Spring 2015

LHC Lines - Spring 2015

Lee Honors College

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Greetings Friends and Alumni!

We had a number of wonderful events in the honors college last semester. Highlights include: a visit from best-selling author Yann Martel in October; a riveting presentation by photographer Leni Sinclair in October; our Scholar Scare 5K run/walk in November; a stirring performance by Gordon Henry Jr. in November; and a semester-long Lyceum Lecture series on the important topic of Global Citizenship.

This semester has proven to be just as busy. I am thrilled to announce our 2015 series Raise Your Voice. This series will introduce WMU and the Kalamazoo community to nationally known artists, activists, writers and scholars actively working to end hostility and violence against women. The series began Thursday, January 29, with a free showing of the documentary Anita Hill: Speaking Truth to Power at the Alamo Drafthouse. Although we intended to host Anita Hill for a public lecture, “Anita Hill: Responding to Gendered Violence in Society, Law and on College Campuses: From 1991 to ‘Today’” at the Chenery Auditorium in early February, inclement weather forced her visit to be postponed until April 13. On Tuesday, March 3, we hosted a lecture by activist Soraya Chemaly, titled “Effecting Change Through Social Media.” Finally, artist Tatyana Fazlalizadeh brought her “Stop Telling Women to Smile” street art project to Kalamazoo in early April and gave a lecture at the Richmond Center for the Performing Arts on April 2. All series lectures are free and open to the public. This series will continue in fall 2015 with speakers to be announced soon.

If you are interested in becoming a co-sponsor of this series, please visit mywmu.com/raiseyourvoice.

Carla Koretsky, Dean

As I begin my second year as associate dean, I am struck by how invigorated I feel! Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to work with some truly remarkable students, faculty and staff on a myriad of projects, many of which are outlined in Dean Koretsky’s message and throughout this newsletter. I’ve met some extraordinary scholars and artists from across the globe at honors college events. The Lee Honors College is making a difference on this campus and in this community!

I would like to highlight the work that a group of honors college students has undertaken during the past year. The 2013 class of Medallion Scholars created a three year mentoring program for their community service project called FLOK: Future Leaders of Kalamazoo. These Medallion Scholars are now paired with sixth graders at Milwood Magnet School in an after-school program. They have targeted students who would be first generation college students to help get and keep them on the path toward attending college. The Scholars will work with these students, both at Milwood and at special activities on WMU’s campus, throughout their time in middle school to help prepare them to be successful so they are ready to capitalize on the Kalamazoo Promise. With the support of Communities in Schools, the Kalamazoo Public Schools administration, and the Lee Honors College, these WMU Medallion Scholars are already making a difference in the lives of 25 teenagers. We started this year with the news that the FLOK project was one of five proposals that were awarded a $2,500 Learning Network grant through the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. Their video application was truly wonderful and can be viewed at: http://www.wmich.edu/honors/organizations/flok

I hope to have the opportunity to meet some of you at our second annual Lee Honors College alumni reunion in July. If you find yourself in the area any time during the year, please drop by for a tour or to attend one of our many wonderful events!

Warm regards,
Jane Baas, Associate Dean

Carla Koretsky, Dean • Jane Baas, Associate Dean • Scott Friesner, Faculty Specialist • Anthony Helms, Assistant Director, Academic Advising • Devin Jordan, Doctoral Associate • Kelly Schultz, Dual Enrollment Advisor • Fareed Shalhout, Advising Graduate Assistant • Tina Smith-Balanda, Finance Analyst • Jennifer Townsend, Administrative Assistant • Ashleigh Watson, Academic Advisor • Molly Wiener, Advising Graduate Assistant

LHC Staff
Fareed Shalhout is an advising graduate assistant at the Lee Honors College. He received his BA in Health Policy Studies from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 2014. Currently he is pursuing a Masters in Educational Leadership with a concentration on Higher Education and Student Affairs (HESA) here at WMU. With his degrees, he plans to work in enrollment management, specifically with admissions and financial aid. He hopes to eventually work as a director of admissions and orientation at a four-year institution.

