



# Honors Quarterly

Eastern Michigan University's Honors College Newsletter

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## A Message from the Director



The Honors College  
Director, Dr. Rebecca Sipe

As March approaches, every day brings more light and more energy back to our area! I'm proud to report that our move to the new Honors facility took place in January. Our students, faculty, and graduates can find The Honors College at Eastern Michigan University at 511 W. Forest! We have an amazing building here that already supports a vast number of Honors events and workshops.

For those who have not visited yet, the auditorium/performance and lecture space offers beauty and versatility. With a seating capacity of over 700, we will be able to move many of our events that were previously housed in the Student Center to our own space. Already this location has been used to host yoga sessions, parent visits during the Presidential Scholarship Callback interviews, as well as meet-and-greets for new students. This spring we will host Honors Commencement there for the first time. Next fall we'll kick off our Star Lecture Series there as well. Outfitted with a good sound system and a marvelous pipe organ, the space will provide the perfect location for many wonderful performances and events in the future! The reception room across the hall has a seating capacity of over 150. Having these two rooms at our disposal has allowed The Honors College to

become remarkably self-sufficient while also hosting events for various departments on campus. We are eager to name these lovely rooms as well as others in the lower level of the building, and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss fundraising and naming possibilities with interested alumni and/or donors.

This is such an exciting time of year! We completed our Presidential Scholar interviews in January. Approximately 550 students participated this year in the overall PSC, and they are just amazing young people. We anticipate a large and very well prepared first year class in the fall! Potential Presidential Scholars who returned for the second round represented a composite GPA of 3.99 and an ACT of nearly 30. As we look forward to March and April, let me encourage all to review The Honors College calendar of events found on our new website at [www.emich.edu/Honors](http://www.emich.edu/Honors). Just a few dates to remember:  
Final Star Lecture for 2015-2016 featuring Dr. T. Daniel Seely: March 8, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in Halle Auditorium.  
Honors End-of-the-Year Picnic and Student Open House: April 14, 2016 beginning at 5:00 p.m. in The Honors College.  
Honors After-Dark Dance: April 16, 2016 beginning at 7:30 p.m. in The Honors College reception room.  
Honors Commencement: Friday, April 22, 2016. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. in The Honors College auditorium.

Here's to a wonderful wrap up of the academic year! Soar Higher!

Becky

# Scholarship Helps Gracie Murphy Take Off

Gracie Murphy, junior aviation flight technology student, was awarded the Student Professional Development Funding Scholarship to attend the annual Women in Aviation Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

After filling out an online application and writing an essay, she received \$300 for registration fees and a hotel room.

Murphy said the three-day conference will be “awesome.”

“It’s a massive networking opportunity,” she said.

This year, the key-note speaker will be the Secretary of the Air force, Deborah Lee James.

Murphy will have the opportunity to listen to workers from all sectors of the aviation field speak, from flight attendants to engineers.

Beyond the lectures, Murphy will also be able to participate in workshops and

seminars.

“It’s like a playground of fun for anyone who likes aviation,” she said.

Her goal in attending the event is to make connections with people in the field.

“Aviation is a really small industry,” she said. “Having connections, knowing people[...] is a massive part of progressing in the industry.”

Attending the conference will help Murphy work as a pilot when she graduates.

“I wanted a job where I could travel,” Murphy said. “I wanted something adventurous and hands-on.”

She said she would like to travel to the Middle East.

“I’m just intrigued by it,” she said. “I think it’s beautiful.

I’m really into the architecture and the culture.”

Murphy began her experience with Eastern Michigan University as a high schooler in the Early College Alliance program and is now a Presidential Scholar.



Akelah Burks, alumnus of The Honors College, is getting a head start on her future with The King Chavez Parks Future Faculty Fellowship.

The fellowship provides Burks with the funds she needs to earn her master’s degree in higher education and student affairs.

## Akelah Burks Receives Fellowship

The fellowship requires that she attend a conference and agree to work in a higher education institution for three years after she graduates.

“It’s perfect because that’s what I want to do,” Burks said.

The application process included writing an essay on her work in the community. She said her time in The Honors College as a social work student helped her attain the writing skills she needed for the application.

She reflected on her time in the Youth Services department at Michigan Works! in her essay. The work she does with the agency is similar to the work she hopes to do post-graduation.

“What I hope to do is help youth go to college and once they get here, to stay in college,” she said.

After graduation, she said she would like to work at a university like EMU.

“It’s like it’s home,” she said. “It’s not

very large, it’s not too small and it’s very supportive.”

Burks had time to get to know the supportive environment at EMU as an undergraduate student. She said part of what made her experience special was her relationship with Dr. Rebecca Sipe, Director of The Honors College. “We could always count on her,” Burks said.

