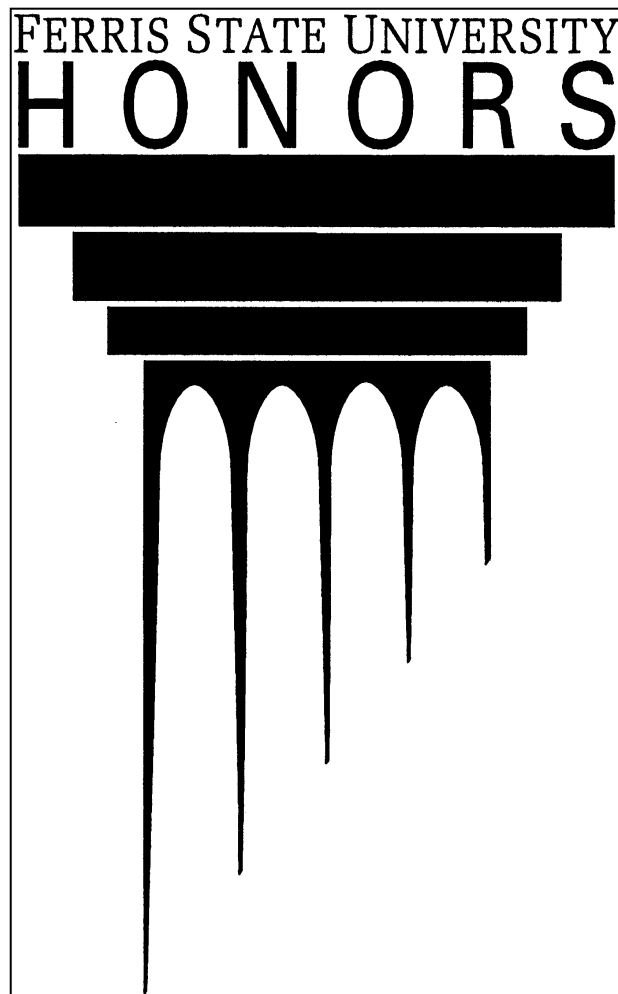


Ferris State University Honors Program

The Endeavor

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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.

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When One Door Closes...

By: Ali Ortiz

Soon there will be **big** changes in the works for Honors on-campus housing in preparation for the 2011-2012 school year. For starters, Carlisle Hall is closing its doors, and Ward Hall, across campus, is opening them. When I heard this news, at first I wasn't sure if it was true. So I turned to Honors Program Coordinator, Maude Bigford, to help me sort out fact from fiction. She confirmed Carlisle's closing, saying that "the building is just too old to handle the traffic, plus it needs to be rid of asbestos." I asked her what the future plans for Carlisle included, and she seemed unsure. "I'm still not sure if it's going to be torn down or renovated," she said. "But I know for sure that it won't be a residence hall again anytime soon."

So where does this leave the many Honors students who call Carlisle Hall home? With a brand new option! Last year, Ward Hall on South Campus closed down for renovations, and as the hall reaches completion, Honors students have the opportunity to register for housing there. The improved Ward boasts new carpet and new lobby furniture, as well as rooms larger than Carlisle's. "We're very excited to see Ward become an Honors Hall," Maude told me.

But is everyone else as excited? Some Honors students do seem to be uneasy. "Sure Ward might have new furniture and carpet, but can its location really compete with Carlisle?" one student pointed out. "I mean, yeah, it's close to the Rock, but it's super far away from everything else. I see that as a definite downside."

With the new MyHousing web application in place, students are allowed to pick their rooms online, which has never been an option before. This year Honors students can choose from Helen Ferris Hall, Puterbaugh Hall, Henderson Hall, and the new Ward Hall. So even though Carlisle Hall will no longer be an option, students who wish to remain close to North Campus can choose to live in Helen Ferris Hall.

As for the rumors that Helen Ferris Hall will be closing its doors after the 2011-2012 year as part of the University's plan for restructuring campus, it looks like, for now, that is just talk. Maude confirmed that although this may be in the plans for campus eventually, she hasn't seen any proposals for that to happen anytime soon. "The only other changes being made to Honors Program locations will be when the Honors Program offices move to Ward Hall in 2012," she said. Though these changes may seem dramatic, Maude assured me that they will be the best for the Honors Program, especially as it continues to grow.



(Since this article was written, Honors has also been given the first and second floor of Pickell Hall which will have Honors RAs and Honors Peer Mentors. The Honors Office indicated a lot of students were interested in moving there since it is close to the Rock.)

