

	<h2 style="color: orange;">University Honors Program</h2> <h3 style="color: blue;">Voice of Excellence in Action</h3> <p> Kathleen Kardaras, Coordinator, 773-442-6045, K-Kardaras@neiu.edu Vicki Roman-Lagunas, Director Curriculum and Standards Board: Lesa Davis, Kris Over, Brian Schultz, Narender Rao </p>	<h2 style="color: blue;">Northeastern Illinois University</h2>
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Greetings for the Season of Lights!

Regardless of your ethnic, religious, or cultural origins, as soon as the days shorten, the nights lengthen and the world turns inward in a meditative and retrospective pose. In the emerging light that follows the solstice, most of catch our breath and muster the energy to begin the second semester with vigor and determination. But in between, there is a period of hibernation. As we begin that “nesting” signaling the end of finals and the lull before the mad shopping experience, I hope you will consider all of the hard work you have put into the fall semester, and realize that each block of classes brings you closer to your goal of self-knowledge, awareness of the world and your role in it, and your ability to bring about significant change to improve upon the state of the world’s offspring. May your holidays be merry and bright, and may all your grievances be slight.

December 20 Senior Holiday Dinne

The Honors Society needs you to assist in serving a holiday meal at the North Park Village Senior Center, 5801 N Pulaski, December 20, 6-11:00PM. Contact Kat: Alexandris@gmail.com or Erika at E-Towers@neiu.edu. This is a great opportunity for service and leadership hours and it will be a fun experience for all!

Honors Classics Semester Abroad, Summer 1A

The Haunts of Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles.....

Once in a lifetime opportunity to earn 6 honors credits in Greece. We will offer Hnrs 397 and 398 in May-June, 2008. In Crete, we will explore the remnants of the Minoan Civilization. From there to Santorini, the island thought to be the Lost Atlantis, then, the islands of Naxos and Paros, that guided ancient sailors to their destinations. Arriving in Pireaus, we will depart for Ancient Corinth, and the ancient theater at Epidaurus, the Plains of Argos, where ancient Kings ruled with iron and bronze armament. From Argos to Olympia, the site of the Olympic Games, then to the island of Ithaka, the home of Odysseus. From Ithaka to Nafpactos and Delphi, then to Thebes, and, finally, to Athens for our flight home. We will stay primarily in college dormitories and small hotels. There will be time for swimming, participating in island life, and learning the cultures of contemporary as well as ancient Greece. We are still trying to solidify the costs. Due to the drop in the value of the \$US, we will be paying considerably more for the trip than we hoped. We are trying to cut corners by booking as many nights as possible in places where we can find inexpensive lodging. Stay tuned– we should be able to finalize the costs by the break.

Second Semester Activities Schedule Open

Your suggestions are welcome for honors activities for the spring. We are planning an alumni event that will welcome familiar faces and honors scholars from the past to join us on campus in April. Please contact Kathy to serve on welcoming committee.

National Presidential Caucus Results: Guess Who Won?

While there was no clear presidential candidate who captured the minds and hearts of NEIU voting students, the party that emerged as the most interested in the campus after the National Caucus on Friday, Dec. 7, were “The Greens”. Three local candidates and/or promoters attended and impressed students with their environmentally-friendly approach to running the country. The discussions were animated, and concerns about the economy, foreign policy, and funding for higher education were top issues.

Brown Bag Lunches

Please plan to join us for one or more of the **Spring Semester Brown Bag Lunches**. We have invited faculty, alumni, and professionals to present and engage in conversation on the following topics on the last Friday of each month in the B-Wing Conference Room from 2-3PM:

January 25 Honors Faculty Conducting Research; “Preparation, Process, Product”. Professors working with honors students on their thesis projects will share successful strategies for assuring their honors student’s timely completion, as well as research agendas and projects of their own. They may invite you to participate!

