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This past year, the Honors College at MU witnessed tremendous growth and development, thanks to the hard work and talent of our students, staff and faculty.

At our annual Spring Awards Ceremony and Reception on April 4, 2014, we distributed a record number of scholarships, including the new sophomore and junior scholarships. We welcomed our newest Brazeal scholar Emma Worgul, an Accounting major from Leawood, KS and presented Dr. Loren Nikolai, Professor Emeritus of Accounting, with our award for “Most Outstanding Faculty Member.” We also inaugurated a campus-wide “Distinguished Senior” award, for which we invited each college on campus to select its most outstanding graduating senior.

Several students in the college also distinguished themselves as recipients of, or finalists for, Fulbright, Boren, Goldwater and other nationally/internationally competitive fellowships. And many of this year’s graduating seniors went on to jobs in such companies or organizations such as The Orlando Sentinel, Goldman Sachs, MLB (yes, the Major League Baseball association!) and NASA.

This year also marked our second largest enrollment of incoming honors students: 801 altogether, most of whom were officially inducted into the Honors College at our annual Induction Ceremony on August 23 at the historic Missouri Theatre. The Honors College also welcomed our inaugural class of Show-Me-Scholars, a group of high school students from Missouri who were recruited by the College because they have earned an ACT score of 33 or higher. Thirty-one students now number in this program. MU also enjoyed its largest enrollment of high-achieving high school students, with a record number of 1,096 of 6,515 students earning an ACT score of 30 or higher.

The College also experienced some exciting changes this year. The most exciting news is that we’re now administering the Missouri Scholars Program (MSA), a summer program that hosts roughly 300 of the state’s most outstanding high school juniors for three weeks of stimulating courses, lectures, and workshops. Steve Keller, one of the College’s associate directors, has recently been appointed MSA’s new director, superseding longtime director, Ted Tarkow. In June, Kristina Bradley came on board as one of our general advisors while Dr. Gregory Triplett, former associate director, returned full-time to Electrical Engineering.

Honors administrators continue to advance the college and university’s national and international profile, too. Senior Associate Director Heidi Appel became something of a celebrity this year when her research on plants was cited in The New York Times and The New Yorker. In November 2013, I gave the keynote talk at an international conference on photography and remembrance in Margate, England. I also published an article last January in The Chronicle called “What’s the Point of an Honors College, Anyway?” Steve Keller also gave talks at MU’s annual Celebration of Teaching” in May 2014 and the 248th ACS National Meeting & Exposition August 10-14, 2014. In addition, Kristina Wright and Susan Geisert delivered presentations on pre-health advising at the NAAHP National Conference in San Fransisco in June 2014.

Change came to our university as well this year. In February, we welcomed Bowen Loftin as MU’s new chancellor. In less than a year, Chancellor Loftin has distinguished himself as a true fan and champion of undergraduate students. One proof of this is the lovely reception he hosted for our Show-Me-Scholars on September 6. As you can see from the photo on page 13, the students were thrilled to meet him (and he seemed pretty pleased, too!).

These are just some of the many highlights in honors this year. I hope you enjoy reading about all our accomplishments in the pages ahead.

Nancy M. West
Fall 2014 Student Data

Students by the Numbers

- Total Honors Students: 3176
- Incoming Honors Students: 801
- First Generation Honors Students: 506
- Minority Honors Students: 441
- Male Honors Students: 1264
- Female Honors Students: 1912
- Athlete Honors Students: 31

Students by Academic Division

| College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources | 230 |
| Arts and Sciences                                     | 902 |
| Business                                              | 357 |
| Education                                             | 84  |
| Engineering                                           | 486 |
| Human Enviornmental Sciences                          | 56  |
| SPU                                                   | 180 |
| Journalism                                           | 699 |
| Natural Resources                                     | 42  |
| Nuclear Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound                 | 3   |
| Nursing                                               | 128 |
| Social Work                                           | 8   |

Ethnic Breakdown

- American Indian: 0.2%
- Asian: 3.3%
- Asian (Other): 0.8%
- African American: 2.6%
- Hispanic/Latino: 3.6%
- Multiple Race/Ethnicity: 3.1%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0%
- Non Res International: 1.3%
- Not Specified: 0.6%
- White: 84.5%

Graduation Data, 2013-2014

Graduating Seniors (December 2013 and May 2014): 264
Seniors Graduating with University Honors: 68*

*Math students earn University Honors by completing both an Honors Certificate and Departmental Honors from a list of approved departments, which require a senior thesis or similar project.

