Students, faculty mingle at Honors Luncheon

On Tuesday, October 30, the Honors Program hosted a luncheon for its students. The purpose of the luncheon was to provide an opportunity for the Honors students to meet one another, for the steering committee to meet with the Honors students, and more importantly, for the students to meet with transfer counselors from four-year institutions in and around St. Louis. The University of Missouri-St. Louis, St. Louis University, Webster University, Lindenwood University, Harris-Stowe University, Maryville University, Truman State University, and Fontbonne University were represented.

Over thirty students attended, who not only appreciated the opportunity to talk to the representatives one-on-one, but also to be able to obtain material related to admission, scholarship, and transfer.

Thanks to staff members involved in organizing the event, in particular Karen Wade, Teresa Huether, Jan Vogt, Sandy Riche, and Linda Calvert.

Steering committee members involved in making this event a success consisted of Jennifer Medeiros, Ana Coelho, and Ron Ebest.

—Chaya Gopalan

At year-end, Honors faculty, students, look to future

By Dr. Chaya Gopalan, Honors Program Coordinator

It’s an honor, a privilege, and a pleasure to serve as the Honors Program coordinator at St. Louis Community College, Florissant Valley. Although it is a new role, the Honors Program itself is not new to me. I was introduced to the Honors Program by Dr. Ann Dempsey, and since then I have been actively involved as either a committee member or a mentor to our Honors Students.

The main goal (See p. 3)

Honors student Jo Ellen LeMuth and Professor Brian Gordon discuss transfer requirements during the Honors luncheon with an advisor from St. Louis University.
It’s an Honor!

Introducing the people behind the Honors program

The Scholar wants you to know who is guiding Florissant Valley’s Honors Program. So, starting with this issue, we’re going to introduce you to them. Below are the names and contact information for the Honors Steering Committee. We have included greetings and brief biographies of a few. In future issues, we’ll bring you the hellos and backgrounds of the rest.

Honors Steering Committee

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Pat Finnell, Nursing
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Carol Hake, Communications
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I have been mentoring honors students since 1998 when I began teaching at Flo Valley and was invited to join the steering committee. As a member of the committee, I have been able to engage in two of the most joyful activities of being a Professor at the College: working with faculty who are invested in enriching the intellectual experience of our students, and mentoring students who choose to do honors projects in my classes. I look forward to working with my colleagues in continuing to pursue new directions that provide our honors students with a challenging curriculum, program coherence, and an engaging intellectual atmosphere to nurture our academic endeavors.

—Ana Coelho, Philosophy

It has been a privilege for me to be a member of the Honors Steering Committee since 2005. While I’m not specifically involved with teaching, I am the ‘go-between’ for the Honors Program and students. It is very exciting to see the rewards this program offers students.

—Pam Wolf, Advising

I currently serve as acting chair of FV’s Arts and Humanities Department. Among the art disciplines I teach are drawing, design, and printmaking. I have been a member of the Honors Committee since 2001. I enjoy working with Honors students and having an opportunity to help in establishing the direction and vision of the Honors Program. I genuinely appreciate the talent and motivation exhibited by Honors students. The passion for learning and the striving for excellence that Honors students typically display are truly inspiring.

—Bob Langnas, Art

The Honors Program recognizes excellence and encourages participation in rigorous exploration. Our role as Honors Committee members and Phi Theta Kappa advisors is to ensure strong enough connections between the Honors Program and the many opportunities that PTK provides for scholarship, leadership, and service.

—Sharon Fox, Library Services

—Carol Lupardus, Teacher Education
of the Honors College is to reinvigorate the intellectual climate of the campus via curricular initiatives and to help students transfer to higher institutions with scholarships. The current program offers Honors contracts where eligible students choose to work above and beyond their course work with the help of instructors to receive Honors credit. If a student accumulates 15 Honors credit hours, then he or she can graduate as an Honors Scholar. This semester we processed over 90 Honors contracts. We will offer several Honors courses in the Spring and hope to increase the number, including an Honors Seminar course, in the near future.

