From the Dean

Taking over for Dr. Robert Spurrier as the Dean of the Honors College at Oklahoma State University is a great honor. Nationally, the Honors College at Oklahoma State is recognized as one of the strongest in the country. The annual report recently published by the college, which documents the progress made during Dr. Spurrier’s final year as director, shows the strength of the college with the highest number of honors degrees ever earned at OSU.

I am looking forward to the challenges associated with taking The Honors College at Oklahoma State forward. The challenge is to provide an exciting intellectual program for the increasing number of outstanding students who are attending Oklahoma State University and joining The Honors College, while at the same time developing co-curricular programs that increase the individual support that the students received from The Honors College both in and outside the classroom. A good honors education goes beyond the traditional classroom, with experiences both on- and off-campus that challenge and motivate the students.

Over the next months and years, we will be developing programs that enhance the living-learning community associated with the Honors College. We also wish to expand the number of students who have study abroad experiences and increase those who take part in experiential learning either by working with professors in cutting-edge research or through internships in government and industry. We want students who graduate from the Honors College at Oklahoma State University to be both deeply educated in their discipline and broadly educated across disciplines, so as they move into their future they have the skills to be the leaders of their professions, their states, and the nation.

Keith Garbutt Ph.D.
Dean, The Honors College
Professor of Botany

IN THIS ISSUE OF “WITH HONORS”...

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Assistant Director Named NCHC Fellow

Oklahoma State University Honors College Assistant Director Jessica K. Roark has been named a Fellow of the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC). Roark was formally recognized as a Fellow during the most recent NCHC conference, held November 5-9, 2014, in Denver, Colorado.

According to the NCHC, the Fellows program was established in 2010 as a way to recognize those who have provided distinguished service to honors education. Selection as an NCHC Fellow is based on a specific set of criteria, including scholarly activities relating to honors education; NCHC, regional and/or state honors organization leadership; and demonstrated record of sustained commitment to honors education. Roark joins 47 other honors professionals, including Honors College Director Emeritus Dr. Robert Spurrier, who have been named a Fellow; she is also the youngest person ever to earn this honor.

Roark joined The Honors College staff in 2004, becoming Assistant Director in 2007. She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English, and a Master of Arts Degree in English with a specialization in Literature, all from Oklahoma State University. She is an active member of the National Collegiate Honors Council, having served as co-chair of the Honors Advising Committee, as co-chair of "Developing in Honors," a workshop for honors administrators, faculty, and professional staff at the national conference, and as a member of the 2014 and 2015 Conference Planning Committees. She is also a professional member of NACADA, the Global Community for Academic Advising. In 2010, Roark was approved by the NCHC Board of Directors as one of NCHC's Program Reviewers, a group of honors professionals who serve as external reviewers of other institutions' honors programs and honors colleges. She is also a Past President and Vice President of the Great Plains Honors Council, one of the regional divisions of NCHC.
Honors In...

The Honors College has been in the news recently! Check out the links below to read up on what the program has been up to recently:

OSU Honors College Sets Enrollment Record, Welcome First Dean (Jackson Hodges, Oklahoma State University Communications department - published October 23, 2014)

Oklahoma State University’s New Honors College Dean Seeks Diverse Student Group (Kathryn McNutt, Higher Education Reporter, The Oklahoman – published October 27, 2014)

Honors College Assistant Director Jessica Roark reads a passage from banned book A Light in the Attic (O-State TV)

Honors College Dean Keith Garbutt reads a passage from banned book Slaughterhouse Five (O-State TV)

Congratulations to these 16 Honors College seniors who were recently named 2014-2015 Seniors of Significance:

Cynthia Bejar, Mustang, Okla., Applied Sociology
Kayla Castleberry, Bartlesville, Okla., Nutritional Sciences
Caitlyn Cloud, Hominy, Okla., Communication Sciences and Disorders
Joshua Joe Conaway, Ringwood, Okla., Agribusiness
Lauren Foley, Tulsa, Okla., Zoology and Biological Sciences
Brandon Hubbard, Kingfisher, Okla., Physiology and Psychology
Amber Livingston, Chicago, Ill., Marketing and Management
Aubrey Mackey, Coleman, Okla., Communication Sciences and Disorders
Kathleen Nelson, Oklahoma City, Okla., Mechanical Engineering
Nadir Nibras, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Mechanical Engineering
Jonathan C. Overton, Yukon, Okla., Biosystems Engineering
Cat D. Rockholt, Charleston, S.C., Business Management
Chacey Schoeppe, Fairview, Okla., Agribusiness
Harrison Schroeder, Shawnee, Kan., Mathematics and Spanish
Peter Storm, Stillwater, Okla., Biosystems Engineering
Philip White, Edmond, Okla., Mechanical Engineering

...the News
Honors College Student Snapshots

Andi Powers completed a summer program in musical theatre at prestigious Fordham University in New York City.

Heather Hoffmann served as an intern at Bald Head Island Conservancy in North Carolina, where she spent the summer rehabilitating sea turtles.

Maeghan Muri served as Miss American Indian OSU 2013-2014.

Brett Humphrey studied abroad in Greece with the Spears School of Business.

Amber Livingston served as a Marketing and Special Events Intern with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Harrison Schroeder joined OSU Scholars Abroad in Oman and Dubai.
Kelly McCann served as an intern at a National Wildlife Refuge in Liberty, Texas, where she collected data during night hikes.

Kelsey Stratton spent a summer traveling around the country running Christian, mission-based home repair camps.

Marli Claytor studied abroad in Paris.

Zoe Cooper spent a summer banding birds in the Peruvian Amazon.
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WITH HONORS

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Ebonie Hill-Williamson

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To join our Alumni Contact List, please fill out our contact form. We would love to hear from you and receive updates on what you have been doing since graduation!