New Honors Class Creates Buzz Among Students

By: Erika Derylo

Honors students are required to take at least 10 credits of Honors courses in order to meet the standards set in the Honors Student Handbook. When the Honors Program staff posted the list for Fall 2011's available Honors courses, one new class particularly created a lot of buzz. It was PHIH 390, "The Good Life."

The reason this class created so much buzz was because not many people knew what to expect. What does "the good life" mean? What is this class supposed to be about? *The Endeavor* met with Dr. Grant Snider who will be teaching both sections of the course this fall to get an idea about what students can anticipate.

By nature it is a philosophy course, but it will also draw from other areas of study as well, including sociology, literature, and religion. Through integrating these different types of study, the course aims to make philosophy more applicable to one's life, versus the more abstract tendencies that a philosophical theory class may have.

More specifically, the class will focus on six key areas of study:

1. Classical Greek and Roman ideas about what it means to "**flourish**"
2. What it means to have a "**good job**" and make "**good money**"
3. The "**not-so-good life**", failure, and meaninglessness
4. What it means to have a "**good time**" and leisure
5. Creation of the "**good self**" and existentialism
6. What it means to have a "**good soul**", drawing from a religious perspective

Although some of it may seem a little intimidating ("*existentialism*"?!), Dr. Snider stressed just how applicable the subject matter is in one's day-to-day life. He noted that because people today live in such a fast-paced, goal-oriented

society, these types of discussions become all the more important. "[The Good Life] offers a sustained, focused opportunity to see what things are of value to you....You're getting an opportunity to learn about yourself or *contextualize* things that you already knew about yourself," he said.

The whole point is to draw from the idea of "*psychagogic*" activities, which directly translates to "soul-inspiring." Like the Roman Stoics who literally went on "soul searching" escapes just to exercise the soul, Dr. Snider will aim to adapt those types of exercises in the classroom, but in a more modern way. "The whole person will be inspired by the activities of the class, if students take it to heart," he said.

This is Dr. Snider's first time teaching an Honors course at Ferris, and he says he is very excited about it. He emphasized that he will be setting the bar high for his Honors students, making the class both worth the money they spent on it and worthwhile in their lives. "There will be a lot of reading," he said. "Our challenge is going to be to make it contemporary." With the use of online and other contemporary resources and an openness to student creativity, Dr. Snider shouldn't have a problem achieving his purpose.

For those who are intimidated, Dr. Snider was extremely approachable as well as passionate about his students. It was clear that teaching is something he loves to do and does very well! The Honors Program is extremely excited to add this class to their course list this fall.

In the end Dr. Snider left me with this, "Ferris has a good billboard that says 'Don't just transfer, *transform*.' Transform is what my class will try to do."

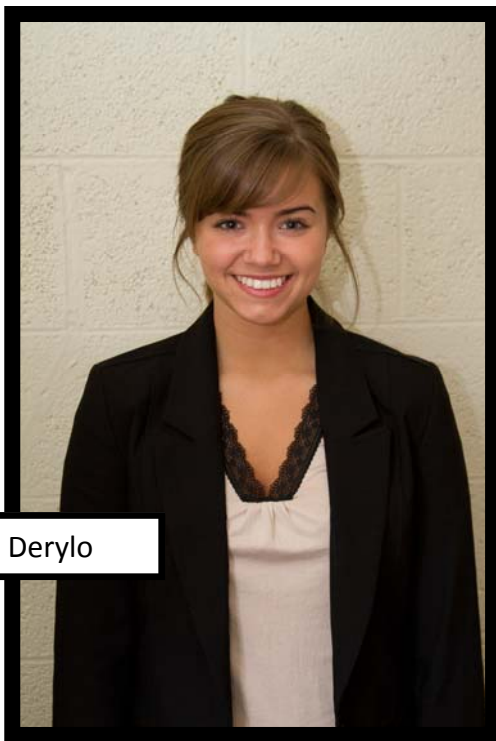


Dr. Grant Snider

Honors Students Awarded Scholarships

By: Katie Milbourne

Honors Program students are known for standing out in their classrooms. However, Honors pre-med senior Cody Becksvoort went beyond local recognition by winning the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship for his hard work in and out of the classroom. Over 2,600 students competed for this prestigious award and Cody was one of the 165 chosen. His four-year scholarship will cover his medical school tuition, books, and supplies, and include a \$2,100 monthly stipend for other expenses. In exchange, Cody will become an active duty Air Force doctor for four years followed by four years of inactive reserve duty.