Infographics created by Carole Trickey
Honors Student Awards & Fellowships

**Campus**

*Omicron Delta Kappa*
- Philip Bergman (Broadcast Journalism)
- Emily Blocker (Nursing)
- Meghan Boggess (Journalism: International Reporting)
- Nathaniel Duker (Management)
- Kacie Fingerhut (Biology)
- Daniel Forman (History, Economics)
- Kristina Freund (Biology, Psychology)
- Kyle Holtzman (Marketing)
- Amanda leBrot (Broadcast Journalism)
- Elizabeth McClure (Nursing)
- Bryndon Minter (Strategic Communications)
- Laurel Myers (Performance, Pre-Vet)
- Jamie Ras (Strategic Communications)
- Lauren Rundquist (Strategic Communications)
- Allison Schnitker (Strategic Communications)
- Lisa Weeda (Biological Engineering)

*QEBH*
- Charles Gutierrez (Accounting)
- Hannah Satterlee (Accounting)
- John Stahl (Political Science)

*LSV*
- Kelsey Saragnese (Women’s and Gender Studies)
- Farah El-Jayyousi (Psychology)
- Alison Schwartz (Biochemistry, English)

**Mortar Board**
- Catherine Bridges (Chemistry)
- Julia Bush (Journalism)
- Lauren Callin (Health Sciences)
- Cara Hartwig (Finance and Banking)
- Drew Hensel (Biology)
- Charles Koors (Hospitality Management)
- Adee Levinstein (Medical Dietetics)
- Michael Loida (Nutrition)
- Anthony Marcozzi (Mathematics/Statistics/Economics)
- Laura Roider (Biology)
- Lisette Rossman (Journalism/German)
- Sam Rourke (Economics/Finance)
- Brock Scoville (Biology)
- Marina Steinhauer (Nursing)
- Katie Youmans (Chemistry/Biology)

**National and International**

*Boren Scholarship*: Oleksandra (Sasha) Gubina and Ida Sophie Winter (selected)

*Critical Language Scholarships*: Edward Grattan, Peter Thommesen, Nicholas Yeisley (selected); Ida Sophie Winter (alternate)

*Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships*: Laura Willenbring (selected); Kelly Johnson (finalist)

*Fulbright Study/Research Grants*: Peter Thommesen (selected); Laura Satkowski (alternate); Shakked Halperin and Claire Spradling (finalists)

*Fulbright US-UK Summer Institutes*: Samantha Franks and Kiersten Kuc (selected)

*Gates Cambridge Scholarship*: Shakked Halperin (selected)

*Goldwater Scholarships*: Pari Jafari (honorable mention)

*NSF Graduate Research Fellowships*: Shakked Halperin, Wilson McNeary, Alison Ross, Megan Schroeder, Sarah Swartz, Sital Uprety (selected)

*Udall Scholarship*: Molly Jo Leach (honorable mention)

*Mystical 7*
- Samantha Tellatin (Biological Engineering)
Honors College students have accepted jobs or internships from locations including:

- *The Orlando Sentinel*
- KCPT
- NASA
- Goldman Sachs
- Al-Jazeera
- *The Nation*
- Major League Baseball Association
- “All You Magazine”
- The Daily Progress

Acceptances to medical schools in the past two years have included:

- Baylor College of Medicine
- Georgetown
- Loma Linda University School of Medicine
- Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
- Uniformed Services
- University of California, Irvine
- University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine
- University of North Carolina
- Vanderbilt University
- Yale University School of Medicine
The Honors Curriculum

Overview

Honors courses, offered either through individual departments or the Honors College (designated as General Honors), provide MU professors with the opportunity to teach the university’s top undergraduate students in an intimate seminar setting. Overall, 236 different courses were offered through the Honors College. This year these courses set the stage for additional mentoring and teaching possibilities, including honors research and theses.

Our aspiration for an honors curriculum is to have it embody the ideals of higher education. We promote all that constitutes great teaching and learning, from quality mentoring to a spirit of innovation. We do so in partnership with the other colleges that serve MU’s undergraduates, by capitalizing on their best practices and pioneering new pedagogical approaches. Our curriculum also upholds the traditional value of a liberal arts education, which seeks to broaden the mind by developing and nurturing intellectual curiosity in many subjects. At the Honors College, this emphasis gains particular expression in our focus on interdisciplinary teaching and learning. Since our college seeks to bring faculty from different disciplines together, team-teaching is welcome.

This interest in an interdisciplinary education complements our emphasis on providing ample opportunities for honors students in their specialized areas. We seek to enhance honors students’ professional training by offering courses in their fields as well as opportunities for earning honors credit through research, internships, graduate level courses, and honors learning-by-contract. Many departments on campus have their own honors program, which allows students to pursue honors in their major by enrolling in an honors capstone course and completing original research in the form of a senior thesis or project; these courses count toward our honors certificate as well. Lastly, honors courses should create an atmosphere of intellectualism, which we define simply as the love of learning, contemplation, and analysis. Students should be encouraged to think deeply about the subjects covered in the course and be given ample opportunity to express their thoughts in discussions and writing assignments.

