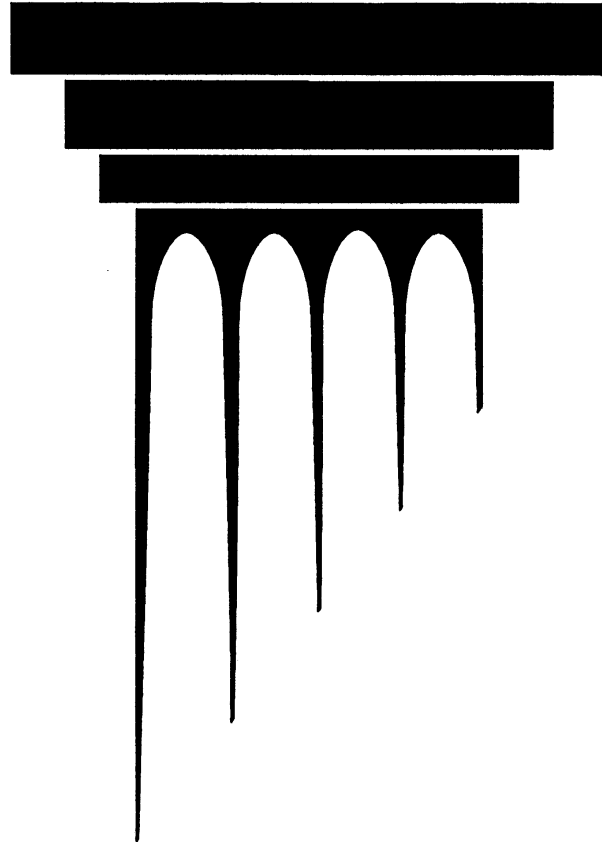


Ferris State University Honors Program

The Endeavor

Volume II Issue I December 2011

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY
HONORS



The purpose of the Honors Program at Ferris State University is to provide intellectual challenges, resources and support to highly able and motivated students, while encouraging service and leadership for the public good.

Endeavor Staff

Executive Editor: Erika Derylo
deryloe@ferris.edu

Staff Writers:
Katie Milbourne
Ali Ortiz
Mariah Shaltry

Photography:
Brock Copus

Advisor: John Cullen

Honors Staff

Program Coordinator: Maude Bigford
bigfordm@ferris.edu

Assistant Coordinator: Jana Pisani
pisanij@ferris.edu

Assistant Coordinator: Kent Sun
sunk@ferris.edu

Program Faculty Support: Tammy Babcock
babcockt@ferris.edu

Program Faculty/Staff Support: Lauri Dassance
dassanl@ferris.edu

Any questions or comments regarding the Honors Program or this issue of the Endeavor can be addressed to:

cullenj@ferris.edu or bigfordm@ferris.edu



A Message from the Editor

From: Erika Derylo



Welcome to the 2011-2012 issue of the *Endeavor*! My name is Erika Derylo. I am an Honors third-year student and the executive editor for the newsletter. It is with great pleasure that I take on this role for the second year in a row. The *Endeavor* is produced by a team of Honors students dedicated to informing readers about “what’s going on” in the Honors Program. I would like to express how truly excited I am to take on such an active role in this newsletter’s production.

I have always maintained that the Honors experience is far more than just a certain GPA requirement or ACT score. Honors really and truly is a measure of dedication and success. I have always been inspired by how much Honors students give back to Ferris in community service projects, leadership of registered student organizations, and sheer dedication in the classroom. My Honors student counterparts are always looking for ways to get involved, from organizing huge campus-wide events like *The Big Event* to actively participating in class. It amazes me how much passion Honors students have, and it is all the more emboldened by an equal passion that the Honors staff has for their Honors students.

It is for this reason that I am thrilled to be a part of this effort as the editor of this newsletter. I hope that you enjoy it as much as I do.

Mandatory Fun Day: A pleasant surprise

By: Mariah Shaltry

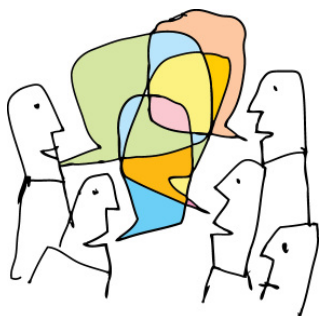
As freshmen at Ferris State University, we were all required to go through a few initiating events. These events were both fun and mandatory, and give all the freshmen a sense of being welcomed into their new home. My freshman experience with “mandatory fun day” was given its meaningful and unofficial name before it even began.

