

BISHOP BRAINS

Honors Board Newsletter | December 2015

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Upcoming events

Dec 8: Brujas/Witches

6pm-8pm, Bayley Room

Honors Course SPAN 300.7 presents a poster exhibit on witchcraft and sorcery.

Dec 11: Honors Luncheon

Lunch hour, RSVP by Dec 7

Our annual luncheon for honors students and faculty

Honors Board Applications

due January 22

Join the Honors Board! Details on page 5.

As both finals week and winter break approach, we wish you all the best of luck and the happiest of holidays!

In this issue, learn about Amanda Barry's Honors research project, get to know Dr. Eastman, and find information on joining the Honors Program and applying to be on the Honors Board!

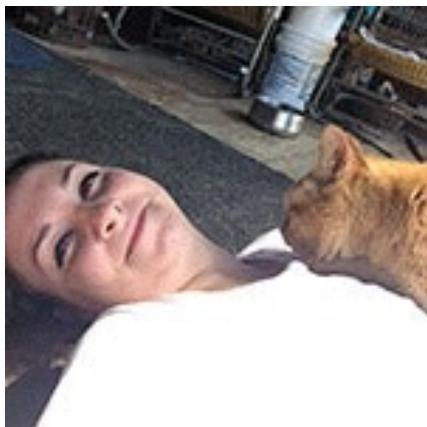
Be sure to check out our final event of the semester:

Honors Luncheon:

RSVP by December 7th to come and enjoy delicious (free) Italian food, tiramisu, and performances by Pitch Black and the JAYWalkers at noon on December 11th!

And don't forget to fill out the Honors Program survey (<https://docs.google.com/a/owu.edu/forms/d/1-9FVFX4bSZoVpWhcyMHy9GBclpcliAdtoxLvOi6PzJE/viewform>) to give us your feedback on events and programming you want to see or ideas you have—and possibly win a \$50 Visa card! The survey closes on December 7th.

Student Spotlight



Amanda Barry is a junior member of the Honors Board and a psychology and biology major. She is currently working towards graduation with University Honors. Below is a brief description of her project.

Amanda is currently working on a directed readings with Dr. Ambegaokar, a professor in the Botany and Microbiology Department, in preparation for their independent study work together next semester. The work will focus on the effect of curcumin which is found in turmeric, the yellow curry spice. Past research in mouse models has shown that curcumin has anti-inflammatory and antioxidant capabilities that have the potential to prevent and/or treat Alzheimer's Disease without harsh side effects. Dr. Ambegaokar and Amanda will investigate if dietary treatment of curcumin may improve or prevent neuronal death using a Drosophila (fruit fly) model of Alzheimer-associated neurodegeneration. If there is an effect, biochemical analyses will be performed to study the mechanism of action of curcumin in preventing neuronal damage.

Want to see your project featured in a future issue of Bishop Brains? Send an email with a brief description and a photo of yourself to honorsboard@owu.edu.

Interview with

Dr. Eastman



Dr. Eastman is an Associate Professor of Religion. He received his Ph.D from Yale University and teaches courses in New Testament, Christian history, and Western religions. The Honors Board's Jess Harpel interviewed him for this issue of Bishop Brains.

What are your favorite things about OWU's honors program as a faculty member?

My primary interaction with the honors program here has been through teaching honors courses. This is a great opportunity for faculty members to work with some of our best students, and I'm amazed that more faculty members don't take advantage of the opportunity. The level of honors courses is noticeably different from a general course, and a faculty member is able to do some more interesting and creative things. In addition, the honors program provides resources that have allowed me to bring guest speakers to campus, and I think this has really enriched the experience of the students.

Your class last semester did some pretty cool things (if I do say so myself). What gave you the idea for the class, what was your favorite part, are you considering continuing the class, etc.

For several years I have been thinking about developing a website to track the evidence for martyrdom and persecution in early Christianity. But honestly, I had no idea how or where to start, because I knew I could not do all the work on my own. Then I heard about an opportunity to apply for a grant through the Mellon Foundation. It was a natural fit, so it was quite easy to shape the course in a way that would also allow me to launch the website (mappingthemartyrs.org). In liberal

Interview with Dr. Eastman, continued

arts colleges there is often a lot of talk about incorporating undergraduates into research, but this can be very challenging in the humanities. Incorporating work on the site into the class allowed me to do this, and I think the students got a sense of satisfaction from knowing that they were making a real contribution and doing original research. I was very excited the night we launched the site, because the event allowed us to highlight the students and their good work.

What has been the most enjoyable part of being the professor for multiple honors courses?

The case for teaching honors class seems easy to make. It is a chance to work with some of our best students and to go deeper with the topics that are of greatest interest to us. The students encourage and push each other, so the faculty member does not always have to create all the momentum. Having the financial resources to bring in guest speakers is an added bonus. I still find it striking that people are not lined up to teach honors courses.

Any other additional comments, concerns, or advice to OWU honors students?

I know there is a desire among the students in the honors program to develop more programming and social activities. I think this is a great idea. Even at a smaller university like Ohio Wesleyan, it is still possible for students to feel isolated and disconnected from their peers. The honors program should be a place where students are encouraged, pushed academically, and enabled to build relationships that will make their time here more valuable and more enjoyable. I would love to see groups of honor students writing Theory to Practice Grants, for example. Imagine the possibilities!

Thanks to Dr. Eastman for taking the time to answer our questions!

Dr. Eastman will be teaching Religions of the West (REL 103) and History of Christian Thought (REL 331) in the spring semester. To learn more about his mapping project, see the Connect2OWU story here: <http://blogs.owu.edu/connect2/mapping-the-martyrs/>.

If there's a professor you'd like to see featured here next time, email
honorsboard@owu.edu!



How to Join The Honors Program

Joining the Honors Program is simple and allows you to take advantage of all the opportunities the program has to offer including Honors Courses and Tutorials and participation in the events the Honors Board hosts.

If you have an OWU GPA of 3.5 or higher, email Dr. McClure at ammccclur@owu.edu with your full name and a copy of your unofficial transcript. Dr. McClure will review your application and add you to the Honors Program.

How to Join The Honors Board

The Honors Board serves as a liaison between the Honors faculty and the students in the Honors Program, and plans events for Honors students to participate in throughout the year. Applications to join the Honors Board can be found at <https://docs.google.com/a/owu.edu/forms/d/1tKObaL-lzSZ8V6eIzejnhWcduJkGpQEZRZogyduto/viewform> and will also be sent out via email at the end of this semester.

Fill out the Honors Board Application by January 22 and come to an interview.

This year's open positions: two juniors to act as rotating members; two sophomores to act as rotating members; two first year students to act as rotating members; two first year students to act as permanent members.

Rotating members have a position for one year from the start of their term. Permanent members have a position until they graduate.

We hope to receive your application soon!