February 29 Be Your Own Boss: Skills, Chills, Thrills and Bills! Owning your own business can be exciting and challenging, and the opportunity for earning more than a salary, providing employment for others, and making decisions that move an industry forward can be seductive. The risks are also great, however. Young business owners share their experiences of their first years.

March 28 Buy Your First Home! If the thought of paying rent forever is discouraging, learn how first time homebuyers can take advantage of the current market conditions to purchase a condo or home.

Research Presentation Opportunity

The Upper Midwest Honors Council: April 3-5

If you are planning to present your research or creative activity at the Annual Student Research and Creative Activity Symposium on Campus the following week, you might enjoy presenting it in upper Wisconsin, at the University of Wisconsin in Stout. The UHP will pay for lodging, transportation and registration fees. You will be able to see your peers, other honors students, and perhaps, even some of the honors faculty from the upper Midwest, presenting their research. If you are interested, please Kathy know as soon as possible, as we must submit abstract by February 29.

The NEIU Annual Student Research and Creative Activities Symposium: April 11

Once you have presented your research in Stout, you can return to our campus as professionals. This will be a local, rather than regional level presentation venue. We will provide lunch, and, since your abstract and power point presentations have already been perfected for the presentation in the preceding week, you are all set– no excuses for failing to register for our very own symposium. Honors students usually make up almost 25% of the participants, so I am counting on you! Applications can be found online on NEIU’s website.

Spring Registration Re-Opened

Honors Courses are still available for spring, and during this week and next, you may add or delete courses from your schedule. While the upper level courses are almost full, the gen. ed. offerings have good availability. Please let us know if you need an authorization! Dr. K. will be out of the office the week before break, so contact us before the 14th if possible.

Featured Students:

In each newsletter, I like to feature a few students who represent the widely diverse group who comprise the University Honors Program

Sherri Rafalson

Honors Meets the Mouse

From childhood, Sherry has wanted to work at Disneyworld. She majored in communications and HR to be able to promote the entertainment enterprise, and last year, she responded to an internship opportunity posted on the career board. Before long, she became the first NEIU student chosen for a semester-long paid internship at Disneyworld, Orlando. She has had many amazing experiences in marketing, promotions, and customer service. During this time, she completed her thesis, a study of the internationalization of “standard” training in the Disney corporate enterprise.

Sandy Nezi

Cashing in on the Numbers

Recruited as a bookkeeping intern at tax time last year, Sandy parlayed this opportunity into “on-the-job” training with Alphameric Accounting and Computing in Lincolnwood. The 30 year-old mid-size firm is expanding, and Sandy is positioned for training in financial planning, cost accounting, and other creative areas of the industry that a larger firm would not provide for her until much later.

Matt Groters

Long-Distance Trekker Award

While we have had students come to us from long distances in the past, most have had their own car. Matt Groters, freshman, comes in everyday from Lombard by public transportation, a trek of over two hours each way. A music performance major, Matt carries his violin as well as textbooks on a series of buses and trains. A long hunt for housing close by will find his second semester a bit easier. Welcome to the neighborhood, Matt!

Theresa De Carli

Juggler Extraordinaire

With six of her own children and three adopted (three currently attending college), Theresa transferred into NEIU this semester as a social work major from Oakton Community College. Theresa works full time as coordinator for the American Veterinary Medicine Association, is a Eucharistic Minister at church, a Boy Scout Ad Altare Dei Counselor, and WINGS volunteer. Theresa has participated in a number of the service projects that the Honors Society has promoted. If someone as busy as Theresa can be actively involved as a volunteer, none of us can have much excuse not to do the same!

Katharina Kluwe

From a Continent Away

An increasing number of our students are international scholars. Among them, one of the newest members, Katy comes to us from Berlin by way of Oakton. She first came to the US as an AuPair, assisting a family in Wnnetka as a live-in nanny. When her year was completed, she applied to attend school in the US, and after a semester at Oakton, she found her way to NEIU. She will begin her first semester in Honors in Spring, after visiting her family in Berlin over the break. Welcome, Katy!