Burks had the opportunity to work with Sipe as both an Honors student and a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars student organization. Sipe served as the organization’s advisor.

During her time as an undergraduate student, Burks also volunteered as a mentor in The Honors College Mentor Program in which she was paired with a younger student from a similar field of study.

# Classes Give Honors Students New Learning Opportunities

LITR 163H

## Jewish-American Literature and Culture

Martin Shichtman, director of Jewish studies at Eastern Michigan University, is now teaching a Jewish-American Literature and Culture class.

Shichtman said the class gives students a space to discuss the following: how Jewish Americans can mediate between their distinct identity and assimilation; how an ethnic group can feel marginalized despite achievements in American culture.

“By doing that, I think students also begin to understand how other immigrant groups have conceived of themselves as Americans and as

members of particular ethnicities,” he said. “I think they are also beginning to understand in many ways what it means to be marginalized in a culture. What it means to be ‘othered.’”

Shichtman said this class is helping students learn to feel empathy for others, “to not be so satisfied in their own situations that they can’t see the kinds of difficulties other people possess.”

The class allows for learning outside of the classroom with Klezmer concerts and lectures by novelists.

## HIST 151H/ARTH 151 H

### Reason and Revolution

Ellen Schwartz and Jesse Kauffman, pictured below, have come together to co-teach their Reason and Revolution class.

The class has a broad focus on the political history, philosophy, art, literature, and music during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Schwartz has taught the hybrid course since its inception. The course was taught as an alternative basic studies program that was part of a grant.

The program became part of The Honors College after the grant expired in the 1980’s.

Kauffman is the fourth professor to teach the course with Schwartz.

“We try to get students to think about how things connect,” Schwartz said.

She said the team teaching style helps to foster that goal.

“He’s a wonderful teacher and I really like what he’s doing with his take on the material,” Schwartz said of Kauffman.

“I’ve been at this a long time and I have

so enjoyed working with the various faculty and I would really recommend that people should really explore [available opportunities],” Schwartz said.

Kauffman said his experience with the class so far has been great.

“I think that [the class] is introducing [students] to a lot of literary and philosophical and artistic objects that are important in Western culture,” Kauffman said.



# A Brief History of Holy Trinity Student Chapel

*The Honors College has a rich history dating back to 1984; our new home has a rich history as well.*

**1962** - Fr. Leo Broderick purchases the land to be used for the University Chapel.

**1965** - Plans for the Chapel are made and more land is purchased. Student labor is used in the construction of the Chapel to keep the costs of the construction down.

**Sept. 18, 1965** - Holy Trinity Chapel is dedicated by the Most Revered Henry E. Donnelly, D.D., Auxiliary bishop of Detroit.

**Oct. 10, 1965** - The first baptism is held in the Chapel.

**Nov. 26, 1965** - The first wedding is performed in the Chapel.

**Dec., 1966** - The Chapel’s organ is installed.

**Jan. 6, 1967** - The organ’s dedication is held on the Feast of the Epiphany.

**Jan., 1968** - Sunday masses draw an average of 1,200 students a week during the academic year.

**Late 1960’s** - Students begin a tradition of Friday Folk Mass

**1970** - The Chapel serves as a space for students to publicly express their views on international, national, and campus issues.

**Jan., 1974** - The first funeral is held in the Chapel.

*Source: “History of Holy Trinity Student Chapel: 1965-1975” by James Mann*

# John Feldkamp Talks Identities at December Star Lecture



by Madeline Reinbolt

The Student Center Ballroom was filled with students listening to the last Star Lecture of the semester, “The Conflicts We Face With our Identities While Pursuing a Well-Lived Life” Tuesday night. The lecture was led by John Feldkamp, associate director of

The Honors College.

On bringing prospective students to Eastern Michigan University, Feldkamp said “it’s my job to hold the lenses.”

His lecture started with his birth and worked through his whole life up to the person he is today.

Feldkamp said the message was, “We are complex individuals and within us are multiple identities. And, it is the tension and the decisions we make within those identities that make us a person as a whole.”

He emphasized students being comfortable with themselves throughout the lecture. He said it’s okay to not know what will happen next, but they should know that what they’re doing is causing improvement today, which will ultimately help them no matter where they go.

Throughout the lecture, he went over multiple lessons: professional, lifestyle

and guardian. For “professional,” Feldkamp said to visualize where you are going and have a plan, but, to be okay with knowing it may not go as planned. He said to embrace your inner self and mentioned times in his life when his path unexpectedly changed, but being content with it. When discussing the “lifestyle” portion, Feldkamp said to always evaluate your needs versus your wants, and to practice patience.

Lastly, Feldkamp talked about being a guardian. He doesn’t have children of his own, but a beloved cat. On the subject of his cat, he talked about the “push and pull between parenthood and ownership.”