To provide deep intellectual stimulation for our honors students while meeting their academic needs, we’ve made great strides this year in expanding our curriculum. We’re particularly excited about the lineup of one-credit courses we developed this year. Meeting once a week and requiring less written work than regular courses, these one-credit courses are designed to encourage students to learn about a subject simply for the pleasure of it. Thus, we sought out courses that we knew would have broad appeal. Among those offered this past year were “Superheroes and the Comic Book,” “The Fall TV Lineup,” “Lasers,” “Decoding Science” and “The Poetry of Baseball.”

We also dramatically expanded our honors tutorial program. Based on the tutorial method of teaching made famous by Oxford University, the idea is to pair two-five top students with a faculty member. Once a week, the faculty member and the students meet in the faculty member’s office or elsewhere to discuss a specific topic, problem or work. We offered a total of 20 tutorials this past year on such subjects as Beethoven, the Spanish Civil War, evolution and the Vikings.

Overall Comments

Comments based on the Honors College’s curriculum were very positive overall. Students found that classes that were team-taught were well-balanced and provided different personal insight into the class topics. Professors were also praised for their enthusiasm, drive, creatively challenging students and ability to lead interesting small-group discussions.
The Interdisciplinary Series

The core of the Honors Curriculum is its four Interdisciplinary Series, which cover the Humanities, Behavioral and Social Sciences, and the Sciences. Each series underwent substantial changes and improvements over the past year.

Humanities Series

In January 2014, we launched a new 3000-level humanities series called “Interdisciplinary Topics in the Humanities” (GnHon 3111H-3114H). The first course offered in this series, called “Thinking about Color,” was co-taught by Nancy West, Jim van Dyke (Art History) and Carsten Strathausen (English). The course enrolled 48 students (out of a 60 student cap); evaluations averaged 4.7 for course; 4.8 for instructors. All three instructors plan to teach the course again in Spring 2016. Coordinated by Dr. Rachel Harper, our 2000-level humanities series continues to flourish. This past year, we welcomed several new faculty to the series including Gabe Fried (English) and Maya Gibson (Music).

Science Series

The Science Series, formally the Warm Little Pond and Warm Little Planet, was revamped this year as “Environment: From Molecules to the Cosmos” (GnHon 2461H) and “Energy: From particles to civilizations” (GnHon 2462H). Revisions included enhanced interdisciplinarity (by increasing the connections among the scientific disciplines covered), use of group learning models for some lectures (such as Science Studios), several new lab investigations and demonstrations and discussions of the nature of science. The Environment course, taught by Sarah Humfeld and Heidi Appel, was well received by students. The Energy course, taught by Steve Keller and Sarah Humfeld, was also a success from all indications.

Behavioral & Social Sciences Series

This year, the titles and descriptions of the four courses under this series were changed to read as follows: Personal Identity (Gn Hon 2243H), Social Relations (Gn Hon 2244H), Social Organizations (Gn Hon 2245H) and Global Citizenship (Gn Hon 2246H). New faculty members were also recruited to teach in the series. They include Candace Korasick (Sociology), Leah Rosenberg (Communications), Ilyana Karthas (History), Karthik Panchanathan (Anthropology) and Soren Larson (Geography). Karthik Panchanathan and Soren Larson will be offering their courses in a new 3000-level series to be launched in Fall 2014.

The Curriculum Committee

This year, the Honors College also established a new “Curriculum Committee” (composed of honors faculty, students and staff members) whose charge is to review and approve new courses as well as establish new policies and plan for our curriculum. One of their charges this year was to establish a new plan for earning an Honors College certificate, which will be launched in Fall 2016.
Student Comments for Individual Classes

Fall 2014

GH 1030H, Callway – “Men, Women, Myths and Movies”
• We read a lot of works that I would not have stumbled across without being in the Honors College.
• She was very enthusiastic and well informed about the class.
• Lots of deep thinking about how the course applies to today.
• It was a very creatively driven course.
• Very interesting, made me think and allowed me to do so in a creative way.
• She was incredibly enthusiastic and passionate about the topic, which made it more fun to learn.
• I love her! So sweet and knowledgeable, always makes me happy to go to class.

