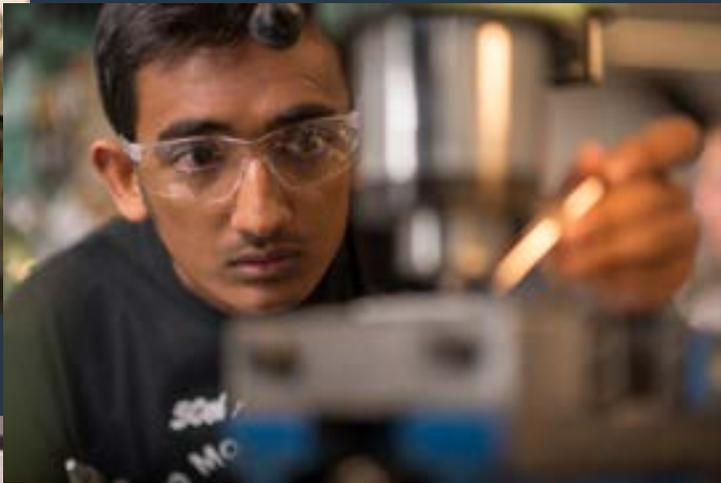
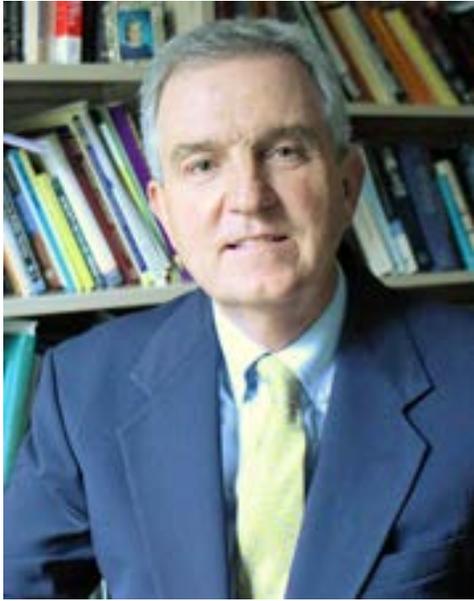


University Honors Program Annual Report 2015-2016



University of New Hampshire

Message from the Faculty Director



The University Honors Program at UNH seeks to integrate the strengths of a small liberal arts college with those of a major state research university. Our students participate in small discussion-based courses that enable them to get to know their professors and fellow honors students. Because of this personal connection, our students often go on to collaborate with these same professors and high-achieving students on research projects in fields of their interest. The result is that our students typically graduate with significant research experience in their chosen majors and a life-long network of mentors and colleagues.

This annual report highlights some of the accomplishments and events that took place in the University Honors Program during the past academic year. Significant progress was made regarding goals set for 2015-2016. Major accomplishments included:

- The Faculty Senate supported moving forward with a feasibility study for an Honors Center addition to Hubbard Hall, an addition that would create an Honors residential learning community while adding 50 much needed dorm beds for the university. The proposed Honors facility at Hubbard Hall with administrative offices, a seminar room, study lounge, and residential living reflects best practice in national collegiate honors education.
- Development of three new Honors Symposia involving 12 courses and faculty members. Two of these symposia have been successfully delivered. The third is scheduled for the Spring of 2017.
- Completion of operational procedures and criteria for an “Interdisciplinary Honors Option” for UHP juniors and seniors. This is an alternative to the traditional Honors in Major requirements and will emphasize involvement in selected high impact learning opportunities at UNH (including the Hamel Center for Undergraduate Research, the National Fellowships Office, the Carsey Social Innovation Internship, Semester in the City, and Study Abroad.)

With best wishes for the new academic year,

Jerry D. Marx, Ph.D.

Honor Roll

We wish to thank the following alumni, parents, students, and friends who generously contributed to the University Honors Program in the past year. Donations of all amounts help us to provide enhanced opportunities for UNH Honors students.

Geoffrey Cardner
Marie Garland
Jill Gerber
Jennifer Latham

Nancy Lowenberg
Allen McCormac
Elizabeth Milicia
Susan Nichols

Catherine Otis
Stanton Otis
Michelle Smallwood
Nicole Wallace

To make a donation, please visit unh.edu/give and select Honors Program.

The University Honors Program

at the University of New Hampshire

The University Honors Program began with 200 students in 1984. It now boasts over 2500 graduates, with over 900 current students. Members of the program come from departments across the university, with majors from art to engineering to business to nursing.

The University Honors Program recruits top students from New Hampshire and beyond, helping to ensure that UNH has a world-class undergraduate program. Honors students and alumni are some of UNH's best spokespeople, showing the community and the world the top-notch opportunities UNH has to offer.

Intellectual community is a core value of the University Honors Program. Students and faculty alike appreciate the small, engaging courses that make up the Honors Program curriculum. Honors students know their faculty especially well, and can work closely with them over an extended period of time.