The morning of the big move-in to college was a hectic experience for everyone. Parents crying in the halls, refrigerators somehow being moved to the fourth floor without an elevator, and meeting the “new people”—many new people!

As college students we all know that introductions become a big part of our daily lives. With so many people living all in one place, and numerous things happening all the time, it was not unusual to get introduced to several new people every week. From my experience, the first two days of college are the epitome of introduction, especially during mandatory fun day.

We all somehow shuffled off our parents and tried to get settled in to our new living environment. The first couple hours were spent meeting residents in our hall, putting up lofts, laying down carpets, unpacking boxes, etc. It was around that time that rumors of the next day began to spread.

We heard everything from “It’s really not that bad, I actually had fun!” to “It was totally lame” and did not know what to expect from the next day’s six-hour block of scheduled fun time. In fact, the only bit of real information we had was who our peer mentor was, and that we should be in the quad the next morning at nine o’ clock.



Our group showed up at the giant compass on the quad just in time to be shuffled around and grouped into a bigger group. After this process, our peer mentors were given a sheet of paper telling

us where to go, and acted as cattle herders as they prodded us along to our first station.

The stations were all very similar, usually involving someone saying, “alright, make a circle!” followed by an icebreaker. Some of the more memorable ones included the human knot, massive games of Catchphrase, and ‘that one game where we threw our shoes.’ We actually did learn a lot about the people around us, and since this included our peer mentor and our mentor group, it helped in ways we did not expect it would.

Personally, the fun that I had during this day, and all of Bulldog Beginnings, was important to my life as a student at Ferris. Being required to get to know each other not only gave us great connections and friendships, but it also allowed us to learn more about interacting with others in this new environment. We learned about our school and the students who go here, and it was more than reading a pamphlet or browsing the university website. It was an experience.

It was being thrown to the sharks, head on, no helmet, extreme meet-and-greet with fellow freshmen. It was mandatory. It was fun. And as a freshman here at Ferris State University, I can say that being with my awesome mentor and getting to know my diverse group of peers was one of the things that really helped to spark my ambition and pride in being a Ferris State Bulldog.



Honors students having fun after getting settled into their residence hall.