Erika Derylo



Cody Becksvoort

Honors Program sophomore Erika Derylo won recognition by AdCraft Club of Detroit for her essay about the current environment of the advertising industry. Erika, who is an Advertising and Integrated Marketing Communications major, was personally nominated for the contest by marketing professor Paul Jackson. For her essay Erika received a scholarship of \$2,000 for the 2011-2012 school year. Professor Jackson and Erika will be attending an AdCraft conference in Detroit to receive the award on May 3rd.

Honors Students Dance the Night Away at the Annual Honors Formal

By: Katie Milbourne

Photography: Brock Copus

This past Saturday Honors students put down their books and put on their dancing shoes at the annual Honors Formal. The evening began when students shuffled into Rankin to strike a pose for a picture taken by Honors freshman and *Endeavor* photographer, Brock Copus. Next, students entered the beautifully decorated Dome Room where awesome music, snacks, and refreshments greeted them. "I had a lot of fun at the dance. It was great to see everyone having fun, and not stressing about classes or exams. The decorations looked really nice, especially the floating stars!" said Honors Health Care Systems Administration sophomore Hannah Picklo.

The event was organized by the Honors Programming Board, who put a lot of effort into the event. "I believe the event was a huge success," said Chuck Van, the Social Chairman of the Honors Programming Board. "Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, and the photo booth portion was a real hit. Simple decorations and a lot of planning put forth a wonderful night for many Honors students to enjoy!". The hard work of the Board didn't go unnoticed by the students either. "I thought the Honors Formal was awesome!" reflected Derek VanderHorst, a sophomore in the Pre-Pharmacy program, "It was really well put together. I could tell Honors Programming Board put a lot of work into it. It's always a good time when you get a bunch of us Honors kids together!"

Melissa Skrocki Honors sophomore summed it up simply by saying "I thought it was a crazy fun night full of non-stop dancing. Overall, it was a good time!"



Some special parts of the night included a crazy dance contest won by Cierra Kemppainen, as well as awards for the best dressed guy and girl. Derek VanderHorst and Heather Schultz walked away with awesome prizes for their outfits. Overall, the event seemed to go over incredibly well.



Samples from Honors Senior Assessments

By: Erika Derylo

Rather than have upperclassmen fill out a report for each cultural event, Honors asks them to sit down during the second semester of their junior/senior years and give some thought to their social and academic life. Juniors and seniors must consider how those requirements changed them over the years and what connections they made between these events and life. Some seniors agreed to share their thoughts with readers:

“Looking back at all the hours I put into His House Christian Student Fellowship and other RSO’s, I now do not look at them as a required thing. I know that we have to get community service for Honors, but that is not what it is all about. I do not know the exact reason why the Honors Program makes the volunteer hours a requirement, but I have to say that it really taught me something. My freshman year I did what I had to do to get by and not be put on probation. However, now I do it because I love to.”

Kayla Simpson



“It is a running joke among students as to why they went to Ferris and not another institution: Honors has single rooms. Looking back on everything, coming to Ferris was the best decision I ever made.... I was able to get into my program early because of Honors.... I had planned on having to wait an extra year before I would have been accepted into nursing. My sophomore year was going to be filled with social awareness and cultural enrichment classes; but because of Honors this was not the case. I was accepted into a nursing Honors spot and entered the program as a sophomore. I will be part of a group with a couple other students to be some of the youngest students to graduate from Ferris with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing, all thanks to the Honors Program.

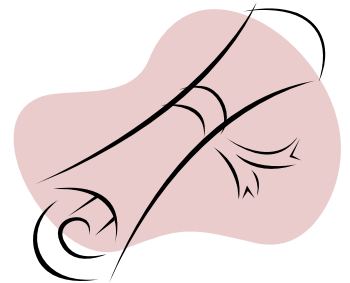
Justin Greenfield

“Throughout my college years, I participated in many organizations that gave me a chance to grow and develop as a leader.... Though I haven’t been as drastically busy this year as I have been in my past three years at Ferris, I have learned to pass the torch to new leaders.... Giving other people opportunities and chances to excel excites me so much more than me doing everything. The quality relationships I have formed, and the lessons I have learned, are much more valuable to me than another line on my résumé.”

Leanne Day

“Going through the Honors Program I have learned that while it may seem incredibly overwhelming at times, having to go through intense classes and maintain the standards associated with the Honors Program, hard work and determination can help you persevere.... In addition to all of this, working hard for Honors has produced some objective results.... I have been able to gain an internship, graduate a year early, get published in a textbook, and next year I will be pursuing my Master’s degree in Business Administration.”