Abbey Vermeulen, a freshman international affairs and literature double major said the topic of the lecture was “important, especially for undergraduate students trying to figure out who they are.”

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## Dr. Doris Fields Unpacks Race at January Star Lecture

by Scout Bostley

Dr. Doris Fields shared her enthusiastic perspective on learning about and improving race relations at the January Star Lecture.

Fields framed the lecture with Dr. King quotes.

King’s quote: “The time is always right to do what is right” led Fields into her lecture.

She inspired the audience to have a “frank and honest conversation about race.”

“I don’t want my children to experience what I have experienced,” Fields said. “I go into the classroom everyday with this in mind. It brings me more joy than anything else to teach race relations.”

Respect was a major topic not only for the lecture but something Dr. Fields takes very seriously in her classroom.

“Stop intimidating and hurting people that are on the same path as you,” Fields proclaimed. “We are all here to get an education.”

“When we talked about respect with our neighbors, I knew this lecture was going to be really fun and engaging,” Angie Thompson, sophomore political science major, said.

“I love Dr. Fields. She inspires me so much to do better as a person of privilege, to check my privilege, and to be part of the solution to create better race relations,” Jessica Hobbs, junior, English major said.

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### Causes of Interracial Issues:

- **Fear**
- **Miscommunication**
- **Fear of strangers who don’t look like you**
- **Lack of respect**
- **Racial Intimidation**

### Get To Know the Star Behind the Lecture

Fields, who graduated from EMU with both her bachelor’s and master’s degree in communications, is originally from Detroit.

“I loved the faculty. [They] were always very supportive and welcoming to me,” she said.

She went on to Wayne State University to earn her Ph.D. while also teaching at EMU.

She became involved in The Honors College as a faculty member.

“The experience I had with the Honors students was just amazing,” she said.

“I really like their input on race. I realized there was a tremendous need to talk about race because the Honors population, racially, is not large. I thought, if I can make an impact there, I can make a difference.”

# Cheyenne Luzynski Inspires Leaders at February Star Lecture

by Olivia Grills

Cheyenne Luzynski discussed authentic student leadership in the fifth installment of The Honors College's Star Lecture Series.

"I am a leader because I choose to be" was one of Luzynski's first lines and the main topic of her speech. As a current doctoral student in the subject of leadership and a professor for a minor in the same subject, a better candidate would be hard to find.

Her discussion focused not just on leadership, but being authentic. In her words, she explained the importance of being transparent as a future leader, something that the 'big's' in politics and business sometimes fail to do. It's best to get to it soon too, as the more practice one gets early, the easier it will be to exercise values of reliability, trustworthiness and sincerity.

She certainly didn't let the full crowd sit still either. Luzynski's lecture also included some activities to keep things moving and interesting. Students found themselves discussing with strangers the definitive moments in

their life, their personal values and their passions. Ten minutes of silence were left for the crowd to reflect on the person they want to be.

She addressed the reservations some students had about their abilities with encouragement. She said they should start developing their skills without worrying about future failures.

"The fear of the future curbs our behaviors," Luzynski said, "but those who fear failure have probably never experienced failures."

After her speech, students were buzzing with enthusiasm about her words. Casey Fletcher, a sophomore in marketing management, loved how Luzynski got the crowd into her



lecture. "She asked great questions to motivate me to make positive changes in my life." Fletcher said.

"I really think this is a great lecture for the subject," said Samuel O'Donovan, a senior in the field of psychology, "It really got people to think about themselves and how to truly be authentic."

## Students Share Their Thoughts on Cheyenne

Freshman Miles Payne, a major in psychology, is earning a minor in LEADership. He said Luzynski is a role model and a mentor and she has made him more aware of his role as a leader in his community.

*"She is invested in each individual student and through that has challenged me in new ways that have not only helped me transition into being a successful collegiate student, but also to truly grow as an individual," Payne said. "She is very aware of all the different views there are of the world and she can teach to each of those which is an incredible talent in itself."*

Lauren Renou, a junior communications, marketing and LEADership student, said Luzynski is inspiring.

*"She encourages students to pursue their passions and to give back to the world," Renou said. "She loves her students and they love her because of the devotion that she has to them. She wants to see her students succeed and will do anything she can to make that happen for them."*

## Upcoming Lecture

Date



**The Language That Separates Us**



Dr. T. Daniel Seely



March 8

7 - 8:30 p.m.



# Honors Students Attend Retreat



Honors students attended a six day LeaderShape Retreat to sharpen their leadership skills through workshops and hands-on activities.

Isabelle McCormack, a senior nursing student, said she wanted to attend the retreat so she could gain the skills she needs to be an effective leader and work as a team member.

“LeaderShape helped me to identify the characteristics about myself that defined me as a leader,” McCormack said. “These traits were refined over the course of the week and were then applied to the leadership role. It also helped me to strengthen weaker areas about myself in order to work better in a team.”