Freshmen and Sophomores complete an enhanced version of the University's Discovery Program, the set of course requirements that ensures a broad foundation of academic knowledge for students in all majors. Honors Discovery courses are intimate, highly participatory, and often engage multiple disciplines. They are designed for students who embrace academic challenges and support one another's intellectual and personal growth.

In the Junior and Senior years, students choose more specialized curricula as they focus on their chosen fields. The Honors in Major program entails

individualized work in selected classes, which students work with their professors to design.

The Interdisciplinary Honors option, introduced in 2016, encourages students to pursue high-impact experiences, such as study abroad and research fellowships. All University Honors options culminate with the Honors Thesis, an extended research project conducted under the supervision of a faculty advisor.

Challenging academic courses are the core of the University Honors Program, but members also enjoy social events, cultural opportunities, and service projects sponsored by the UHP and its affiliated student groups, as well as special access to advising. The Student Honors Council offers leadership opportunities and a means for students to contribute to Honors programming.

Honors students are encouraged to pursue opportunities both within and beyond UNH. An Honors Exchange with University College Utrecht in the Netherlands offers Honors-level education in the heart of Europe.

The Honors Program helps students prepare for post-college life, steering UNH's best students toward local, national, and global opportunities. These include international fellowships like Fulbrights, Marshalls, Trumans, and Rhodes; graduate programs in medicine, law, and the arts and sciences; and employment in a wide variety of fields. Its graduates form a network that spans the professions and the globe, bringing the best of UNH to New Hampshire and the world.

Our Mission

The University Honors Program embraces the values of **Discovery, Engagement, and Community** that are articulated in the Academic Plan of the University.

We affirm our commitment to provide academically ambitious, motivated, and able students with a coherent, challenging academic experience and a strong sense of **intellectual community**.

We seek students who actively commit to those ideals: they strive for excellence; they embrace intellectual life with energy and a **sense of adventure**; and they share the desire to pursue their academic work in diverse venues, communities, and contexts.

Essential to our effort is a community characterized by **active cultural exchange**, one that values a range of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives.

We seek to create a community that is **broadly representative** with regards to race, ethnicity, gender, economic background, first-generation college students, geographical region, specific talents, and all those qualities that make people unique and valuable in a **community of learners**.

Hamel Scholars Program



Endowed in 2007 by a generous gift from philanthropist Dana Hamel and his family, the Hamel Scholars Program supports students with exceptional records of academic achievement, leadership, and service, helping to create the next generation of citizen leaders. Each year, a cohort of entering Honors students is inducted into the Hamel Scholars Program; their time at UNH is shaped by leadership training, service experiences, and the opportunity to connect with a group of outstanding students. In addition to the students who join the program as Freshmen, a small group of Juniors is selected to receive Hamel Scholarships on the basis of their achievements at UNH.

Thanks to an additional donation of \$10 million dollars from the Hamel family in 2014, we were able to welcome a record 20 first-year Hamel Scholars in the 2015-2016 year. These students arrived at the University from cities and towns across New Hampshire and brought with them to the Scholars program a high level of energy, dedication, and commitment.

In the past year, the Hamel Scholars:

- Engaged in leadership and teambuilding training with facilitators from the Browne Center
- Discussed the NH Primary with Professor Dante Scala
- Toured the State House with Senator and University advocate Lou D'Allesandro
- Volunteered at the food pantry at the Waysmeet Center, at special events at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire, and with other community nonprofits
- Collaborated on a day of service with honors students from the University of Southern Maine at Partners for World Health
- Participated in the Buckthorn Blitz, clearing College Woods of invasive buckthorn plants



What's New in the University Honors Program

A Fresh Honors Curriculum for 2016

Students entering the Honors Program this fall are encountering an exciting new curriculum. While the core of the program remains consistent—students will continue to take small, intensive, discussion-based Discovery courses, and work with faculty and staff to design individualized curricula as upperclassmen—new elements of the program will enhance opportunities to build intellectual communities across the colleges, and help students take advantage of the many high-impact experiences offered by UNH.

Honors Symposia

All Honors students will take part in at least one Honors Symposium. These are thematically organized “supercourses,” in which small seminars join together for discussion and shared experiences. The structure continues to emphasize the intimate courses prized by Honors students while creating opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and an expanded Honors community.

Reckoning with Race and Justice

Recent events have brought to the fore the troubling relationship between the ideals of justice and the realities of racial prejudice and entrenched segregation. These courses engage with the difficult question of racial justice on individual, national, and global levels.

Reinventing Healthy Communities

Health is a crucial issue to all of us, on levels from the individual to the global. This symposium brings together four of UNH’s dynamic researchers and teachers to explore the connections between health, place, and society.

Being Human

This Symposium introduces students to interdisciplinary explorations of a central question of human existence: who are we? The course explores past, present, and future ideas about personhood and definitions of what it means to be human in all its complexity, from four different disciplinary perspectives (neuroscience; history; philosophy; and humanities).