Along with advising honors college students, Fareed coordinates the weekly Mix It Up events and the Metropolitan Series, as well as co-coordinating the Scholar Scare 5K Run and serving on the Raise Your Voice committee. Outside of the honors college, Fareed serves as the Social Chair for the HESA Masters Student Association on campus. While pursuing his undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, he served as President of the Arab Student Union and Vice President of the Student Government.

Fareed is the youngest of six children and enjoys spending time back home in Detroit with his family and friends. In the 1970s, his parents emigrated from Palestine, so when there is time to travel, Fareed enjoys vacationing in the Middle East to learn about and stay connected to his familial roots.

“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”
~Mahatma Gandhi
During the Fall 2014 graduation ceremony, alums Gabriel Giron and Kirk Latimer of Kinetic Affect received the honors college’s Outstanding Alumni Award. Gabriel and Kirk received this award in recognition of their innovative artistic achievement and for communicating a message of hope, forgiveness and acceptance.

Kirk and Gabriel travel around the country performing and educating as the spoken word duo, Kinetic Affect. They strive to inspire young people with perspectives on life that have been cultivated through the hardships they have each faced. Early in his military enlistment, Gabriel was diagnosed with stage 3B testicular cancer and spent three years receiving treatment in Walter Reed Medical Center. Today, he is cancer free. Throughout high school, Kirk was filled with aggression and inner turmoil that ultimately led to his arrest at age sixteen. Through self-exploration, both have used these experiences to create a passionate, vulnerable, learning experience.

A former boxer, acting coach, and English teacher at a Portage, MI high school, Kirk graduated from WMU with a B.A. in Secondary English Education in 2002. Gabriel graduated from WMU in 2008 with a degree in film, video and media studies and creative writing. Although they did not originally intend to share their life stories and poetry with others, they decided to do so once they realized the profound impact their words could have on others, particularly those who were struggling with similar hardships.

Kirk and Gabriel use their finesse with words to inspire audiences to view life as an open learning experience and to realize that no one is without fault or failures. They hope to enable audiences to explore and learn from their own experiences, rather than worrying about the opinions of others. In his acceptance speech, Gabriel remarked, “We spend too much time focusing on what other people think about us; do they like me? Am I good enough? Am I better? Am I stronger? If we spend all of our energy focusing on them, we won’t get to know who WE are! You won’t get to know what YOU are capable of! So I challenge you today, to let go of your fear, to be willing to fail and to be willing to hang out with yourself. To find out what you want to do. To find out what makes you happy, and ask yourself – what matters to me?”

In 2009, the two established Speak It Forward Inc. a nonprofit organization in Kalamazoo. The goal of this organization is to take youths and adults within the community through an educational journey of self-exploration through the use of poetry, word play and honesty. They have performed at venues like the Apollo Theater, and for events like America’s Got Talent and the WMU Matriculation Ceremony. They have also worked with groups including the United Way, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the American Cancer Society and many others.
Jason Allen (BS, 1997) is the Vice President for Human Resources at Stryker. He started at Stryker as an intern 19 years ago and has worked in a wide range of fields there, including manufacturing, regulatory, design, sales and human resources. He also serves as an Elder at his local church.

Michael August Bruny-Groth (BFA, 2012) is a cross-examination designer at Jell Creative in Chicago.

Greg Michael Delgoffe (BS, 2004) has been appointed to a tenure-track faculty position in the Department of Immunology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Donald P. DeNault, Jr. (BA, 1993) is an attorney in the greater Detroit area. He is an equity shareholder with O’Reilly Rancilio P.C. in Sterling Heights, Michigan and will become President of the Macomb County Bar Association on July 1, 2015.

Michael J. Duffy IV (BM, 1977) recently returned to WMU as the Performing Arts Librarian and associate professor at the Maybee Music and Dance Library.

John A Gipson (BS, 2011) is a Recruitment Specialist for the Purdue University College of Health and Human Sciences. Recently, he co-edited Student Involvement and Academic Outcomes: Implications for Diverse College Student Populations, a textbook for higher education. He is a doctoral student in Purdue’s educational psychology program with a specialization in quantitative research methods and received the NACADA Student Research Award Master’s Level, GVSU’s Glenn A. Niemeyer Award for outstanding graduate student, and the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from MIACADA.

