

# Seattle University Honors Program

## Spring 2012

### Newsletter

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#### A Note from the Director

This year the Spring Newsletter comes earlier than usual. It is an opportunity for me to announce that I will be leaving my position as director at the end of this academic year. I will have completed two terms as director and a change in the directorship is natural at this point. Of course, this occasion is a mixed blessing for me. Serving as director of the program has been rewarding beyond measure. I have been in a unique position to witness the growth and success of some many wonderful and talented students. I will miss this very much. But since I am only stepping down as director, I will still have the opportunity to be involved in the program as one of its teachers. So, if I have not convinced everyone I have recently taught that Plato is one of the greatest philosophers that ever lived, I now have the opportunity to convince future Honors students that Hegel or someone else is the greatest philosopher that ever lived. In the coming days a process will be put in place to select the next director of the program. I am sure those of you currently in the program will want to help make the selection and the transition a smooth one.

James Risser, Director  
University Honors Program

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#### Special Note

The University Honors Program will celebrate the graduation of the  
Class of 2010-2012  
on  
Monday, June 4, 2012  
Casey Commons  
Social Gathering at 5:30 P.M.  
Dinner at 6:00 P.M

Entertainment by the Class of 2011-2013

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## **Upcoming Campus Events**

### **Honors Program Touchstone Lecture**

Guest Speaker

Paul Kidder, PhD

Associate Professor, Philosophy Department

Minoru Yamasaki and the Fragility of Architecture

Wyckoff Auditorium

Thursday, March 1, 2012

7:00 – 8:30 P.M.

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### **University Honors Program 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Class Reunion**

May 22, 2012

Reception

Casey Atrium

3:30 – 5:00 P.M.

One of the first graduating classes of the University Honors Program will hold its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on campus on May 22, 2012. The alumni present will attend an Honors class in the morning, followed by a mass in early afternoon. At 3:30 there will be a reception in the Casey Atrium. Former directors, along with Fr. Steve Sundborg and Dean David Powers will be present. Honors Faculty and students are welcome to attend the reception.

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## **Classmate News**

Winter Brown (2000) is a new mom finishing up her PhD in Political Science at UC Davis. Her dissertation topic is “The Politics of Compassion.”

Becca (Thalberg) Khalil (2001), an Attorney for the National Crime Victim Law Institute in Portland, is the Director of the NCVLI's Safeguarding Child-Victims' Rights Initiative.

Nu-AnhTran (2001) is teaching at the Women's College in Bangladesh.

Beth Harrington (2002) is working at USC and has been invited to interview at Northwestern for the PhD in Anthropology program.

Madeline (Malan) Ashby (2003) holds a Master's degree in Manga and Anime, and writes on such matters for [Tor.com](http://Tor.com) and [io9](http://io9) (and soon [BoingBoing](http://BoingBoing) too!).

Alison Staudinger (2003) is an Assistant Professor of Democracy & Justice Studies/Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Rachel Ricci (2003) is a new part-time instructor at Loyola and is studying Political Science at Northwestern.

Erica Terrence (2003) is Conservation Director/Executive Director at Klamath Riverkeeper.

Amanda Schuster (2004) is Owner/tutor [Schuster Tutoring](http://SchusterTutoring), in the Denver area.

Shasti Conrad (2005) is working for *Obama for America* in Chicago.

Kenna Kettrick (2006) has just appeared in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* at the Greenlake Bathhouse Theater.

Michelle Martinez (2006) is applying for graduate programs in Psychology and has been working at the Veterans' Administration Hospital in Seattle.

Laura Peach (2006) is an archivist for Conde Nast publishing and studying fashion design at Parsons in New York.

Meghan Doughty (2008) has been doing service work in Sitka and applying for graduate programs in England.

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### **Recent Study Abroad**

Andrew Battaglia (2008-10) was in Berlin for two semesters to study German language and philosophy at the Freie Universität, and will enroll in the Americans in Paris summer program before spending a semester in Graz, Austria..

Wynn Barnard (2008-10) traveled through Ireland, France, Germany, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Spain, Morocco, and across the US.

Sarah Brady (2008-10) studied abroad in the Dominican Republic through IDIP (International Development Internship Program).

Brenna Cole (2008-10) lived in Spain for 11 months, and studied at Universidad de Salamanca during the summer and Universidad Pontificia de Comillas, ICAE, ICADE, during the school year.

Katherine Dineen (2008-10) is currently studying abroad in Vietnam, and interning with PeaceTrees, a Seattle NGO in Vietnam that came to remove landmines leftover from the Vietnam War.

Ashwin Warrior (2008-10) was abroad for a total of 6 months last year in India and Mongolia. The majority of his time was spent in India, volunteering with different non-profits and studying Hindi.

Dylan Hoffman (2009-11) was in Beijing, China studying Chinese business and Chinese language.

Bradley Jackson (2009-11) is currently in Grenoble, France, living with a host family and taking courses in French history and literature.

Mickayla Rogers, Olivia Gibbons, and Megan Dalton (2009-11) were in Granada, Spain fall quarter studying Spanish. Olivia is continuing her studies this winter and spring in Puebla Mexico.

Patrick Rivers (2007-09) will be leaving this month to work in South Sudan with Nonviolent Peaceforce providing emergency protection and monitoring to communities affected by violence.

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[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).]