GH 2010H, Zguta – “Ukraine”
• It was a very take-out-as-much-as-you-put-in type of course. Without any real coursework, it was a bit challenging, but discussions with Prof Zguta after classes was very stimulating.
• Prof Zguta is arguably the most knowledgeable person on campus about this topic.
• I was able to think of statehood in a more holistic way.
• Considering current events, this course was good for staying up to date in that regard.
• I thought this course would be more of a discussion, but it ended up more of a sit down lecture.
• I wasn’t sure what to expect out of this tutorial course. It was easier than anticipated but still challenged my thinking.

GH 1050H, Whistance/Westoff – “Agricultural Leadership and Public Policy”
• It was a privilege to be in this class. The things I learned and the people I met were awesome.
• The speakers were great.
• Jarrett and Pat are very connected and well advertised.

GH 1030H, Okker – “Writing About Running”
• Unlike any other I have had. SO wonderful.
• Truly extraordinary!
• I was able to look at my writing from a different angle.

GH 1030H, Keller – “Science Wars”
• Increases the knowledge on popularly debated arguments in a discussion manner. The easiest way to comprehend and fun way to learn.
• Very enthusiastic and willing to monitor discussion and guide it towards the overall concept.
• Got me to think in a global manner in terms of benefits and ethics.
• Improved debating and discussion skills.
• Had to come up with a side and support based off current research.
Spring 2014

GH1070H, Appel – “Decoding Science”
• Dr. Appel was great. Very enthusiastic about the course.
• Had great experiences analyzing science journalism
• Great teamwork and group effort in this class.
• Great, fun, and informative
• Both funny and well-informed
• Forensics project was informative and entertaining
• The content of the course stimulated good conversation and made us work with differing opinions.
• Try to recruit more journalists to better balance the class
• I knew about some of these topics but now they each have a name that goes with it

GH1030H, Duncan – “Sacrilegious/ Snack-religious”
• Creative with journal posts
• Very great course. Learned about different cultures and connections with food. Many topics I did not have any knowledge of. It was great to learn something new and not just recite things from book.
• Great instructor really helps us think outside the box and discuss things we never really thought of.
• I learned how to communicate my ideas in a group that I had never been in before
• By building on one another’s ideas, we grew to large thoughtful conclusions

GH 2010H, Kraxberger – “Emerging Media: The Intersection of Tech Trends and Journalism”
• It exceeded my expectations of an honors course. The most important experience I’ve had through the honors college
• Dr. Kraxberger is a wonderful and inspirational professor and has had a very positive impact on me
• I have further sharpened my analysis of the media, technology, and how the two are interacting to change the news industry
• Having such a small group was a treat because it gave us the ability to have very focused, more intense discussions and work together to explore topics at hand.
• Be experimenting with various journalism tools/methods and even writing a program proposal, I have learned more ways to channel my creativity
• My thinking was challenged through course discussions and activities, and allowed me to explore a field I am very passionate about.
• Kraxberger is one of the best professors I’ve ever had. She’s enthusiastic and empowering. My entire semester has been bettered by taking this course
• I was consistently challenged to think about solutions to problems in the journalism world and to critically think about journalism tools
• I can better articulate my thoughts on these topics
• I feel enabled to work with journalism faculty and students in the future
• I was allowed to complete assignments using a platform I selected. This allowed me to think creatively about journalism and technology and present my thoughts in a creative way.
Study Abroad

This year, thanks largely to the efforts of Associate Director Monika Fischer and several staff members at the International Center, honors opportunities for international study have expanded greatly. Each of the 19 programs listed below now has its own honors section:

1. Belgium/Netherlands: Exploring the Northern Renaissance: Dutch and Flemish Art
   Netherlands: Amsterdam, Haarlem; Belgium: Brussels, Ghent
   Term: Summer Session

2. Belgium: Developing Dynamics of Democracy
   Brussels, Belgium; Leiden, Netherlands
   Term: Summer Session

3. China: Chinese Traditions and Global Integration
   Beijing, Chengdu, Deyang, Hangzhou, Shanghái, Xi’an
   Term: Summer Session

4. China: Managing People in the Global Enterprise
   Term: Summer Session

5. Denmark: study in Copenhagen at the Denmark Institute of Study Abroad
   Term: Summer and Semesters

6. France: French Language and Culture
   Paris, Lyon
   Term: Summer Session

7. Germany: study aspects of renewable energy in Bonn
   Term: Summer Session

8. Germany: Media, Culture and Language in Germany
   Leipzig, Dresden, Erfurt, Weimar, Berlin
   Term: Summer Session

9. Ghana: Global Service in Ghana
   Cape Coast, Ghana
   Term: Summer Session

10. Greece: From the Bronze Age to the Byzantine Empire
    Term: Summer Session

11. Ireland: Global Seminars in Ireland
    Dublin, Galway
    Term: Summer Session
In addition, the Honors College developed two study abroad programs offered exclusively for honors students this year. Each program is linked thematically/conceptually to one of our 2000-level interdisciplinary series, though students are not required to have taken a series course in order to enroll.