Lauren Berkshire Hearit (BA, 2012) is currently a Ph.D. student at Purdue University.

Christopher Jones (BFA, 2009) was a webmaster at WMU for several years, including the Lee Honors College website, but resigned to take a design position out of state.

Kirk Latimer (BA, 2002) is CEO of Kinetic Affect and Co-director/Educational Director of Speak It Forward Inc. which he created with business partner and honors college alumnus, Gabriel Giron. He is recently engaged and is raising his son, Ethan.

Christina C. Maley (BA, 2004) is a Union Stagehand (Electrician) and Wardrobe Supervisor in Houston, Texas.

Jenna I. Moreau (BSN, 2013) is currently an Oncology Nurse at Spectrum Health/Butterworth Hospital.

Chad Schafer (BS, 1995) is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Statistics at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

Kathy Jo Scheiern (BA, 1977) is a consultant and executive coach in San Francisco.

This information was provided via the Alumni Update Form. Degrees indicated are those earned at WMU.

Send us your news for inclusion in the next edition of the newsletter!
On November 1, 2014, the Lee Honors College hosted our first annual Scholar Scare 5K Run/Walk event. Proceeds from the run will be used to defray the costs of our Study in the States program and to provide study abroad scholarships for honors students. Fifty-five intrepid runners braved a chilly but clear November morning for the run. We are grateful to this year’s run sponsors: Bob & Kay’s Autowash, Cosmo’s Cucina, Boris Realtors and the Alamo Drafthouse! Prizes were awarded for our top runners in numerous categories as well as for best costumes. Running through campus in costume was a first for Dean Koretsky, and she enjoyed it thoroughly. This year, the 5K will be held on Saturday, October 31st @ 10 a.m. – hope to see you there!

For more information:
wmich.edu/honors/events/scholar-scare

On Thursday, November 13, amidst eight inches of fresh snow, Native American poet Gordon Henry, along with Mike Johnston on bass and flute and Mike Gilmore playing guitar, sax and percussion, made his second appearance in as many years at the honors college lounge to a standing room crowd of students, faculty and community members. Henry, an Anishinaabe and enrolled member of the White Earth Chippewa Tribe, has published three books of poetry and prose; his novel, The Light People (1994), won the American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation. Over the past several years Henry has been performing his work with Johnston and Gilmore improvising behind him, and they know each other well. After opening with a prayer and blessing, Henry recited selected pieces from his The Failure of Certain Charms (2007) surrounded by the exquisite musical improvisation provided by Johnston and Gilmore, creating an utterly unique and soul searching hour long journey to a rapt and delighted audience. Their second album, which consists of many of the pieces performed at the honors college, will be released in March.

On Wednesday, October 29, Leni Sinclair visited the honors college and addressed over fifty students and community members about her life and photography over the past five decades. While Sinclair, along with her former husband John, most famously became a public presence and force to be reckoned with in Detroit during the late 60s, her autobiographical presentation ranged from her childhood in East Germany to her current campaign on behalf of medical marijuana. Leni's life story and photography, especially during the tumultuous late 60s and early 70s, simultaneously serve as a compelling cultural history of Ann Arbor and Detroit’s radical left. Yet she is perhaps best known for her music photography, which over the years, has graced countless album covers and magazines. Leni's presentation included more than fifty of her photographs, and if you find yourself in Kalamazoo this semester, the honors college is still hosting a gallery of fifteen of them featuring celebrated rock, blues and jazz artists ranging from Mick Jagger and the MC5 to Howlin’ Wolf and John Coltrane.

In October 2014, Yann Martel, the internationally acclaimed author of “Life of Pi,” visited campus as part of the university and honors college common read events. In addition to speaking to a crowd of more than 1,000 at Miller Auditorium, Martel spent two hours in our lounge speaking, answering questions and posing for photos with our students. During Fall Welcome week, first year students participated in round table discussions regarding the book.

