



NEWSLETTER #2 – WHO IN HONORS

Sorry for the delay in this newsletter. Ian was on vacation last week and is just getting back into the work habit!

Most of these e-mail newsletters will be coming from Ian, and most of you had a chance to meet him during New Student Orientation. But we're not an office of one! It takes a full complement of faculty, staff, and students to deliver all the honors content we've promised. So today's newsletter is meant to introduce to all those folk who help make the honors program into our inviting, welcoming, and enhancing honors community.

DR. JESSICA HUTCHINS

Interim Director, University Honors Program

Preferred Pronouns: she/her

Dr. Jessica Hutchins received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Washington University (2014) and her M.A. in Foreign Languages and Literatures from Southern Illinois University Carbondale (2008). Her scholarship and teaching explore the relationships between narrative, identity, and social justice in Caribbean and African American literature. She is interested in the ways that writers of African descent use literary aesthetics to both represent and assert identity in the wake of the transatlantic slave trade and European imperialism. |

Dr. Hutchins joined honors in the fall of 2021. Last year, her class topics included a class on identity, one proseminar that explored Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*, and another proseminar that explored the role that St. Louis has played in the emergent themes in American history: from its treatment of Native Americans to its role as in American slavery to its place in immigration.

In May, she was named the interim director of the University Honors Program. In her role, she is working on several long-term projects in honors, including anti-racism training for faculty, integrating wide-ranging social justice topics into all levels of the curriculum, and implementing the first-ever program assessment of honors.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR STUDENTS?

Choose a major (and career) that you are passionate about and that will improve life for other people. Take time to explore different fields of study and keep an open mind.

HONORS OFFICE
spotlight



Jessica Hutchins

DR. ZACHARY RIEBELING

Honors Instructor

Preferred Pronouns: he/him

Dr. Zachary Riebeling is an intellectual historian of Modern Europe. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 2019. He works on the philosophy and theory of history, particularly how they are shaped by ideas about trauma and waste. He has been teaching in the Honors Program since spring 2020, and has been a full-time honors instructor since fall 2021.

Last year, Dr. Riebeling's classes included a seminar on the meaning of history, a proseminar examining ideas on education, and a seminar on the theme of apocalypse that examined novels, films, visual art, and sacred scripture and music to explore how expectations of the end shape our understanding of the world.

This fall, he will be teaching Honors Rhetoric for first-year students. Dr. Riebeling will also be teaching a new class on fear and humor – a class proposed by a student during the HSA's "shark tank" class program. He will be the Service Coordinator for the program.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR STUDENTS?

"Get to know your instructors, visit their office hours, ask them questions, etc., this will make your honors experience more rewarding."

HONORS OFFICE
spotlight



DR. GREG JENNINGS

*Assistant Professor, School of Nursing
Honors 320B Instructor; Acting Chair, University Honors Advisory Council
Preferred Pronouns: he/him*

Dr. Jennings has worked at SIUE since 2017. He started as a student back in 2010. He is currently the coordinator of the Simulated Learning Center for Health Sciences, a nursing lab that simulates real human patient responses to a variety of nursing interventions. The lab allows students to learn, realize areas of improvement, and practice in a realistic, but safe environment.

This past winter, Dr. Jennings completed the doctorate of nurse practitioner (DNP) degree at SIUE, which is now his 4th degree received from SIUE. In addition to his nursing education work, Dr. Jennings continues to work as a nurse practitioner for a telehealth company out of Denver, Colorado. He has also worked in urgent and emergency care settings, and a family practice office.

Each year Dr. Jennings goes to a rural village in Guatemala to provide care for those who have no access to care. His friend and colleague Dr. Bernadette Sobczak has been traveling there with him since 2017. In addition to traveling there they realize more help was needed, and recruited Dr. Frank Lyerla to help set up monthly telehealth clinics focusing on helping children suffering with malnutrition.

Dr. Jennings teaches a junior/senior level course on world health for the Honors Program, along with teaching in the FNP/DNP program for the School of Nursing. He is also serving as the chair for the University Honors Advisory Council, a group of faculty, staff, and students who provide governance and oversight for all the classes, personnel, and activities of the honors program.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR STUDENTS?

"Keep an open mind! The courses in honors are going to be different than what you are used to... and that is the point."

HONORS OFFICE
spotlight



Greg Jennings

MAISY GARRISON

Honors Student Assistant

Preferred Pronouns: she/they/hers

Maisy is a sophomore pursuing a degree in Geography with minors in Geographic Information Systems and International Peace Studies. She has interests in environmental science, young adult literature, and painting.

Maisy works for the Honors Office as a student worker, including responding to student e-mails, managing the service reporting data, and helping plan and implement all the honors events. You might recognize her from the breakout rooms from Meridian Interview Day or from Ian's New Student Orientation appointments.

She served as Freshman Representative for the Honors Student Association (HSA) last year. She took the HONS 120/121 courses with Dr. Hinz and Dr. Henderson; her favorite part of the class was being encouraged to be creative.

WHY IS HONORS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

"It taught me thinking is more important than a letter grade."

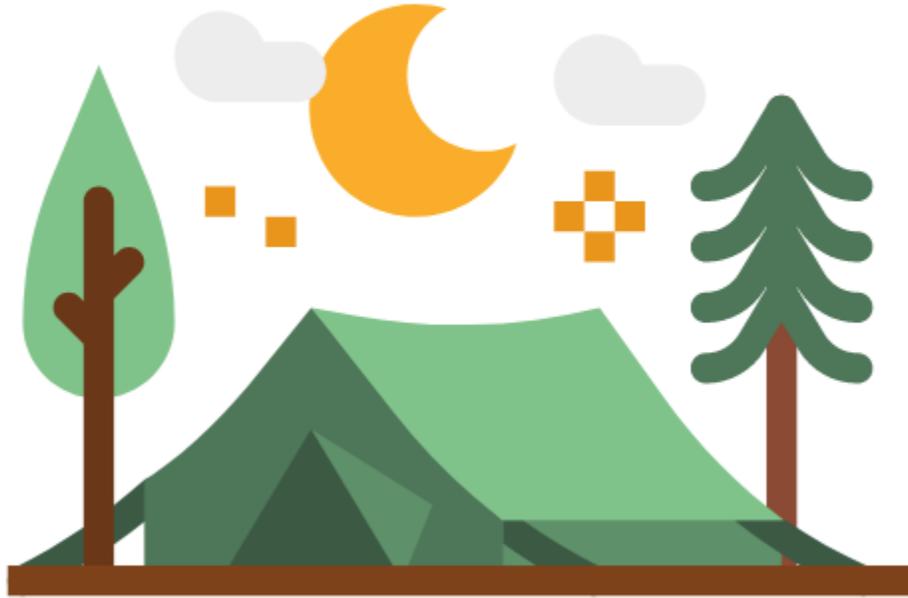
UPPERCLASS
spotlight



AND A LITTLE ABOUT IAN

- For those of you who have not visited the Honors Office, you'll notice that Ian has a LOT of chickens. He grew up on a chicken farm, which should at least partially explain why his office is so fowl.
- Ian has a Ginny Weasley wand in his office.
- Ian's musical tastes are eclectic, representing his school years of the 80s and college years of the 90s. But his true enjoyment – musicals.
- Oh and Christmas music. Just fair warning – the winter holiday season starts right after Halloween, and you'll notice his office and the Honors Office appropriately decked. You'll have to come and experience for yourself.

INFORMATION COMING SOON
HONORS 101*



AUGUST 17-18, 2022

*** CAMPING NOT REQUIRED!**