The first of these study abroad programs features an intersession course entitled “Ecuador: Biology, Culture, and Sustainability” (Gen Hon 2450H/2230H/2310H), taught by Senior Associate Director Heidi Appel. It launches in January 2015 and includes field trips to a number of destinations in Ecuador, including Quito, Yasuni National Park, and Chimbaro. The second of these programs, entitled University of Manchester: British Culture and History, features two summer courses taught in Manchester, England. Students enroll in a course, The Brontes (Gen Hon 3120H), taught by Director Nancy West, and choose a second course, taught by a faculty member from the University of Manchester, from a range of course options that include “The Real Downton Abbey” and “The Beatles.” The program launches in July 2015 and includes field trips to Haworth, the Lake District and Liverpool.
Other plans:

This upcoming year, we plan to develop an honors Mizzou Alternative Break abroad; to continue efforts to develop scholarship opportunities within the Honors College for study abroad; and to add honors internship possibilities abroad in conjunction with The Office of Service Learning.
This year, the Honors College assumed administrative responsibility for the Missouri Scholars Academy. As a result, Associate Director Steve Keller officially became the co-director of the program (along with A&S Associate Dean Ted Tarkow).

This intensive three-week enrichment program--designed for 330 of the best and brightest rising high school juniors in the state-- has achieved superlative ratings each year for nearly 30 years. One of the tremendous strengths of MSA is the continuity and extreme loyalty of its faculty and staff, which has created a deep and vital institutional history. Steve feels extremely gratified that the MSA folks have accepted him into the community, and 2014 allowed him a chance to learn about much of the “inner circle” knowledge as he transitions into the directorship this year.

He was also fortunate to have the support of Peggy O’Connor, who served as the administrative assistant in charge of MSA during this past year. Steve and Peggy spent much of the year not only learning the ropes but also identifying what tasks and activities can be streamlined for the future.
Now in its thirteenth year, the Discovery Fellows Program gives students the opportunity to work with a faculty member on a research project or other scholarly activity appropriate to their major over the course of one academic year. Students work eight hours per week during the academic year and they are paid a stipend of $1,700. Students are identified from application data and are contacted in the spring of their senior year in high school. They write a one-page essay that asks for information about their interests and their intended major or area of interest. All applications are forwarded to the student’s college or school, where the dean selects the fellows and makes the appropriate faculty-student match.

**Program Goals and Objectives:**

- Recruit high ability students to MU by providing the option to participate in a paid research experience as a first-year student.
- Create opportunities for first-year students to participate in research opportunities on campus.
- Encourage a sense of discovery in students about research.
- Support participation of faculty as mentors for undergraduate researchers.
- Capitalize on the role a research university can play in undergraduate education.
- Promote continuation of research through departmental or other campus funding.

**1st Year Discovery Fellows Program 2013-2014**

This year, the Discovery Fellows Program, 35 fellows were selected to participate in the program. Thirty-four fellows were supported though funds from the Provost’s Office and one fellow was supported by the Brazeal Diversity Scholarship.

**Discovery Fellows Student Awards**

- Kayla Symonds received a travel award from the Office of Undergraduate research to attend the Phi Alpha Theta 2014 Nebraska Regional History Conference in Omaha with her mentor Lois Honeycutt in the history department.

- Corey Matzat and Charles Meyer attend the 2014 Electronic Materials Conference held at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Charles Meyer presented "Highly Strained InGaAsSb Nanodashes for Optoelectronic Devices" with their mentor Gregory Triplees in engineering.

- Corey Matzat was featured in the Mizzou Alumni Magazine. (Allen, Kelsey. “Diverse and Talented.” Mizzou, Summer 2013)

- Kiersten Kuc was selected to participate in the 2014 Fulbright Commission Wales Summer Institute.

- Andrew Allee was awarded Honorable Mention in the 2014 Undergraduate Research & Creative Achievements Forum Award for Excellence in the Physical Sciences and Engineering Category.
• Charles Meyer (Gregory Triplett, Engineering) presented his research poster to legislators at the state capital in Jefferson City in March 2014.

• Charles Meyer (Gregory Triplett, Engineering) submitted an abstract to the North American Molecular Beam Epitaxy Conference and it was accepted (Pseudomorphic Growth of inAs on Misoriented BaAs for an Enhanced Piezoelectric Effect). He presented at the conference in October 2013.