This coming fall, the honors college common read book will be “The Events of October” by retired Kalamazoo College professor Gail Griffin. Consider reading the book, now available in soft cover and e-reader versions, and joining us next August to help lead the first year students in round table discussions of this important non-fiction work. Professor Griffin will be on campus in October to meet with honors students and discuss her book. Details on that visit will be in the next edition of this newsletter.
The innovative Lee Honors College Study in the States program continues this year and includes a new summer course and for the first time, a spring course.

**Entrepreneurship: Understanding Startup Communities (March 6 – 15)**

Dr. John Mueller, an assistant professor of Management, has created a semester-long experience for students. The class meets on Fridays and takes day trips throughout the semester to Grand Rapids, Chicago and Detroit. During spring break, the class traveled to Austin, Texas and Boulder, Colorado. These trips are designed to expose students to communities that have allowed high technology startup companies to thrive.

**The Texas Tour (May 2 – 9)**

Dr. Derrick McIver, assistant professor of Management, is returning to Texas this May to give students the opportunity to study business, Texas corporate culture and to undertake some service learning. Students will visit one of the fastest growing urban triangles in the United States: Austin, Houston and San Antonio, TX. While there, students will visit organizations and groups working to foster economic development, and will take part in networking dinners with WMU alumni working with these companies.

**Garbage in Gotham: What Makes the Big Apple Sustainable? (May 7 – 16)**

Dr. Sarah Hill, associate professor of Anthropology and Environmental & Sustainability Studies, is back again this summer with a popular course that considers the history of trash in the Big Apple and sustainable possibilities for the future.

**The Disney Pilgrimage: A Journey into the Life of Walter Elias Disney (July 7 – 15)**

Dr. Christopher W. Tremblay, Associate Provost for Enrollment Management at WMU, is taking students on a biographical road trip through Walt Disney’s life. The trip begins in Disney’s birthplace of Chicago and ends at his gravesite in California. Dr. Tremblay graduated from the Walt Disney World College Program with a “Ducktorate Degree” and is a member of the D23 Official Disney Fan Club, The Walt Disney Family Museum, and The Disney College Program Alumni Association.
It’s hard to ignore the groundswell of voices currently advocating for a safe and supportive environment in which to study, work, live and love. This new social justice movement confronts street and workplace sexual harassment, rape on college campuses, and ineffectual responses to marginalization, bullying and abuse. Last summer, the honors college gathered individuals from across campus to help develop a strategy to proactively address these important issues. The resulting series, Raise Your Voice, introduces WMU and the Kalamazoo community to nationally known artists, activists, writers and scholars actively working to end hostility and violence against women. Join us as we explore the roots of the problem, challenge the status quo and inspire bold and courageous action in the service of social transformation. It’s time to change the conversation – to pursue personal growth, community solidarity, institutional progress and a more just world.

All events are free and open to the public, thanks to generous support from the campus and community. For a full list of sponsors, please visit: http://www.wmich.edu/honors/events/raise-your-voice.

Support is still need for the fall portion of the series and tax-deductible donations may be made at: http://mywmu.com/RaiseYourVoice.

Tuesday, March 3, 2015
**Soraya Chemaly: Effecting Change Through Social Media**
Ms. Chemaly inspired the audience with her assessment of how social media is frequently implicated in harassment and abuse; however, she also described some of her successes to positively effect change, particularly when it comes to women’s rights. She described ways in which story telling, awareness building and social actions can all be used to create a more equitable and empathetic culture and met with students at a reception following her lecture.

March 29-April 4, 2015
**Tatyana Fazlalizadeh: Stop Telling Women to Smile**
Ms. Fazlalizadeh engaged in a residency consisting of 6 days on campus as a visiting artist creating new “Stop Telling Women to Smile” pieces featuring women from the WMU student body. It also included a public lecture, class visits, group discussion and interviews with students about harassment on campus, along with creation and display of original art.

Monday, April 13, 2013
**Anita Hill: Responding to Gendered Violence in Society, Law, and on College Campuses: From 1991 to Today**
Public lecture in Chenery Auditorium at 7 p.m.
We are very pleased to announce that Western Michigan University was generously gifted this year with two new Medallion Scholarships: the H. Nicholas Hamner Medallion Scholarship and the Arthur E. and Martha S. Hearron Medallion Scholarship. Dr. Hamner, who passed away in February, was a specialist in British and European history and was known at WMU for leading study groups to Europe and the Near East, giving students the opportunity to experience the history that they were studying. Although Dr. Hamner retired from the Department of History in 1992, he remained connected to WMU through his service with the History Advisory Council, the WMU Emeriti Council, the Theatre Guild and the Friends of Dance.