She said her favorite part of the retreat was an activity in which she was given hypothetical situations and was asked to make post-earthquake survival decisions.

“This exercise really helped me to learn to work as a team, compromise, and communicate my ideas with others, while respecting the opinions of others as well,” McCormack said.

Dalton Brosnan, a junior marketing

major, said he learned more about his abilities as a leader.

“I learned that competitiveness can get in the way of the true mission of a team,” Brosnan said.

Tiffany Browne attended the retreat as well. The senior English literature major said she had originally attended the retreat in the hopes of broadening her perspectives on leadership.

Browne said besides the workshops and activities, she enjoyed canoeing, pictured above.

“[LeaderShape is] an eye opening experience that pushes you out of your comfort zone,” Browne said.

McCormack said the experience helped define her as an Honors student because Honors students act as leaders across the university.

“LeaderShape motivated me to take on new challenges, work to my full potential, embrace my strengths and weaknesses, and believe in myself and my work,” she said. “I believe that the information and skills taught in LeaderShape represent the core values of what it means to be part of The Honors College at EMU.”

# The HC’s New Secretaries

**Noel Dockett**

Education: Eastern Michigan University, Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology with a minor in Sociology  
*“I liked understanding the way the mind works,” she said.*

Previous Work Experience: The University of Michigan Center for Human Growth and Development, Research Technician

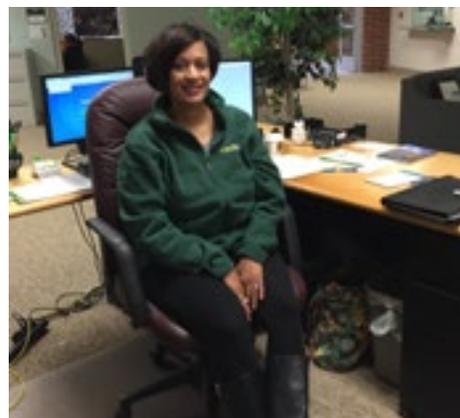


**Diane Brinson-Days**

Education: Sinclair Community College, University of Detroit Mercy, Eastern Michigan University, earning a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration

Previous Work Experience: Detroit Federal Reserve Bank, Brink’s Security Company, Eastern Michigan University Student Business Services Office

*“Coming to The Honors College was like a breath of fresh air,” Brinson-Days said.*



# December 2015 Honors Graduates

Hannah Brokaw  
*University Honors*

Jessica Heatherman  
*University Honors*

Dylan McPhee  
*University Honors*

Deandre Brown  
*Departmental Honors:*  
*Public Relations*

Hannah Hilbert  
*University Honors*  
*Departmental Honors:*  
*Anthropology*  
*Highest Honors*

Haley Oliver  
*University Honors*

Jenna Coon  
*University Honors*  
*Departmental Honors:*  
*Nursing*  
*Highest Honors*

Hallee Kansman  
*University Honors*  
*Departmental Honors:*  
*Biology*

Sarah Orr  
*University Honors*  
  
Gary Petrie  
*Departmental Honors:*  
*Psychology*

Emily Dzik  
*University Honors*

Aidan Kennedy  
*University Honors*

Andrew Raymond  
*University Honors*

Stephanie Frank  
*University Honors*

Kaylie Lobb  
*University Honors*

Kayla Riddle  
*University Honors*

Marshall Gaines  
*Departmental Honors:*  
*History*

Katie Lozon  
*University Honors*

Angela Sagert  
*University Honors*

Azsa Guthridge  
*University Honors*

Marcus McCray  
*University Honors*  
*Departmental Honors:*  
*Political Science*

Kristen Satchel  
*Departmental Honors:*  
*Psychology*

Ashley Hagadon  
*University Honors*

Myriah Schwartz  
*University Honors*

## **The Honors College Mission**

The Honors College at Eastern Michigan University serves the university community by empowering academically talented and motivated students to reach their full personal, scholastic, service and leadership potential through challenging coursework with engaged peers and faculty and through extra-curricular activities that foster international and diversity awareness and a commitment to civic engagement.

## **Support Honors @ EMU**

Alumni and community supporters are invited to contribute their time or make a financial contribution to support The Honors College.

To learn about opportunities to give to The Honors College, visit:

[www.emich.edu/honors/giving](http://www.emich.edu/honors/giving)

## **Honors Quarterly Mission**

The mission of The Honors Quarterly is to develop active relationships with individuals both inside and outside of the university, and to promote students' academic success through recognition of their achievements. Please send us news updates for upcoming editions at [emuhonors\\_alumni@emich.edu](mailto:emuhonors_alumni@emich.edu). We welcome your ideas and input!

## **Stay in touch!**

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