**Funding**

For 2013-14, 34 applications for second-year Discovery Fellows funding were received. Of those applicants, 22 students were awarded funding. Six of the 22 students were first time recipients of Discovery Fellow funding; the other 16 students had received DF funding their freshman year and received funds to continue their research.

**General Advising**

Megan Boyer, one of the Honors College’s two general advisors, met individually with more than 600 students for regular advising appointments during the Fall of 2013 and Spring of 2014. Weekly walk-in advising was implemented in the Honors Learning Community (HLC) in Schurz Hall during the Spring of 2014. HLC walk-in advising was extremely successful, earning Megan the Mizzou National Residence Hall Honorary Advisor of the Year award for 2013-2014.

In June of 2014, the Honors College was very lucky to have Kristina Bradley join as our additional general advisor. She will help Megan with general advising, mentor our Honors Ambassadors and coordinate all course evaluations and learning by contracts.
Launchd in November 2013, the Show-Me Scholars program is designed to recruit 20 to 30 high-achieving students from Missouri each year to MU. Our vision is to create a cohort of students representing every college on campus who are actively engaged in the campus, local, and state communities. Upon graduation, these students will go on to career choices that have been shaped by the pride and engagement they demonstrated in their university and their state.

Each fall, the Honors College and The Office of Admissions send out letters to all Missouri high-school students with an ACT score of 33 or higher, inviting them to attend the “Show-Me-Scholars” luncheon in mid-to-late November. This luncheon includes a welcome address from the Director, a keynote talk by a recent and distinguished alumn from the Honors College, informal chats with more than 35 honors faculty, and a subsequent afternoon of sessions on research, advising and life as an honors student. If a student attends this luncheon and graduates from his or her high school with an enhanced core GPA of 3.5 or higher, he or she is automatically eligible to be in the program.

The mission of the program is as follows:

- To successfully recruit the state’s best students in collaboration with MU’s seven academic units
- To offer these students a four-year experience with unique opportunities designed exclusively for them that transcend the traditional classroom experience.
- To create a highly selective and cohesive program that capitalizes on the strengths and opportunities available at MU and within Missouri.
MedOpp

Medopp Program Description

The Medopp Advising Office provides pre-professional advising for ALL pre-med, pre-dental, pre-optometry, and pre-podiatry students at MU. The Medopp Advising Program is a co-curricular program that offers seminars, workshops and activities that are designed to complement the student’s academic and scholarly achievements in preparation for application to professional programs. The office assists approximately 2,000 students.

Preparation for the health professions must begin early, as professional schools seek students with more than just academic success. These schools look for rich life experiences, leadership skills, maturity, exposure to the field and well-developed social and interpersonal skills. Students also must demonstrate proficiency on standardized exams. The services provided by MedOpp are designed to directly impact these selection factors. These services not only enhance student success potential in the pursuit of professional school admissions, but also enrich the undergraduate educational experience. The Medopp advisors also play an important role in recruiting the best and brightest students to the university. The Medopp Advisors have fostered positive relationships with many other university offices. Co-programming continues with the Office of Service Learning, the School of Medicine, the School of Health Professions, Mid-Missouri Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and MU AHEC.

The health professions advisors in the Honors College provide a variety of services that include, but are not limited to the following:

- Individual advising sessions with current and prospective students
- Committee interview and evaluative letter for all medical and dental school candidates
- Letter service for re-applicants
- Annual pre-med, pre-dental and pre-optometry orientation sessions
- Panel presentations and annual workshops for students regarding the application process
- Creation and maintenance of a Health Professions Listserv, Blackboard page and website
- Continued publication of informative handouts and reference guides
- Presentations for MU faculty and academic advisors regarding professional school requirements and application processes
- A resource library
- Alumni outreach

The Medopp Advising Office saw continued growth in enrollment during the 2013-2014 academic year, as the total number of incoming pre-med students was approximately 700. The number of incoming pre-med undergraduate students represents an increase of more than 50 percent since 2007.
During the 2013-2014 Academic year, the health professions advisors:

- Prepared and transmitted application packets for more than 100 current students and alumni.
- Met individually with more than 120 prospective pre-med students as part of the students’ on-campus visits.
- Met individually with more than 1,050 current students and alumni
- Held over 30 workshops/presentations, with over 1,400 students and 40 faculty and staff attending
- Implemented new advising strategies and strengthened external collaborations
- Maintained above average acceptance rates to medical and dental school programs

**Program Highlights**

Our rebranding this year (which included adopting the new and shorter name of “MedOpp”) led to a jump in enrollment and increased visibility for the program. To serve the growing student population in a thorough and effective manner we developed a framework of successive workshops, group advising and seminar experiences designed to achieve strategic learning outcomes important for their future matriculation into health professional schools. Beginning with the freshmen year, we targeted specific developmental goals, including career exploration and self-assessment. We offered opportunities that encouraged conversation and relationship-building amongst students in our group advising program: Freshmen Connection and Sophomore Connection. These interactive group sessions allowed advisors to interact with underclassmen during busy advising times. Based on surveys administered to participants, students overwhelmingly thought the group sessions were effective and enjoyable.