Martha “Marti” Hearron was a long time friend of the College of Fine Arts and the Lee Honors College. She passed away on November 29, 2014 and will be greatly missed. The Arthur E. and Martha S. Hearron Medallion Scholarship will support students studying in the College of Fine Arts.

Additionally, a campaign drive was initiated this year by several alumni Medallion Scholars to create a new “Medallions’ Medallion”. The intent is for alumni Medallion Scholars to endow a new scholarship (for more information visit mywmu.com/medallionfund).
Stephen John spent the majority of his life in Nepal before coming to Kalamazoo at age sixteen where he is now a senior at WMU studying Biomedical Sciences and Mechanical Engineering. Joseph Barnett has lived in many locations in the U.S., from Rhode Island to Oklahoma. Now living in Kalamazoo, he is studying Biomedical Sciences and minoring in Chemistry at WMU.

Both Stephen and Joseph have spent many summers abroad working in hospitals in developing countries and, although in different countries, they both performed preventative maintenance on medical equipment. Joseph has spent time in Honduras, while Stephen has worked in Nepal. These experiences led the two to strengthen their passions for helping people in developing nations receive effective and affordable medical care.

This passion has sparked a project that the two have been working on for the past year and a half. During the summer of 2013, Stephen showed Joseph a milk carton and Chapstick tube contraption that he had built in his basement and explained the idea behind it. Stephen wanted to develop a dual-level pressure system to help the respiratory system of extremely ill premature babies. The two then began working together to develop a working prototype. They Skype every Sunday with Dr. Eric Cheng, a Respiratory Therapists Without Borders doctor Stephen met in Nepal, to receive feedback on their prototype to ensure it will be of use one day. The ultimate goal of the machine is to extend the treatment options for extremely ill premature babies in developing countries by building off of the existing technology of a bubble CPAP (chronic positive airway pressure) machine. This is intended to result in a simpler, more affordable machine that can be easily utilized in under-resourced rural health centers in developing countries.

Now, a year and half later, Stephen and Joseph have come a long way from milk cartons and Chapstick tubes. They currently have a working prototype of their device in a lab at WMU’s Parkview campus and plan to send it with their friend Ed Bos, founder of Worldwide Lab Improvement, to the upcoming Christian Medical and Dental Association conference in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The purpose of this conference is to provide comprehensive education regarding the latest advances in health care technology for healthcare professionals practicing in developing countries. Having these professionals evaluate Joseph and Stephen’s technology and provide feedback will allow them to decide if they should pursue this project beyond an honors thesis and senior design project.

Outside of their respiratory machine work, both Stephen and Joseph are actively involved with Calvary Bible Church in Kalamazoo, where Joseph’s father is the pastor. Joseph also spends his spare time keeping bees, a hobby he has always enjoyed. In the fall, Stephen will be attending the University of Michigan Medical School. Joseph will be heading to Honduras for a year to work in the same hospital he has been visiting for years. He plans to attend medical school the following year. Whatever happens with their device, both Stephen and Joseph plan to move forward with their work abroad and to continue helping communities in need.
As you may recall, or perhaps the memory is a blur, the weeks leading up to graduation are exciting times in the Lee Honors College! In the final week before exams, we host Thesis Celebration Days. This will begin with a Fine Arts Showcase of excerpts from creative theses by seniors from art, creative writing, dance, film, music and theatre. This spring the Fine Arts Showcase will be held Monday, April 20 at 7 p.m. From April 22 through 24, students who wish to compete for outstanding thesis presentation awards will defend their theses in various locations in the honors college. All presentations are open to the public.

In December, the following students were honored for best thesis presentation:

**Alyssa Murray**, Biomedical Sciences, “The Impact of Prenatal Stress on the Development of Limbic System Structures” Thesis Mentor: Dr. Nicholas Andreadis


Who will win in April? If your schedule permits, we invite you to join us as a presentation judge. Simply contact Dean Carla Koretsky to volunteer at carla.koretsky@wmich.edu.