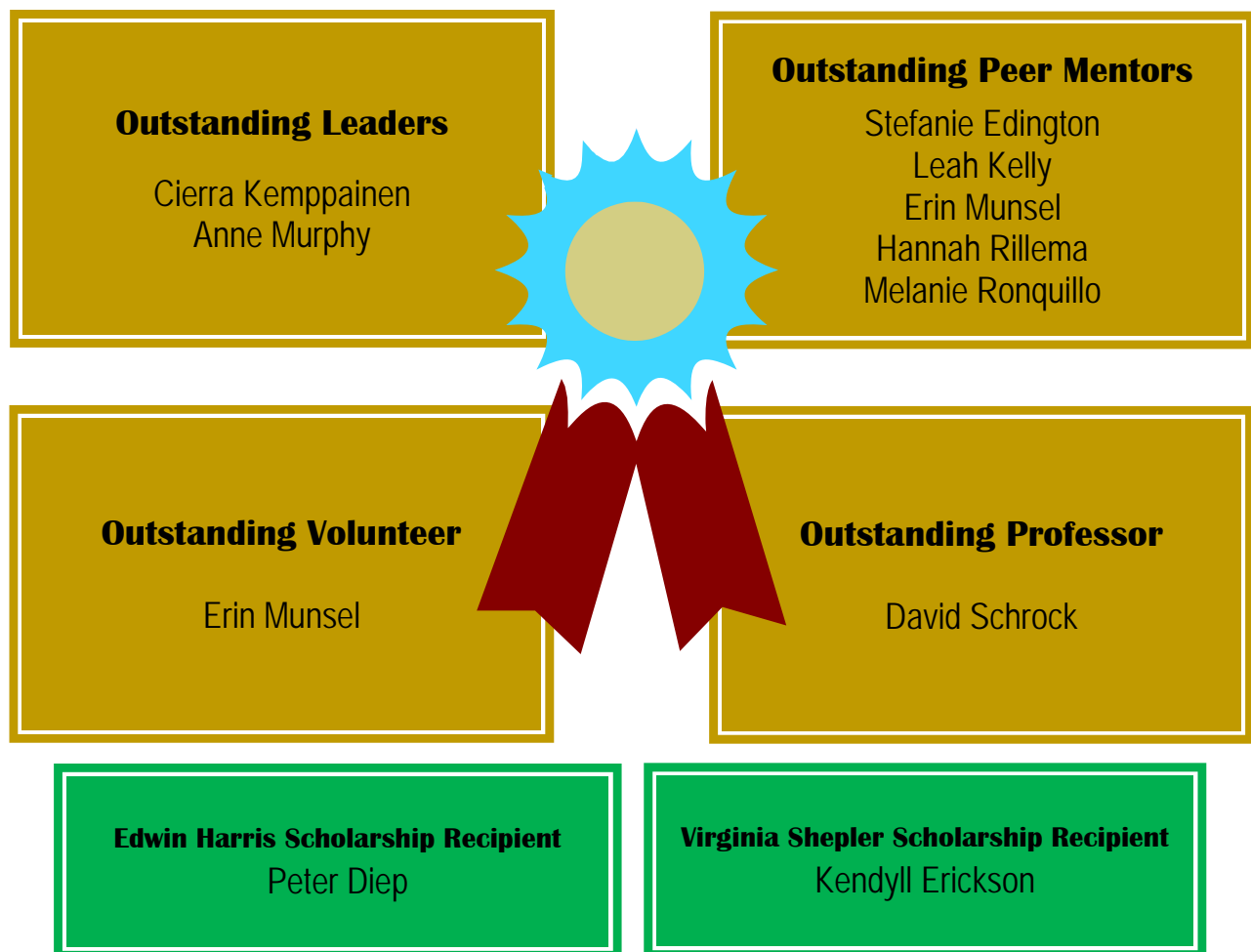
70 Honors Students Awarded for 4.0 GPA

By: Erika Derylo

On Thursday October 13, 2011, Honors recognized 70 Honors students for receiving a 4.0 GPA in the spring semester of 2011 at the Honors Award Banquet held at the Holiday Inn in Big Rapids. Of those 70, over 30 students were recognized for having a *cumulative* 4.0. In attendance at the banquet were President David Eisler, as well as members of the FSU Board of Trustees, Honors faculty and staff and parents with their students.

The keynote address was given by H. Stephen Lee, Associate Professor at the College of Pharmacy, who offered his congratulations to the students for their success

In addition to recognizing students who achieved a 4.0 in spring 2011, awards were given for Outstanding Honors Professor, Outstanding Honors Leader, Outstanding Honors Volunteer and Outstanding Honors Peer Mentor.



70 Honors Students Awarded for 4.0 GPA



At Left: Honors students voted Professor Schrock as the Outstanding Professor Award. He is pictured with Maude Bigford.

Below: Erin Munsel received two awards—the Outstanding Peer Mentor and Outstanding Volunteer.



Below: Students who received a 4.00 for spring 2011.



A Closer Look at the Peer Mentor Program

By: Ali Ortiz

Photography: Brock Copus

Over the summer I gave some thought to what made my freshman year here at Ferris so great. Among the many extras that the Honors Program provides freshmen to aid in the college transition, the Peer Mentor Program really stood out to me as helpful.

The Peer Mentor Program was designed by Honors students to provide incoming freshmen with an upperclassman to look up to, to help ease the daunting transition from high school to college. Freshmen are put in small groups and assigned to a sophomore who shows them around campus, provides advice, engages in ice-breaking activities, and gives insight about how to succeed in Honors.

Recently I was able to sit down with two Honors Peer Mentors, Jenna Day and Brock Copus, to see what they had to say about the program.

Endeavor: *What specifically do you like about the Peer Mentor Program?*

Jenna Day: I like feeling able to help freshmen with the transition to college life. The program really helped me last year and I wanted to be able to do the same for others.

Brock Copus: I like being able to help freshmen figure things out—things that took me forever to figure out my first year on campus. It makes me feel like I'm using my knowledge of campus to sort of "pay it forward" to the freshman.

