

# Seattle University Honors Program

## Spring 2008

### Newsletter

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#### **A Note from the Director**

This year marks the end of my initial three-year term as director. *Tempus fugit!* I have been re-appointed for another three-year term, which will commence in the 2009-2010 academic year. Next year I will be on a sabbatical leave. Such leaves are a normal part of academic life. They are meant to give professors the time to engage in and complete research projects that cannot be done during a normal academic year with its teaching and service obligations. Over the past few years I have had a number of obligations both within and outside the university that have made it difficult for me to complete my research projects. I decided to take a sabbatical at this time only under the condition that my absence would not disrupt in any way the Honors Program for which continuity in the office is essential. I am pleased to say that Dr. David Madsen will be the interim director for next year. As many of you know, Dr. Madsen served as director of the program for many years. He knows the duties of the office exceedingly well and, equally important, he is a trusted advisor; he knows the ins and outs of this university better than I. So, the program will be in very capable hands next year. Teaching and serving the students in the Honors Program is a very rewarding experience. I will greatly miss the opportunity to do so next year, but I will not be totally out of sight. I plan to attend many of the Honors functions throughout the year.

James Risser, Director  
University Honors Program

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#### **Special Notes**

This spring marks the first time that the new HONR 480 Interdisciplinary course has been offered. This course is available to Honors Program students in their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year at Seattle University. It combines the requirements for the Interdisciplinary Core course and the second Theology course into one 6 credit course. This year it is being taught by Dr. David Boness from the Physics Department and by Dr. Catherine Punsalan from the Theology Department. The Honors Program plans to offer this course once every other year.

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## **Upcoming Campus Events**

### **Global African Studies Lecture**

Guest Speaker  
**Dinaw Mengestu**

Global African Studies is presenting Dinaw Mengestu the author of *The Beautiful Things that Heaven Bears*. The book was named a *New York Times* notable book for 2007 and was on the *Los Angeles Times* best seller list. Mengestu will read from the book and answer questions.

Pigott Auditorium  
Thursday, May 8, 2008  
7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

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### **Annual Philosophy Club Conference**

Shafer Auditorium  
Thursday-Friday, May 8-9, 2008  
For more information contact  
John Borges ([borgesj@seattleu.edu](mailto:borgesj@seattleu.edu)) President, SU Philosophy Club

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### **Poetry Reading**

Guest Poet  
**Tony Curtis**

One of the most popular poets of his generation, Tony Curtis has been awarded the National Poetry Prize and is a member of Aosdana, the Irish Academy of the Arts. He is the author of six collections of poetry and has also edited “as the Poet Said” a selection of quotations from Dennis O’Driscoll’s regular column in “Poetry Ireland Review.”

Pigott Auditorium  
Tuesday, May 20, 2008  
4:00 P.M.

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## **Honors Graduation Banquet**

Casey Commons  
Monday, June 9, 2008  
5:30 P.M.

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### **Classmate News**

John Drabinski (87-89) now teaches at Hampshire College and has just published his new book *Godard Between Identity and Difference* (Continuum Books).

Natashia Collier (99-01) will be awarded a doctorate in law from the University of Washington this June.

Katherine Rodela (00-02) will begin graduate studies in the Anthropology and Education program at Stanford University this fall.

Madeline Malan Ashby (01-03) is pursuing a graduate degree in Asian Studies at York University.

Jean Marie Callan (03-05) is presently working with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in New York City.

Shasti Conrad (03-05) has just returned from a Semester at Sea program.

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### **Notes of Recognition**

Tara Rice (03-05) was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to Trinidad/Tobago for 2008-2009 to study women's economic issues.

Kai Smith (04-06) was named a Truman Scholar for 2008- 2009. Kai was also elected ASSU president for 2008-2009.

George Bayuga (06-08) received a David Boren Scholarship and will study in China for the 2008-2009 academic year.

[If you would like to let your classmates know of your current work and activity, please send this information to the Honors Program Office to [kirschj@seattleu.edu](mailto:kirschj@seattleu.edu).]