Finally, on the eve of graduation the honors college hosts its own graduation and cording ceremony. You may have fond memories of being corded by a parent, sibling or mentor at this moving event. It is a joyous time as we celebrate the success of our graduates and bid farewell to the newest alumni of the Lee Honors College.

“All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.”

~Mahatma Gandhi
Lyceum Lecture Series

The Lyceum Lecture Series sponsored by the honors college is intended to foster conversations about a diverse range of multidisciplinary topics among WMU faculty, staff and students as well as members of the broader community. In Fall 2014, the series “Global Citizenship,” organized by Professors Shaila Rao and Selena Protacio, focused on diversity and inspired attendees to consider how they might become more globally engaged citizens. Series speakers explored the meaning of diversity and diversity competence and the relevance of these topics to our daily lives not only on campus, but also for our broader global community.

This spring’s series, titled “Sustainable Energy Future” has been organized by members of the WMU Climate Change Working Group, who also organized the “Climate Change” series, held in spring 2013, which engendered community-wide conversations about the social, economic and scientific aspects of climate change. While the negative impacts of the burning of fossil fuels were discussed and solutions to these were touched upon in the 2013 series, there was not sufficient time during the series for multiple in-depth conversations about alternative energy sources. Members of the WMU Climate Change Working Group felt there was a sufficient need to fully understand the options, costs and benefits of different energy options to warrant a separate Lyceum series dedicated to sustainable energy. “Sustainable Energy Future” aims to further educate and engage people regarding renewable energy sources, energy conservation and the many technological, political and economical opportunities and challenges related to shifting from fossil fuels to sustainable energy sources. The series began with a fascinating discussion of the history of energy use by humans given by Dr. Lynne Heasley, a sobering discussion of the societal cost of likely climate change scenarios given by Dr. David Karowe, and continues with discussions of renewable energy sources including wind, solar and biomass, as well as talks that will focus on energy conversation and the business, political and economic challenges and opportunities associated with our energy future.

The Lee Honors College sponsors several events throughout the year in its “Metropolitan Series” which allow students to visit cities around Southern Michigan such as Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor, Chicago and Detroit. The trips are devoted to visiting one of the city’s cultural institutions, as well as allowing students to explore. The Metropolitan Series kicked off its first event in September by attending ArtPrize in Grand Rapids where students where able to view art from all over the nation. This series is a great way to visit a major city and get to know fellow honors college students, faculty, and staff.
Since 2005, the Kalamazoo Promise has provided many students in the Kalamazoo Public School district the opportunity to pursue higher education without the financial burden of paying tuition and fees. Despite this incredible opportunity a significant number of students are still failing to achieve their highest academic potential, particularly those raised in families who are in economic despair. Because of this, Western Michigan University’s 2013 class of Medallion Scholars created the Future Leaders of Kalamazoo (FLOK) mentoring program in order to enhance the academic readiness and success of students from racially diverse, underserved populations.

The FLOK project partners one to two incoming sixth graders at Milwood Middle School with a Medallion Scholar mentor under the auspices of Kalamazoo’s Communities in Schools after school program. This partnership will last throughout the KPS students’ time at Milwood. In addition to visiting Milwood each week, Medallion Scholars have received an Inspired Learning grant through the Learning Network of Greater Kalamazoo that will enable the scholars to host the Milwood students on campus for a number of social, cultural and educational activities. During the WMU academic school year, the mentors will meet weekly with their mentees to help with schoolwork and organizational skills, discuss weekly activities and special interests, give advice regarding any obstacles or adversity the mentees may be facing, and answer any questions regarding high school, college and future opportunities.

In April, FLOK will host a leadership day at WMU’s Student Recreation Center. This will be a great opportunity for both the mentees and mentors to break the monotony of spending the majority of their time indoors with schoolwork and/or electronic entertainment. Through various team-building activities and access to the climbing wall, swimming pool and other athletic amenities, students will get to exercise their minds and bodies while learning about key character traits of leaders. The day’s activities will emphasize cooperation, creativity, effective leadership techniques, listening, sportsmanship and flexibility.