Comments included:

- “They answered questions I didn’t even know I had and gave me information on things I hadn’t even thought about yet.”
- “I understand that there is quite a few premed students and that time is limited for the staff so I like most the one on one feel within a group”
- “I like that the sessions are small enough that they can be tailored to the needs of that individual session. I also like that we can ask questions throughout.”

Another change implemented was the development of a formalized application program for upperclassmen called Medical and Dental Application Program (MDAP). Through progressive seminars and workshops, advisors provide information about upcoming milestones, opportunities for self-discovery, community engagement, leadership and to facilitate self-assessment. Individual appointments remain a key component, but are now utilized for individual questions based in part on the students’ self-assessment, academic progress and their overall goals. Approximately 250 upperclassmen participated in MDAP.

Feedback from campus members also initiated changes in other aspects of our programming efforts. In 2013, our charge was to find unique ways to join forces across campus. To improve our relationship and communication with MU faculty, we developed an interdisciplinary pre-health professions interview committee which draws from departments across campus. During the 2012-2013 interview season, this committee consisted of three external faculty members. The interview committee expanded to eight external faculty members for the 2013-2014 interview season. The 2013-2014 Pre-Health Professions Interview Committee included Dr. Robin Blake (MU School of Medicine), Shari Freyermuth (Biochemistry), Robert Churchill (MU School of Medicine), Michael Hosokawa (MU School of Medicine), Susan Lever (Chemistry), David Setzer (Biology), Bill Bondeson (Philosophy) and Steve Keller (Chemistry).
The Medopp Spotlight series was also created to develop awareness of and encourage dialogue about current and relevant healthcare issues. The 2013-2014 topic was “Diversity in Medicine.” Local healthcare professionals were invited to speak following a presentation by Dr. Robert Churchill, former dean of the MU School of Medicine.

The advisors also utilized strategies to better communicate with external stakeholders and in our professional community. To provide more frequent and regular interaction with colleagues within our professional community, we created a statewide listserv forum for Missouri pre-health advisors and faculty which currently has more than 50 professional advisors and admission officers members. The advisors have also increased participation on a national level through the National Association of Advisors in the Health Professions organization and the Central Association of Advisors in the Health Professions. Wright and Geisert's proposal to present at the NAAHP national meeting in San Francisco in 2014 was accepted. Wright also serves on the NAAHP Volunteer Advisor Committee, the NAAHP Mentoring Task Force, and the NAAHP Leadership Committee and both Wright and Geisert are members of the CAAHP Conference Planning Committee for the 2015 Conference.

MU Medopp Alumni Network

In the summer of 2012, the MU Premed Alumni Network, an alumni group for successful MU medical school matriculants and graduates, was established. This program allows us to continue to grow our relationships with our successful graduates and to increase our resources to better serve our students.

Premed Scholars Program

Now in its third year, the Honors College Premed Scholars program provides a strong foundation for future success and gives students the assertive edge needed to succeed. The Honors College Premed Scholars program plays an important role in preparing students for medical education and for their future professional roles as physicians, researchers, and community leaders.

The Results for our Students

Those students who have gone through the MedOpp program tend to do extremely well in their applications to medical schools. Here are the numbers to prove it.

Osteopathic Medical School
National Acceptance Rate: 35%
MU Acceptance Rate: 57%

Alleopathic Medical Schools
National Acceptance Rate: 42%
MU Acceptance Rate (including both MD and DO): 55%

Dental School
National Acceptance Rate: 45%
MU Acceptance Rate: 55%
MU Acceptance Rate of Students who participated in interview process: 70%
The Honors College Ambassadors

The Honors College Ambassadors are a group of dedicated students who act as representatives of the MU Honors College. The ambassadors serve the College in three primary areas: recruitment, events and communication. Honors College Ambassadors attend a variety of on- and off-campus recruiting events each semester to provide a student voice to prospective students and their families. In addition, the Ambassadors assist with the planning and execution of events for current Honors College students throughout the year to increase engagement within the Honors community. Finally, the ambassadors participate in monthly meetings, where they offer insights on Honors College courses, programs, events — any topic or issue that affects Honors College students.