At semester’s end, Honors sees future

(Gopalan, from p. 1) of the Honors College is to reinvigorate the intellectual climate of the campus via curricular initiatives and to help students transfer to higher institutions with scholarships. The current program offers Honors contracts where eligible students choose to work above and beyond their course work with the help of instructors to receive Honors credit. If a student accumulates 15 Honors credit hours, then he or she can graduate as an Honors Scholar. This semester we processed over 90 Honors contracts.

We will offer several Honors courses in the Spring and hope to increase the number, including an Honors Seminar course, in the near future.

Scholarship opportunities

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation

The Foundation will award approximately 50 scholarships of up to $30,000/year to outstanding students transferring to four-year universities. See http://www.jackkentcookefoundation.org/ for details. Applications are due to Dr. Chaya Gopalan no later than January 14, 2008.

Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship

The program was established by congress in 1986 to honor Senator Barry Goldwater. The program offers scholarships to college students interested in science, mathematics, or engineering. Contact Dr. Chaya Gopalan for more details.

K. Ann Dempsey Honors Scholarship

Three $500 scholarships were awarded in November to Florissant Valley Honors students Kelli Casey, Louise Givens, and Andrew North. The non-renewable scholarship is awarded annually to Florissant Valley Honors students. Contact Dr. Chaya Gopalan for more details.

What I like best about the Honors Program is the opportunity it provides me, by God’s grace, to collaborate with some of the best minds out there. It is Jesus Christ, and the faculty’s commitment to excellence, that has challenged me to want more, and to believe that I can achieve it.

—Louise Givens, Dempsey Scholarship winner.

The Honors Program has really helped me grow academically. Enhanced study skills, scholarships, and, above all, great personal reward are all benefits I’ve experienced. I truly recommend that all students strive to participate.—Andrew North, Dempsey Scholarship Winner

The Honors Program is meant to reward students who go beyond the normal requirements of a course. Those who spend the extra time to delve deeper into subjects are recognized on their transcripts, are given opportunities for scholarships, and improve their chances to get into colleges that value excellence.—Howard Mayes, Information Systems

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Honors students and faculty celebrate this year’s Dempsey scholarship winners. From left, Howard Mayes, Louise Givens, Carol Lupardus, Sharon Fox, Andrew North, Kelly Casey, Chaya Gopalan, and JoEllen Lehmuth.
What can the Honors Program do for me?

And other frequently-asked questions about Honors at Florissant Valley

What can the Honors Program do for me?

Honors students are recognized as achievers by both employers and educational institutions. Honors credit gives students an edge in the job market and in scholarships both at Florissant Valley and transfer institutions.

Are these honors courses transferable to other colleges?

Yes. Florissant Valley is fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges.

What is an Honors contract?

Students register for a regular class and agree with the instructor on work which will earn them Honors credit.

How do I sign up?

First, you must be admitted to the college. To sign up for Honors courses or the seminar, an advisor will check to see that you are qualified.

How do I get credit for Honors?

Your transcript will have a notation after each completed Honors course. If you complete 15 credit hours, maintain a 3.5 GPA, and graduate, you will be designated an “Honors Program Scholar.”

Spring ’08 Honors courses at Florissant Valley

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<td>By C. Berger (<a href="mailto:cherger@stlcc.edu">cherger@stlcc.edu</a>)</td>
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I am thankful for this program because it provides intellectual development. The Honors Program enhances my academic ability while preparing me for four-year colleges. The program is rewarding and I recommend it to every SLCC student.

—Stephanie Taylor, Honors student

I decided to take part in the Honors Program to challenge myself. By taking Honors classes, I will better my chances of getting scholarships, and my transcript will be more appealing when transferring to a four-year university. I am thankful for the opportunity to be involved in the Honors Program, because I know that it will make a difference in my future.

—Dametria Mathis, Honors Student

It’s so exciting to be an Honors student. The Program is a constant reminder that I can be among the best if I just give my all. I take my education seriously, and so will employers when I present my credentials for a higher paying position in my field.

Sandra Brasselman, Honors student

To be in an Honors Program is indeed an honor. It elevates your self-confidence, and makes you believe that you are capable of doing things that you never would have thought of before. You also understand the subject better than you would have if you’d taken a regular class. The Honors Program stimulates your potential and brings out the best in you.

—Juhina Naheen, Honors student

—Stephanie Taylor, Honors student

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