The 2013 Medallion Scholars are excited about this three-year project and hope to have regular reports about their activities and successes in future editions of this newsletter!
In fall 2014, Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society (ALD), was selected by Bronco Spotlight as winner of the Registered Student Organization’s (RSO), “Most Committed to Service” RSO for the month of November. Also recognized by Bronco Spotlight as RSO Advisor of the Month was Anthony Helms, ALD faculty advisor and honors college Assistant Director of Advising. This recognition stems from ALD’s commitment to leadership and dedication to the WMU community.

Much of this leadership and dedication starts with Cole Villalobos, ALD President since fall 2014, who has been vigilant in his efforts to make ALD more visible and available on campus. Cole secured office space for ALD this fall in the student organization center and holds office hours Monday through Friday to accommodate the organization’s over 2,000 members. Cole and the ALD executive board have even started setting up tables in the Bernhard Center to promote upcoming volunteer events, increase the visibility of ALD on campus, and answer questions from current and future members. Cole hopes that his efforts to make the organization more visible will result in an increased membership invitation acceptance rate.

The volunteer events, accompanied by a point system for crediting participation, help contribute to the active membership and rising attendance at general assembly meetings. ALD has experienced rapid response to calls for volunteers, with volunteer slots at events typically filling up overnight. Cole recognized the challenging course loads most members carry, so to keep from alienating busy students, only 10 volunteer points are required to earn ALD honors cords at graduation.

These Bronco Spotlight awards follow longstanding recognition by the national organization. WMU’s chapter has been nominated for ALD’s highest award, The Order of the Torch, every time they’ve been eligible for the last eight years. Having won six consecutive Maintaining the Flame awards from National, the WMU chapter is hoping to take home its third consecutive Order of the Torch.
Contributions of time and funds from our friends and alumni help us to support and expand new opportunities for our honors students. If you would like to provide financial support, here are some of our top priorities:

**Study in the States**: We would like to create an endowment ($10K or more) to support our Study in the States program. The per-student cost is approximately $1,000-2,000 for each course.

**Study Abroad**: We encourage our students to participate in study abroad and offer competitive scholarships to help defray costs for them. Last year, we received 49 study abroad applications, with requests exceeding our available funds by 10-fold or more.

We also welcome contributions for honors student research and creative activities scholarships, our Raise Your Voice series, Medallion Scholarships and many other honors college initiatives. To make a contribution, visit mywmu.com and make sure to designate your gift to the Lee Honors College. We also welcome in-kind contributions. If you can help our students by providing mentoring, internship or employment opportunities, or by volunteering (e.g. at the annual Medallion Competition, Scholar Scare 5K or the Thesis Celebration), please get in touch!

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**Keep In Touch**

We would love to know where you are and what you have been doing since graduation. Please take a moment to provide the following information and return it to us by mail – or complete a short survey online at https://wmich.edu/honors/alumni/updates/

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Recent accomplishments/professional activities/personal milestones

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**Wishlist**

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**Alumni Reunion**

On July 26, 2014, we hosted a reunion day for alumni who attended the honors college in the 1990s. These alumni and their families enjoyed a day touring new facilities on campus, including the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences’ Parkview Campus and the College of Health and Human Services on Oakland Drive, visiting a residence hall, having lunch in the cafeteria, and having fun in the Student Recreation Center. This summer, we are planning to invite all honors alumni and their families to campus on July 25. Mark your calendars and make sure to provide us with your current email information to receive an invitation later this year!

We also invite our alumni to return to campus to participate in our fall welcome common read discussion, and to serve as judges at our Medallion Competition in January and at our Thesis Celebration Days at the end of the fall and spring semesters. Alumni are always welcome at any of our public events. If you are interested in volunteering or helping to plan an event, please contact Associate Dean Jane Baas at: jane.baas@wmich.edu.

For a complete list of all upcoming honors college events see our website: http://www.wmich.edu/honors/events
Western Michigan University
Friends and Alumni Newsletter
Lee Honors College

A Special Thanks To Lee Honors College Students:
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