In Fall 2013, the Ambassadors began the semester by helping host the second annual Honors College Induction Ceremony for the incoming freshman class. This event introduced the new students to the college and afforded them the opportunity to sign up for events such as “Food with Faculty” during the upcoming semester. A team of ambassadors planned and attended each Food with Faculty event, where several Honors College professors were invited to join students in a campus dining hall for a meal. In addition to these events, ambassadors were present at each “Passport Series” event during the semester. The Passport Series invited all Honors College students to attend a number of Honors-related seminars, lectures and social events in order to increase interaction within the Honors community. The Honors College ambassadors also continued their regular recruitment activities to reach out to prospective students. Individual student visits to the college and admissions-hosted college visit days presented opportunities for ambassadors to speak with students about the benefits of the college. At these events, ambassadors met with students individually, manned tables with informational materials about the college, and gave brief presentations during Honors College information sessions. The semester concluded as it typically does for the ambassadors — with a celebratory potluck dinner at Dr. West’s house.

The spring semester brought with it an exciting event: the Honors Formal. In a team effort with the Honors Learning Community in Schurz Hall, the ambassadors planned and put on a dance event for Honors College students. Ambassadors also attended regularly scheduled events such as Food with Faculty and the Passport Series. In February, applications became available for new additions to the ambassador program. The Honors College Ambassador Tri-Chairs interviewed candidates and selected 16 new ambassadors. A few days later, new and existing ambassadors gathered for Honors College Ambassador Orientation, a detailed information session that aims to keep ambassadors’ knowledge about the Honors College as complete and current as possible. Beyond the typical recruitment activities — individual visits and admissions visit days — ambassadors attended three Preview Mizzou events. These events, which took place in Kansas City, St. Louis and Columbia, were tabling fairs where ambassadors handed out information about the college and engaged prospective students and parents in conversations about the Honors experience. As the semester came to an end, the Ambassadors helped coordinate and attended the annual Honors College Award Ceremony, which recognized outstanding students’ accomplishments. Finally, another delicious potluck dinner completed the Spring 2014 semester.
Staff Research & Professional Activities

In addition to all they do internally, our staff has been very busy trying to enhance the visibility of the Honors College outside MU. They do so through research, invited talks and presentations, and participation in workshops. Here are some of their accomplishments over the past year.

**Director, Nancy West**

**Publications**

**Conferences/Invited Talks**

**Professional Services**
- Phi Kappa Phi Inductee. 2013.
- Co-chair, Internal Search for Director, Mizzou Advantage. Spring 2014.
- Outside Reviewer, University of Oklahoma Honors College

**Senior Associate Director, Heidi Appel**

**Publications**
Talks and Posters Presented at Meetings

- Misophonia Plantarum. Heidi Appel. IRBI, University of Tours, France.
- Variation in volatile emissions of Arabidopsis thaliana in response to damage produced by insects with different feeding behaviors. Caitlin Vore, Chung-Ho Lin, Jack Schultz, Heidi Appel. Annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Austin, TX.
- Bad Vibrations: Plants respond to leaf vibrations caused by insect herbivore chewing. Heidi Appel and Reginald Cocroft. Annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Austin, TX.
- Bad Vibrations: plants respond to insect chewing vibrations by increasing chemical defense. Heidi Appel and Reginald Cocroft. Plant Signaling & Behavior Society, Vancouver, BC.
- Reconceiving the value of a liberal arts education for 21st century Honors. Honors Education at Research Universities Conference, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA.

Professional Service and Awards (last 7 years)

- Advisory Board, Office of Undergraduate Research, University of Missouri, 2014 - present
- Advisory Board, Life Sciences and Society Program, University of Missouri, 2010-present
- Chair, Gordon Conference on Plant Herbivore Interactions, 2010
- Editorial Board of Journal of Chemical Ecology, 2005 - present
- Reviewer for research proposals to USDA and NSF
- National Science Foundation BIO-IOS Panel Member April 2010, 2014
- Phi Kappa Phi Faculty Member
- Nominee for Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor Award, 2013, 2014

Associate Director, Steve Keller

- “You let them do WHAT? Collaborative exams that support learning and engagement.” Presented with Sarah Bush and Dorina Kosztin. Celebration of Teaching, May 2014

Senior Advisor Kristina Wright

- Invited to present a talk with Susan Geisert on MedOpp program restructuring at the NAAHP national conference in San Francisco.
- Selected to be a member of the CAAHP Conference Planning Committee for 2015. Regional conference will be held in Kansas City.

Advisor Susan Geisert

- Invited to present a talk with Kristina Wright on Medopp program restructuring at the NAAHP national conference in San Francisco.
- Selected to be a member of the CAAHP Conference Planning Committee for 2015. Regional conference will be held in Kansas City.