Emily Harper is a senior at the University of New Orleans. Her Honors Thesis is research based and focuses on Gale Crater on Mars. New photographs from the Curiosity Rover reveal the origins of Mount Sharp (a mountain within Gale Crater) to be Lacustrine. Scientists now believe that the mountain was formed from a series of crater lakes and subsequent erosion after the lake was abandoned. She has done analysis on the images taken by the Rover and calculated ancient flow direction, minimum water depth, and the dip angle of deltas that emptied into the crater lake. Like many thesis students, Emily has learned to expect setbacks, especially mentally. Emily stated, “One can only be so prepared but one’s mental preparedness is less limited. Having emotional and mental resilience is important to completing any goal. It can be easy to get discouraged and sometimes you can’t help it, but you have to work through that to succeed”. At first she didn’t know what to do for her thesis. She only knew she wanted to write one. Inspired by a lecture on Martian Sedimentology in class, she knew immediately that she wanted to focus on that for thesis work. One of her happiest moments in the past couple of years was the day her professor agreed to advise her for her Senior...
Honors Thesis. When asked if she has any advice for those who will be completing a thesis in the future she replied, “Do your best to keep a good mindset. Encourage yourself and have confidence even when you don’t feel particularly put together. Fake it until you make it!” After graduating from UNO, Emily plans to go on to Graduate school to complete a Master’s program, eventually working in the Petroleum field.

Dr. Joel Webb received the Distinguished Service Award at the Honors Convocation this year due to his volunteer work with honors students. Dr. Webb is a Math Instructor for the Department of Mathematics at UNO. Dr. Webb has taught over 16 Honors Option students in the past 5 years. He volunteers his time to allow students to earn Honors credit in his classes. The Honors students appreciate his dedication and support that he offers in his Mathematics classes. Dr. Webb says that he enjoys working with Honors students due to their enthusiasm and their love for learning new things. He believes that many of the Honors students will continue on to careers in the sciences or academia. Since Honors students have great opportunities ahead of them, he feels that the work that he does with them is very important in the long term.

In order to earn Honors credit in his courses, his students work on Math problems. The minimum amount of work that Honors students are required to hand in is 10 pages of extra work for the course. In Dr. Webb’s class, his extra assignment is often many more than ten pages of work! For example, one problem might be about three pages long! Although his Honors Option extra assignment is very challenging, many Honors students complete the task and are grateful to be challenged by Dr. Webb.

When Dr. Webb works with Honors students in his courses, he likes to begin his course with challenging problems from the course textbook to see if the Honors students are willing to do the extra work. Once students have established that
they are committed to doing the extra work, he allows the students to pick an area of Mathematics to explore. For example, Abstract Algebra or Complex Analysis are two areas that students often choose.

Dr. Webb teaches Mathematics at UNO, but he also wants his students to know that he enjoys English Literature and History. He loves to read and does it constantly. He favorite authors are Dickens and P.G. Wodehouse. He is currently reading *Hard Times* and is planning on reading all of Dicken’s novels! His next nonfiction read will be Thucydides’ *History of the Peloponnesian War*.

Dr. Webb encourages Honors students and professors to participate in Honors Option, but he says to make sure that expectations are clear in the beginning of the course. He explained when students only complete some of the extra work and not all of the work, the experience can be frustrating for the professor and the student. The student and the professor need to come to an agreement in the very beginning of the course about what extra work needs to be completed in order to earn the Honors credit for the course.

He ended the interview by saying, “In general, if you are considering taking, or teaching, an Honors course, by all means do it! For professors, working with the honors students at UNO is very rewarding.”
A DRAWING BY TAYLOR BOWIE

“ROSE”

A DRAWING BY COURTNEY ALEXANDER

“BABY”
Every year, LCHC (Louisiana Collegiate Honors Conference) offers the special opportunity for dedicated, intelligent students from across Louisiana to come together, share ideas, and bask in the glow of nerd culture and camaraderie. This weekend, the conference was hosted in Lafayette by ULL (the University of Louisiana in Lafayette). This year I was honored to represent the University of New Orleans and the University of New Orleans Honors Student Council as the Captain of the Quiz Bowl team. It’s been a tough year considering the state budget and all that jazz, but we were still pumped either way. I, of course, tried to have all the members in my car so we could practice a little on the way.

We pulled up to our hotel right on time and got changed and headed out to the welcome night. We got there and received some pretty neat “swag” bags with notepads and pens and general information about the conference. They had a pretty great dinner too. There was a lot of traditional Cajun food which I guess makes sense considering their mascot is the “Ragin Cajun”. Afterwards, there was a talent show. I “volunteered” (and by that I mean I was shoved up on stage) to sing. I was nervous since I didn’t have music, but I ended up doing it a Capella and everyone seemed to enjoy it anyway. After the talent show, there was a dubstep themed disco which we stayed at for a little while. We then decided to head back to the hotel for some team bonding. We may have stayed up a little late playing games, but we certainly had fun.

