been quite successful with their poster presentations. It is the chief way in which OCU students have presented their research in recent years.

**Master Classes:**

Including master classes in dance, film, poetry, drama, and music.

**Student Interdisciplinary Paper Panels:**

One feature of the 2011 NCHC conference will be a series of student interdisciplinary research panels. Participation in these panels will be competitive. Two panels per session time-slot will be scheduled, which means that there will be a maximum of 18-20 panels for the conference.

Not all research papers or presentations are suitable for these panels. Students should consider poster sessions and the Idea Exchange as another venue for conference participation.

***To be considered for a paper panel, you must submit your paper to Dr. McCombs no later than February 23.***

**Student Moderators:**

Students will be selected to moderate general sessions at the conference. Melody Metivier and Marina Kravtsova both attended the Kansas City conference as student moderators.

All of these participation categories require the submission of an on-line proposal form, including both a 50-word description of the project and a 150-250 word abstract. You must have the approval of Dr. McCombs to submit a proposal. You must present a hard copy or email attachment of your abstract to Dr. McCombs no later than noon on February 23.

To see the proposal forms and read additional information, go to the NCHC conference website at [nchchonors.org](http://www.nchchonors.org) and follow the links to the conference website and proposal submissions. The link to proposal guidelines is: <http://www.nchchonors.org/2011-conference/2011-annual-conference-proposal-guidelines.php>

## **UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAYS**

### **The Honors Program 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

### **A Celebration of Undergraduate Research**

In keeping with Honors tradition of supporting and encouraging undergraduate research, the Honors Program is hosting a celebration of undergraduate research to be held over two days, April 14 and 15, 2011. The deadline for poster, paper, and power-point proposals is Friday, April 1 at 5:00 in Walker Center 228. Cash prizes, funded by the Provost's office, will be awarded to winners. Students need not be a part of the Honors Program to participate, but must be currently enrolled OCU undergraduates. Entries must have been completed in the past year and be original work. The poster contest will be held in the Bass Atrium on Thursday, April 14, and the paper/power-point competition will be held in Walker Center on Friday, April 15. Be on the lookout for more information.

**NEW BENEFIT FOR HONORS STUDENTS!**

Honors students now have extended library privileges, including a longer check-out period for books. Check with the staff of the Dulaney-Brown library to see your new benefits!

## What is your Favorite (non-caf) food item from Home?

Erica Olavarria: My mom makes delicious lemon bisque :) )

Chester Hendershot: Ribeye steak after being marinated overnight in Jack Daniels Steakhouse marinade!!!

Jake Lamb: Coq au vin, on the rare occasion that my dad puts in the hours to make it, is awesome.



## PWP Dates, Times, and Places

Monday, February 14 @ 11:30 in Banning: Amy Cataldi on "The Psychology of LUV"

Monday, March 7 @ 12:00 in Banning: Mary Benner

Wednesday, March 23 @ 12:00 in location TBD: Abigail Keegan on Fellowships, Internships, and Scholarships

Wednesday, April 20 @ 12:00 in location TBD: President Henry

## Honors Students Study Abroad

Honors students Jason Blakeburn, Chelsea Epps, and Melody Metivier are studying abroad in Austria this semester. Follow Melody's adventures on her blog:

<http://studyinginaustria.blogspot.com/>

Trivia Question: Which movie made famous the song "Edelweiss"?



### Graduating Senior Alert!

Are you a graduating senior? Are you planning to walk in May?

Please check to see if your name is on the list below.

Students listed below have either completed their Honors requirements or have a shot of doing so with courses and contracts this academic year.

Remember, you must take the Honors Junior-Senior seminar or Honors Special Topics to complete the

Honors Program. Don't let one or two Honors contracts keep you from graduating *Cum Honore*. If you don't find your name on the list and think you should be there, contact Dr. McCombs.

Joseph Belle\*  
 Lauren Byrd\*  
 Stefanie Clark  
 DeEtta Cravens\*  
 Courtney Davison\*  
 Margaret Dietrich\*  
 Taylor Forester\*  
 Ashton Glover  
 Josh Grube\*  
 Jared Hooley\*  
 Brianna Hurley  
 Elise Jenkins\*  
 P.J. Kennedye  
 Rose Lane  
 Katherine MacDougall  
 Zoe Miles\*  
 Sarah Plunkett  
 John Riesenber\*  
 Erin Sanzo\*  
 Bridget Poputa-Clean\*  
 Kelsey Walker

\*Pending completed Honors work during the Spring semester