Interdisciplinary Honors

Honors students will now have an alternative way to complete University Honors once their Discovery requirements are fulfilled. They may choose to pursue Honors in Major (the traditional option), or they may decide upon Interdisciplinary Honors. The new option seeks to recognize students who seek academic experiences that extend beyond their course curricula.

To earn Interdisciplinary Honors, students must complete three approved high-impact experiences, in addition to a thesis. Among these, at least one experience must be interdisciplinary, bridging two or more fields of study. Approved experiences include:

- Study abroad in a UNH-managed, exchange, or approved program
- Completing the application process for a major national fellowship
- An IROP, SURF, or other approved research experience
- Named co-authorship on a publication in a peer-reviewed journal
- A presentation at a regional or national academic conference
- An IMPACT project (interdisciplinary, faculty-led efforts to solve community problems)
- A Social Innovation Summer Internship
- Study away at the Washington Center or Semester in the City

ThinkerSpace: Crafting Your Life In collaboration with the Office of National Fellowships, the Honors Program is piloting a new series of workshops to help Freshmen reflect upon their goals and make decisions about their college experience. Interactive sessions will address life paths, ambitions, and overcoming obstacles, and offer students concrete ways to find their best paths through UNH and beyond.

Awards and Prizes

The second annual Honors Alumni Award was presented to **Casey Otis '97** at a reception for graduating Seniors in May. Otis is the Director of Custom Programs in Harvard Business School's Executive Education department. Otis spoke to students about her decision to attend UNH, her political science major, and her career journey. Otis previously worked for Harvard's Kennedy School, where she helped to build the Gleitsman Program in Leadership for Social Change. She has also been an education policy analyst and the chief of staff for Massachusetts's Department of Early Education and Care; a donor steward at MIT; and a grassroots organizer for the National Safety Council. Otis holds an MBA from Boston College and an Ed.M. from Harvard Graduate School of Education. She has long supported the Honors Program through payroll donations and by volunteering as an alumni mentor.



Casey Otis '97

2015-16 was a banner year for Honors students who competed for national fellowships. **Ian MacKay, Tien Dang, and Paige Balcom** will be traveling and studying abroad under the prestigious Fulbright program. **Cody FitzGerald** opted to forgo a Fulbright to accept a graduate fellowship. **Balcom** was also awarded three years of funding from the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program, and will be studying at UC Berkeley when she returns from her Fulbright experience in Uganda. **Madison Wood** spent three weeks of the summer with the UK Fulbright Summer Institute. **Crystal Napoli** and **Eden Suoth** spent their summers in China and Indonesia, respectively, funded by Critical Language Scholarships. Gilman International Scholarships are funding study abroad experiences for **Patrick Sullivan** and **Shannon McGrath**, while **Katherine Rocci's** experience will be supported by an Education New Zealand Travel Award. **Mitchell Juneau's** summer lab experience at the Idaho National Lab was sponsored by the Department of Energy. **Kyle Reisert, Lillian Stewart, and Jordan Bates** earned SMART fellowships from the National Defense Education Program, which provide full tuition plus annual stipends, research internships, and Defense Department job placements.



Fulbright finalists (from left) Ian MacKay, Tess Renker, Gregg Orifici (Center for International Education), Tien Dang, Cody FitzGerald, Paige Balcom

The University Honors Program distributed a total of \$79,000 to 44 continuing students this spring. The largest award, a Bill and Becky McGee Scholarship of \$5000, went to **Mariah Arral**, a sophomore in the Chemical Engineering program, in recognition of her work in a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) field. Arral has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA while working three jobs to support her education. She also volunteers as a tutor for students in higher-level math classes. "As a student who understands what it is like to struggle financially, I understand that paying for a tutor can be difficult. I feel as though money should not be an obstacle for people who want to work to succeed. I have the knowledge and skills to help students who need help, and I feel as though it is my duty to help those who need it if I can," she says.



Mariah Arral

UHP Assistant Director **Kate Gaudet** won an Enduring Questions grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop a new Inquiry Seminar for the Honors Program. The course, "What Is a Criminal?", is being offered for the first time in Fall 2016. The NEH award, one of 26 Enduring Questions Pilot Course Grants nationwide, will be used to support real-world engagement experiences that help Honors students connect their academic learning with the workings of the criminal justice system on the community where they live and study.

59

Honors Discovery courses



An Honors trip to Boston's Museum of Fine Arts in August 2015

324

New UHP Freshmen



Students gathered to enjoy pizza and each other's company at the Freshman Welcome Party

SNAPSHOTS 2015-2016



Alison Jeffrey '17 and Katie Slebodnik '17 led members of the Peer Mentor program in a series of service opportunities

1985

Average combined SAT, incoming UHP freshmen



Events throughout the year help Honors students form a cohesive community

960

Total UHP enrollment



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