Anonymous



Continued on next page...

“The day that will forever be remembered as one that changed my life for the better is the day I decided to become a Peer Mentor for the Honors Program.... The Peer Mentor program changed my life for the better in so many ways. I found my niche. I found people that I could relate to and rely on, which is something I had a hard time finding in high school.... These girls have been there with me through the best and worst of times since the day I introduced myself.... I went through a huge transition in my life when my significant other joined the Air Force my sophomore year. As fate would have it, my new best friends also were going through similar experiences. This little coincidence bonded us together even more and, since we share a passion for wanting to help others, inspired us to create the Ferris State Military Support Group....College would not have been what it was without the Honors Program. The doors that have been opened to me while here at Ferris because of this program have shaped my experience into a great one.”

Brandy VanDenbrook



“I enjoyed all the Honors classes that were required. I think the class that helped me the most was my communications class. I hate getting up and talking in front of people. I did well in the class, though, and that made me even more confident. The Honors Program has its advantages and has forced me to face my challenges. I am happy that I was in the program and persisted with it through all of the requirements. Honors made me a better person. I would not have taken on leadership roles nor would I have willingly taken a communications class. These two requirements made me a better, well-rounded person and more qualified to be an optometrist in the future.”

Lindsey Ellicott

“Many of my peers in pharmacy school discontinued their involvement in Honors once accepted into the College of Pharmacy, not wanting to commit some of their spare time to community service and cultural events, which may take away from any potential study time. Now I in no way want it to sound as though I think I am better than any student who is not in the Honors Program...[but what it] seems to boil down to is the fact that being involved in Honors fueled my fire to get involved, which then packed my schedule, then forced me to manage my time well..... Overall I feel as though my involvement in Honors has really been a blessing to my time here at Ferris State University. It has given me the drive to become involved and stay busy while learning a lot about myself. Though it was not always smooth sailing, I learned how to manage my time well, take opportunities that arise, and be a part of the community, among other things.”

Joleen Bierlein

“It has been a pleasure to look back at many of the things I have done this year, mainly because my activities have been so fulfilling on a personal level. I don’t know if I will

remember exactly what I participated in during my time here in Ferris is five years, or ten years, or more, but I will remember overall their influence on me. College has been a time to learn and mature, and aside from classes, the activities I have participated in have been a catalyst for change and maturity in my life. The Honors experience helps to create this in many students, and I think that is the greatest benefit for me and those that will come after me. I hope that we can all take a good look at the events in life, either at the time or in retrospect, and realize our potential to grow and adapt in the moment.”

Matthew Preston

“When I started college, my attitude was to just go to class, do my work, and get my degree. I did not start the Honors Program as a freshman, and instead, when I started college, decided that I was smarter than I let myself believe in high school.... I cannot express enough how much joining has changed my college career and possibly my life. I have added amazing and above and beyond résumé boosters that will put me ahead when applying for nursing jobs this coming fall, not to mention the amazing life experiences I have gained from my experience. Although not everything I have done was directly related to the program, I personally believe that joining was the push to everything that I have done while at Ferris State University.”

Melissa Sudol



Honors Torchbearer Lights the Way for Honors Students

By: Ali Ortiz

It is true that Honors students are often extremely goal oriented “do-ers.” It is amazing what kinds of accomplishments Honors students achieve throughout their college careers here at Ferris. There are even some that, when one looks at their résumé, one must ask, “How did they do it?!” These students are Honors “Torchbearers.” An Honors Torchbearer is a prestigious title given to outstanding seniors graduating from the Honors program. He or she serves as a guiding light for all Honors students to follow, distinguishing themselves as he or she takes on the roles of being a model leader, scholar, and dedicated member of the community. I had the immense pleasure of interviewing a true Honors Torchbearer: nursing student Leanne Day.

Endeavor *What is your major and why did you choose it?*

Leanne Nursing. It is something that I sort of decided on a whim; but I am so glad that's how everything worked out. I truly believe that nursing will take me to the places I am called to be.

Endeavor *What are you involved with on campus?*

Leanne Throughout the years, I have been involved with Entertainment Unlimited, Honors Peer Mentor Program, The Endeavor, Red Cross, Crafters Anonymous, His House Christian Fellowship, Student Alumni Gold Club, and I work in the Student Leadership & Activities Office.

