



"Take your Mentor to Lunch!"

Greetings to all Honors Scholars in the College of Arts and Sciences from the Dean's office! We are very pleased to be launching this first issue of our CAS Honors Scholars On-Line Newsletter and hope that you enjoy it. Please let us know what you would like to see included in future issues. You might even want to contribute something in the future! I especially want to thank Steve Garland who has done a tremendous job putting this first issue together. We believe that an electronic newsletter like this can serve a useful function in helping us to inform the very best students in the College about interesting opportunities both on and off campus that may enrich your academic experience here at SIUE. We also think that it may serve as a valuable forum for you to share ideas, information, and experiences with other Honors Scholars in the College of Arts and Sciences.

As you may know, one of the distinctive features of the Honors Program here at SIUE is the fact that every Honors Scholar is assigned a mentor. It may be, however, that we do not always do such a good job of explaining exactly what that means. It seems that every year there are several of our Honors Scholars and faculty, too, who are unsure about what mentoring and being mentored really means.

So, what is a mentor? The word itself was originally a proper noun. Mentor is the name of a character in Homer's epic poem, The Odyssey. While the famous Greek warrior Odysseus was away from home for 20 years fighting the Trojan War, gouging out the eye of an inhospitable giant, sailing between Scylla and Charybdis, and enjoying other adventures of this sort, his son Telemachus was growing up without all that much adult guidance. Mentor is the character in The Odyssey who fills the gap left by Odysseus. He cares about Telemachus

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"Welcome Scholars"

For those of you wondering why this was in your e-mail, today, this is the new Honors Scholars Newsletter. Thanks to Dean Carl Springer, Dean Wendy Shaw and myself, you can now have access to more information pertinent to an Honors Scholar.

I suppose a little information about myself is necessary at this point. My name is Stephen Garland and I am a Dean's Scholar in my second year majoring in English Education. I am originally from Centralia, Illinois and I attended Centralia High School. Thanks to my education at CHS, I am nearly a senior, credit-wise. In terms of the classes I need to take to be certified, though, I will still be here for a couple more years and I could not be happier about it!

Now the fun stuff!

This newsletter started out as a vehicle for Dean Springer to notify all scholars about the "Free Lunch with a Mentor". He saw rather quickly, however, that our need for information was greater than he had at first thought. It is for that purpose that we have established a newsletter to list all of the information scholars might need for a given month. In addition, we plan to provide students with

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chus’s future. He gives him sage advice, both general and particular. He takes time from his own busy schedule to answer the young man's questions. As you can imagine, there are many different kinds of mentors, but I would expect that they all have some of the characteristics that describe the original Mentor.

Here at SIUE, we assign each Honors Scholar a faculty mentor. Your mentor at SIUE may also be your academic advisor. Mentoring, however, isn't necessarily the same as academic advising. Mentors may help you answer questions that go beyond your program of study. Nor is it the case that you can only have one faculty mentor. Telemachus had all sorts of wise people around him giving him sage counsel. You can probably never have too many mentors, when you come to think about it. Furthermore, you can change mentors. If, for any reason, your interests have changed since we first assigned you a mentor (most certainly if you have changed your major), we will be happy to work with you to facilitate a change of mentor.

But enough about the history, theory, and practice of mentoring and on to something much more practical: FREE LUNCH! In the interest of helping to facilitate faculty mentoring for Honors Scholars in the College of Arts and Sciences, I am very pleased to announce a new program that we have started this year: "Take your mentor to lunch." Here's how it works: we will pay for you and your faculty mentor to have lunch at the Morris University Center Restaurant once per semester. It is our hope that in a more relaxed atmosphere you may have a better opportunity to talk with your mentor about a broader range of issues than might otherwise be possible. All you need to do is stop by my office and pick up a lunch card. I'm in Peck Hall 3409 and you can also email me at casprin@siue.edu or speak with my secretary, Carole Graff, at 5058.