Endeavor: *Any dislikes?*

Jenna Day: Honestly, the only thing was that our schedules all conflict so it's really hard to find good times to meet with my mentees. But that's it!

Endeavor: *How was your relationship with your Peer Mentor as a freshman?*

Jenna Day: I really liked her and we still try to hang out. I was grateful for all of her help last year.

Brock Copus: He was a nice guy, and he helped me a lot, but I'd say that we're more like acquaintances now. That's why I wanted to make it more personal for my mentees.

Endeavor: *Describe what it means to you to be a Peer Mentor.*

Jenna Day: I want to be the one my mentees can come to with any questions and know that I'll be able to answer them.

Brock Copus: I like being the older student that the freshman can seek advice from to help them through the transition to college life.

Endeavor: *If you could make any improvements to the Peer Mentor program, what would they be?*

Brock Copus: We would want to make it a bigger deal to the freshmen. We would encourage them to actively participate in the program and make their meetings with us a priority.



Brock Copus



Jenna Day

Honors Student Landed Internship at Meijer Corporate Office

By: Katie Milbourne

Honors marketing major and Ferris State senior Sam Lehnert spent almost all of his summer at Meijer this year. However, he wasn't buying groceries, stocking shelves, or pushing carts into their carrels. Instead, Sam had the amazing opportunity to intern at Meijer's corporate office in Grand Rapids, MI.

It all started when Sam applied for the internship last year. He had to compete with other students from Central Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, University of Michigan, Michigan State, and other big schools. His application got their attention and it was followed by a phone interview, followed by a face-to-face interview. "I had a great interview and as it turned out my boss was a Ferris alumnus," said Lehnert. "Ferris helped prepare me for things I could not get in a classroom with groups like The American Marketing Association and Honors. Both helped me grow as a person and gain the confidence to sell my ideas and the tools for success."

During his internship, Lehnert worked on a special project involving search engine marketing. After the project was completed, he presented the idea to senior leadership. Furthermore, Sam got a chance to compete in the

West Michigan Intern Olympics with huge companies such as Amway, Bissel, and Steelcase. "I came out of the internship with a better sense of the real world work environment, a better understanding of retail marketing and

advertising, and a much larger business network."

Internships like this are hard to come by. They are extremely competitive and

highly demanding. However, the real-world experience one gains from being in a corporate setting like this is unmatched. Congratulations, Sam!



Honors senior Sam Lehnert

Balancing Life as a college student, Honors student, and RA

By: Ali Ortiz



Being a college student can be extremely stressful. There's homework, studying, exams, organizational involvement, etc. Many people find that it all starts piling up with little time left for anything else. Being an Honors college stu-

dent adds a little more to the pile. Although completely worth it, there are a few added responsibilities that go along with the privilege of being in Honors: community service, GPA requirement, RSO requirement, Honors courses, and six mandatory event attendance requirements. Now, imagine being a college student, in Honors, and a residence advisor! Yikes!

For those who don't know a residence advisor (RA) is a person who is in charge of a floor in a residence hall. This means that they have to "run the show" in each of the residence halls. Running the show involves organizing hall events, making sure the rules are being followed, working shifts at the front desks, allocating several nights a month to being "on duty" and available for any resident at any time during the day or night, conducting fire drills, documenting rule-breakers, and so much more! It is commonly described as one of the hardest jobs on campus.

Yet a handful of Honors students every year make the commitment to Ferris to take on this job. Here's a look at how one Honors student, Tara Weaver, manages to do it.

Endeavor: *What made you want to become an RA?*

Tara: I really enjoy meeting new people and I wanted to reach out and help other students.

Endeavor: *Do you ever regret deciding to be an RA?*

Tara: Generally no, but there are some days when I wish I could get more sleep.

Endeavor: *How does living in a non-Honors hall compare to living in an Honors hall? (Tara is an RA in a non-Honors Hall)*

Tara: It's so different. The Honors halls are so much quieter; I can't even explain it. I felt more secure and that my possessions were safer. In the hall where I am an RA I feel like I have to lock my door every single time I leave my room.

Endeavor: *Is it hard to be an RA and keep up with your Honors requirements?*

Tara: Yes, a little. It all depends on when you work. I chose to work when a lot of cultural events are scheduled so it's really hard for me to find events that I can attend.