Endeavor *How do you feel about the Peer Mentor program?*

Leanne Throughout the years, the format and organization of the program has moved and evolved quite a bit. There is a much more cohesive approach than there has been in the past. Many more students are involved in the decision making process and what the program itself has to offer. I think the purpose behind the program, the mentoring of incoming freshman, is essential to successful student life.

Endeavor *How do you feel about Honors?*

Leanne Honors offers a wide variety of opportunities for growth and learning whether that be through community service projects to cultural event tickets, the program truly gives students an advantage and incentive in campus life. The private residences, scholarships and benefits alone speak for themselves. However, I think the biggest impact Honors has had in my life is networking opportunities and true friendships.

Endeavor *Any advice you would offer to underclassmen?*

Leanne Get involved, volunteer, network, and use the Student Leadership & Activities Office volunteer center and OrgSync to keep track of what you're involved in and how you have volunteered. Employers seek involved, community-oriented people!

Endeavor *How can you manage to be so involved and still succeed in the classroom?*

Leanne Time management!

Endeavor *Any FSU people (professors, Honors coordinators, etc.) who have inspired/influenced you?*

Leanne Various professors, the entire Honors staff and the Ferris community that I interact with on a daily basis.

Endeavor *Have you been involved with any community projects here in Big Rapids or in your hometown?*

Leanne The Big Event, Walk for Warmth, United Way campaign and allocation committee, Relay for Life, Resurrection Life Youth Group, and other various community service projects.

In Leanne's “Senior Assessment Paper,” she spoke about how fulfilling “passing on the torch” to other future leaders is to her. It is really quite intriguing how humble this hard-working and successful person is. She delights in seeing others succeed, using her prior knowledge and skills to aid and empower them. This Honors Torchbearer has not only set an example, but left her mark here in the Ferris and Honors community. It is clear that her many talents and successes will take her far.



Leanne Day, Senior

From the desk of Maude...

From the desk of Maude.....

Another year has flown by; another group of amazing seniors has graduated; and 325 freshmen will soon be moving in to the Honors Halls. Amidst all this change there are some constants, since out of the eight Torchbearers four were from Honors. We trust that Torchbearer seniors Karrie Juengel, Cody Becksvoort, Leanne Day and Eli Sager will carry the torch with pride. These four are interesting since they are all connected to health care professions. Karrie will be going to Grand Rapids for her third year of Pharmacy school in fall; Cody is headed to MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine in late June 2011; Leanne will be at the University of Michigan studying for her Masters in Health Administration and Master of Science in Nursing in August 2011; Eli will be heading off to med school in June 2012. We are proud of them for their leadership, commitment to service and dedication to enhancing the communal life on our campus. We trust that they will make the world a better place.

Drew Heath brought pride to himself and to his mentor, Professor Tracey Boncher, from the College of Pharmacy, since he won the award for Outstanding Senior Symposium Project this April. Drew's project focused on creating a new drug for diabetics. He created a unique chemical that is being tested on mice. If this works effectively, then it will be a blockbuster drug with huge ramifications.

We will continue to expect great things from Accounting sophomore Melissa Hanson, Rising Star winner. Her leadership style and commitment to her residents as an R.A. have impressed those who have come in contact with her.

Sonography senior Janie White received the Commitment to Service Award as a result of untold hours of service to this community.

Pre-Pharmacy freshman Rawan Latif, Pre-Pharmacy sophomore Theresa Buist, and Nursing seniors Justin Greenfield and Melissa Sudol wowed us all by receiving the Initiative 125 Award given to those who devoted 125+ hours of their time during this academic year to service.

Nichole Wheelock, Honors Social Work grad, impressed us with her keynote address at the Torchbearer Ceremony on April 27th. As a former torchbearer awardee she knows the power of service and the joys of leadership. After graduating from Ferris in 2009 she worked with AmeriCorps/Vista in Colorado, and then she got an M.S.W. from the University of Michigan, and now she is committed to her job working with adolescents in Traverse City.

If you are interested in joining *The Endeavor* team, we would love to have you! Just contact Erika Derylo at deryloeferris.edu for details.

Honors Reminders

FALL

Late Registration: August 24-26

**Welcome Week Begins for First-Year Students:
Thursday, August 25**

First day of Fall Classes: Monday, August 29

Bulldog Bonanza: Monday, August 29

Drop/Add: August 29-September 1

Labor Day (no classes): Monday, September 5

**Thanksgiving Recess: Nov. 23rd at noon
through Nov. 25**

Last Day of Class: December 9

Examination Week: December 12-16