Six A.M. came really early and we were all up getting breakfast at the hotel. Our first match was at 8:00 A.M., so we wanted to make sure we were ahead of schedule. When the time finally came, we were pretty nervous. I was one of the only veterans on the team. Everyone else was a first timer. Although we didn’t win our first two matches, we did end up winning the next two and finally lost the last two. ULL (as always) was heading to the finals and we thought we were finished. We decided to go enjoy the free lunch anyway and maybe leave early in order to get back to campus on time for International Night.

While we were eating, the moderator came to inform us that we made it to the finals against ULL. Apparently, every team (aside from ULL) had won and lost the exact same amount of matches so they went with how many points each team got during each round. UNO happened to have the second best scores (compared to ULL) so we made it in!

Although we didn’t win the final round, we were still pleasantly surprised to have made it to the finals and...
we were honored to have competed. Of course, we hope to win next year and I think we have a great chance considering how well we did this year. It’s been a while since we’ve had the trophy but I think we are definitely on track to getting it back to UNO next year. We left around 3:30 P.M. and hit some bad traffic around Baton Rouge. It got worse once we got closer (apparently the marsh was on fire again) so we ended up stuck on the bridge, but we had fun singing songs and bonding even more. We managed to make it back to campus right at 6:00 P.M. and everyone was able to make it to International Night, albeit a little late.

I can safely say that I am UNO Proud to have been a representative of the University and even more so to have won second place. We’re gunning for first next year! Just wait and see!

Congratulations!
HONORS GRADUATES: FALL 2014 & SPRING 2015

University & Departmental
Jeffrey Bagwell
Zoe Johnson
Bethany McCurdy
Lauren Reeks
Rachel Williams

Major
Philosophy
Film
Psychology
Film
Film

Departmental
Emily Harper
Gaetano Venezia

Major
Earth and Environmental Science
Philosophy

To the Right: Bethany McCurdy and Emily Harper

ABOVE: ZOE JOHNSON AND HER FATHER
ABOVE: ZOE JOHNSON AND JEFFREY BAGWELL
Top Left: Students gather together for the 2014 Annual Back to School Barbeque.
Top Center: Students volunteer to “Clean the Lake” by picking up trash along UNO’s lakefront campus.
Top Right: Students pose for a picture at the 2014 National Alliance on Mental Illness walk.

Above Left: Academic Excellence Students pose for a picture at the Honors Convocation.
Above Center: Students sell baked goods at the 2014 Halloween Bake Sale.
Above Right: Students run away from the “zombies” during a Humans vs. Zombies game.

Bottom Right: President Fos speaks with Dr. Sarwar and participants at the 2014 Annual Breakfast of Champions event.
FALL 2015-SPRING 2016 HONORS COUNCIL OFFICERS

Michelle Butcher, President
Hey y'all I'm Michelle Butcher and I am your President! I am also Vice President of ODK, the Community Outreach Chair for Leadership Cabinet, Captain of the Quizbowl team and a Sagittarius haha. As you can see I am dedicated to UNO and this city. As a Senior Urban Planning and Anthropology double major, I hope to use my education to help make this city and UNO a better place. I look forward to another great year.

Edwin Interiano, Treasurer
Hi, my name is Pemba Nuru Sherpa and I am the Vice-President of the UNO Honors Student Council. I am a sophomore majoring in Physics and I am doing research on Micromagnetic Simulation at AMRI. I have been a member of the Honors Student Council for a year and as the new Vice-President, I look forward to making this club more well-known and well-respected in the UNO community. I am also the Senator for the COS and an active member of ISO.

Matthew Thomas, Sergeant at Arms
My name is Matthew Thomas and I am the Sergeant at Arms for the Honors Student Council. I am a non-traditional, full-time student enrolled in the Civil Engineering program. I have years of conflict resolution experience and I am honored to be your new Sergeant at Arms.

Meijah Lieteau, Secretary
I'm Meijah Lieteau. I'm a senior in the music department. I enjoy being secretary because I'm pretty good at taking notes and paying attention. It's a fun job and it's a pleasure to do.

Edwin Interiano, Treasurer
Hi, my name is Edwin Interiano. I am the treasurer of this prestigious organization here at UNO. Having already served as the treasurer for one year, I know I am equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to handle and complete the tasks that I will be assigned. I like being quick and to the point, always finding the most efficient way to complete a task.

Jose Berlioz, Public Relations Officer
My name is Jose Berlioz and I am originally from Honduras. I am majoring in Electrical Engineering. Since coming to New Orleans, I've noticed the greatest asset the city and University offers is its people. For that reason, I thought the best position I could aspire to be is the Public Relations officer. I welcome everyone this year. I am proud to be part of the Honor's Program, and I promise to do my best as your PR officer this year.
Honors Program Staff

Associate Provost  Dr. Abu Kabir Mostofa Sarwar
Counselor  Tiffany Malatesta
Student Workers  Cheyenne McKenzie
  Taylor Bowie

- Don’t forget to check our web page for important updates about Honors:
  www.uno.edu/honors/

- Our main mode of contacting students is through email, so check your UNO
  email account often or have your mail forwarded from your UNO account
  to an account that you use regularly.

- Like us on FaceBook for up-to-date events and fun!
  https://www.facebook.com/unohonorscouncil

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