Throughout the interview, Tara stressed that she really enjoys being an RA, and that it was great to meet so many new people. We talked for quite a while about her experience and it was great to hear her be so positive about the RA experience. Although she admits it is a lot of hard work, she feels that it is well worth it, both on a personal level and a resume-building level. She has learned a lot about herself and *a lot* about time management.

Anyone interested in becoming an RA or learning more should visit www.ferris.edu/housing for more information.



Tara Weaver, Honors Student and RA



Honors Speech Contest

The annual Honors Speech Contest was held on Tuesday, November 15. All students enrolled in COMH 121 Honors Public Speaking in fall 2011 are invited to participate.

Students making it past the preliminaries and on to the speech contest were Meredith Davidson, Kate Griffin, Melissa Kocefas and Bill Meengs. Bill Meengs received first place on his speech about Theodor Geisel a.k.a. Dr. Seuss.



Left: Bill Meengs, First Place in the Honors Speech Contest.



From Left: Melissa Kocefas, Kate Griffin and Meredith Davidson



Honors Variety Show

The annual Honors Variety Show was held on Thursday, November 17. The Variety Show is organized by the RSO, the Honors Programming Board. Six acts performed in the hope of winning Judge's Choice or Crowd Favorite. Donations received were given to Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Mecosta County.

The judge's choice for overall winner was for Kimberly Curcuru singing and playing guitar to a song she wrote called "Bandages." Crowd Favorite went to a skit titled "The Seven Deadly Sins". This was performed by Jacqueline DeBoer, Hope Houston, Michael Knapp, Megan Knight, Hannah Lanning, Hannah Slagh and Jason Wilkins.



From the desk of Maude...

What a semester it has been! We are now 700 strong in Honors with 556 occupying five halls on campus and 144 living off-campus.

Once again the 222 students in Pre-Pharmacy comprise the single largest cohort, and we are very proud of them. We are also proud of the upperclassmen, since almost 50% of the P1 (College of Pharmacy first years) came from Honors. The interesting change that has taken place is in the freshman class since they have managed to bring a greater diversity of majors to our program. We counted 95 different majors in Honors this fall, up from 83 last year.

Honors athletes knocked us out this semester. You can't help but be impressed by students who give it their all on the court or the track and successfully balance the academic challenges. One thing these student athletes have in common is a deep love for their sport, and that love keeps them energized. Cross country runners **Jenna Daniels, Breeann Ovokaitys, Samantha Johnson, Haleigh Prbyzylek, Kayla Smith, Shelby Janutol, Michael Schulte, Andrew Harper** and **Brian Murphy** and proved their worth. Volleyball players **Samantha Fordyce, Ashley Huntley, Anne Sutton, Kara Hess, and Courtney Rehm** made us incredibly proud this year as their team moved on with purpose and strength to capture one of the best records in Ferris volleyball history with a record of 27/4. Since Honors is committed to developing the whole person, we applaud these students for being able to achieve the balance needed to achieve success in competing domains.

Students with a heart for service continue to impress and amaze us all. Senior **Lynn Overmyer's** dedication to the W.I.S.E. Shopper (supporting the victims of domestic violence) has resonated with many; **Jack Swan's** leadership in the Pre Med Club will affect the medically under-served since he is organizing a fund raiser to send students to Costa Rica over spring break.

R.A.s **Jill Allen** and **Kelly Gierman** have assumed the roles of mentor, confidant, and big sister to the 80 Honors freshmen living in Pickell Hall. We continue to hear about the positive work they are doing in their respective communities, and we are grateful that we have such fine role models in our midst.

We will be sorry to see senior **Eli Sager** graduate in December 2011 since he is a true bulldog, and heavily involved as president of the Student Alumni Gold Club, but he will come back and serve as our Honors recruiter this spring before heading off to med school at MSU in June 2012.

Dates To Remember

First Day of Classes—January 9
MLK Day No Classes—January 16
Honors Art Show—January 25
Mid-term grades due—March 5
Spring Recess—March 5-9
Last day for W grade—March 22
Mid-semester recess—April 5 & 6
Honors Formal—April 21 at 8:00 p.m.
Honors Senior Symposium—April 26
Last Day of Classes—April 27
Exam Week—April 30 through May 4