Carl P.E. Springer, Ph.D.
Associate Dean and Coordinator of CAS Honors



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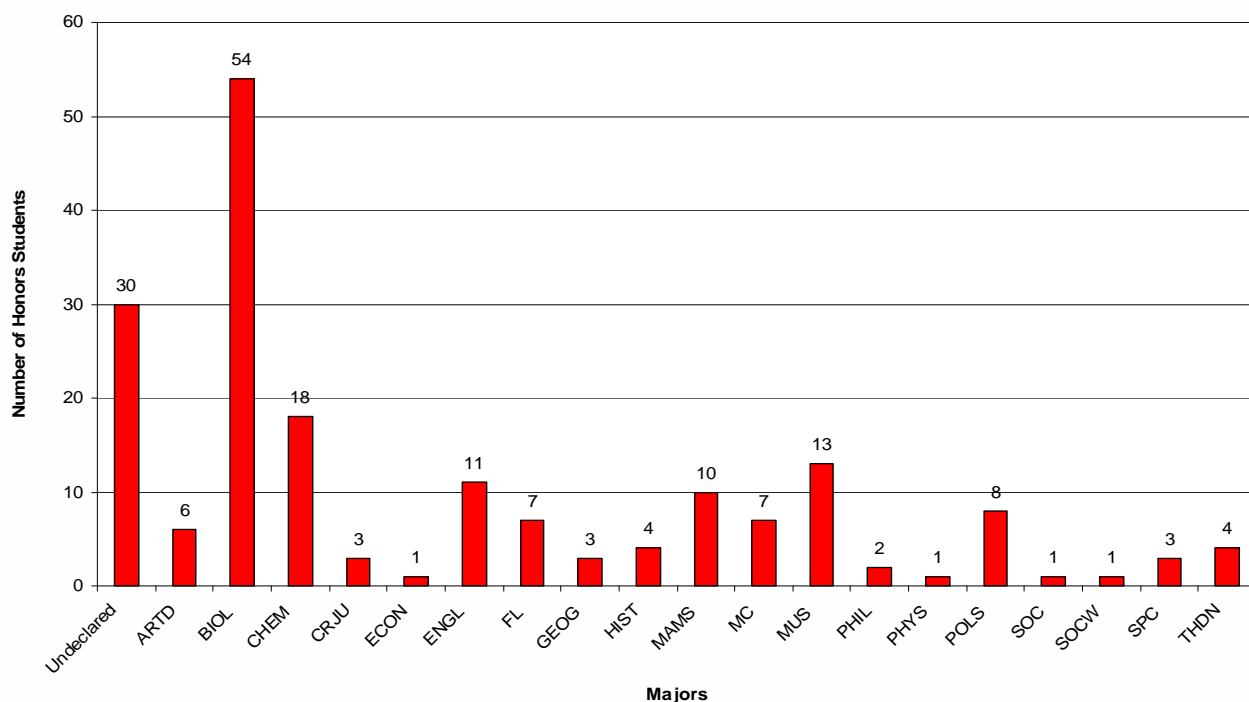
information on upcoming events and such.

I have asked around and gotten plenty of ideas to fill up these pages. For example, due to the fact that Dean’s and Provost Scholars seem to be rather separated from Chancellor’s and Presidential Scholars, we intend to have a list of events and possible carpool opportunities to promote scholar interaction. Along those same lines, information on our upperclassmen scholars seems slim. I intend to have one or two “Spotlight Scholars” in each issue.

I cannot, however, do this on my own. This is intended to be a completely scholar-run program, so if you are a Scholar, and you are interested in helping, feel free to contact me, personally, at stgarla@siue.edu or leave a message for me at the College of Arts and Sciences Deans office at 618-650-5044. We need plenty of help with this so please do not be shy. For instance, I need someone to keep an eye on the music scene just as much as I need someone to have a list of local plays and other activities throughout the months. Also, any suggestions are completely welcome. Consider this a rough draft of what the newsletter should (and, with your help, “can”) be!

Stephen J. Garland—English Education
Editor in Chief

Where Are We?



Honors 320 Seminars

As scholars we have fewer classes which we absolutely must take to satisfy our General Education requirements. We do; however, have to take HONS 120 and 320. These seminars are geared more towards scholar-based subjects and the professors who teach them do a wonderful job of keeping the seminars interesting .

Unfortunately, a problem arises when descriptions for these classes are hard, if at all possible, to find. That was definitely the case this Fall 2007 semester for both sections of the 320-level seminar. On the first day of class when asked for a reason why the students enrolled in their particular seminar, they were forced to either find a suitable reason quickly or simply state that he or she really just needed to satisfy his or her 320 credit.

On being asked her feelings on her students not knowing anything about the class she is teaching, Valerie Yancey, PhD, told me that she never took a class in college of which she did not know the name, but she also said, "I think everybody's here who should be here."

With the help of Dr. Springer, I contacted both Dr. Mary Ann Boyd and Dr. Paul Rose, the professors teaching the 320 seminars for the Spring 2008 semester. I asked them for descriptions of their classes and they both were very helpful and gave me all of the information I would need to forward on..

Dr. Boyd's seminar is the first section taught on Mondays and Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. until 4:15 p.m. It is called "Movies and Mental Illness" and her description stated:

"Films are a powerful medium for the portrayal of complex human conditions and an integral part of Western culture. No other media pervades the consciousness to the extent that a movie does. Movies are capable of influencing and shaping beliefs and perceptions. The purpose of this course is to examine the portrayal of mental illness in films. Psychopathological states as portrayed in the films will be examined within the context of contemporary social issues such as stigma and discrimination. Major mental disorders will be highlighted."

Dr. Rose's seminar is the second section taught on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. It is called "The Good Life: Character, Love and Money" and his description for the course stated:

"This class will focus on human intuitions and scientific research on quality living. The focus will be on understanding both feelings of happiness and the conditions needed to live well. Variables to be discussed in relation to living and feeling well will be character traits, interpersonal relationships, and income."

For those interested in registering for a 320 seminar for Spring 2008, now you know what you are registering for.

Stephen Garland

Your Article Here!