

University Honors-program Oversight Committee (HOC)
Report to the Faculty Senate: May/2018

The University Honors-program Oversight Committee (HOC) elected-faculty members are
Erik Cordes (CST)
Jeffrey Boles (FSB)
Vallorie Peridier (ENGR)
Claudia Pine-Simon (CST)
Matt Wray (CLA).

The committee has two at-large faculty members
Dana Saewitz (KMC)
Peshe Kuriloff (COE)

Also, effective this spring, Emily Moerer was appointed to HOC by the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies.

HOC met twice this 2017-2018 academic year, and in the first meeting, the discussions focused largely on a proposed new Honors freshmen-seminar course under development by the Honors Program staff. HOC agreed that providing Honors sections of first-year seminar would strengthen the sense of community among Honors students. HOC also reviewed the syllabus and composed a letter of support to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies. The new Honors freshman- seminar course will first be offered in the Fall/2018 semester.

Beyond the freshmen seminar course, in this 2017-2018 academic year the University Honors Program staff carried out two additional initiatives, which HOC reviewed and discussed in its second meeting. The first was a substantial fund-raising effort to seed their new Honors-student Micro- grant Program. The principal fundraising instrument was a "30th Anniversary Honors Program Gala" at the Ruba Club on 21/April/2018, for alumni, faculty, and their guests. The event was a (crowded) smashing success and it raised \$30,000 for the Honors Micro-grant Program. This new Micro-grant program is intended to fund co-curricular experiences for Honors students such as travel, conference fees, and project materials; beginning in the Fall/2018 semester, Honors students will apply for these funds through a grand-application process. This first and quite successful foray into a major fundraising was envisaged and executed by Zach Martin, a Senior Academic Advisor for the Honors Program.

A second initiative, and coincident with the 30th Anniversary Gala, was the to-be-annually- conferred "Distinguished Honors-program Alumni" award. The first recipient of this award is Temple 2006 Boyer-College graduate Dr. Mena Mark Hanna, who is now Dean of the Barenboim-Said Akademie in Berlin. Mena was a Marshall Scholar who received his Ph.D. from Oxford University's Merton College, where he studied musicology and music composition. Ruth Ost indicated that there were seven or eight other nominations for this award, in just this first year, of comparable distinction. It seems that Temple University is attracting, and graduating, Honors-program students of considerable significance and scholarship!

Continuing the thread of Honors Student scholarship, note that (and for the first time) the Temple Honors Program will be graduating: (i) a Rhodes Scholar, Hazim Hardeman, and (ii) a Goldwater Scholar, Marcus Forst. Furthermore, ten Temple students have accepted Fulbright awards this year. All aforementioned honorees are, of course, graduating seniors, but the entering Temple Honors-program class looks

promising too. There will likely be 500-550 Honors-program freshmen next fall, with an average high school GPA of 3.95 and an average SAT score of 1460.

Two ongoing endeavors will receive further attention next year. First, the Senior Director of the University Honors Program, Dr. Ruth Ost is looking for faculty to mentor Honors students who undertake a cross-disciplinary "Honors Scholar Project." The Honors Scholar Project is an advanced and approved research project with the title notated on the student's transcript. There is a proposal procedure within the Honors Program, and approved projects must incorporate multiple disciplines in the research design. Interested students and faculty mentors should contact Dr. Ost (rost@temple.edu) for specifics.

The second ongoing endeavor is to expand the curriculum options for the Honors students. The Honors program has a perennial need for more Honors classes at the upper level (2xxx and higher) and strongly encourage interested faculty to develop new courses. Fortunately, the recently- approved GenEd "special topics" option for limited-duration GenEd courses should facilitate somewhat the creation of new Honors courses for the GenEd inventory.

Respectfully submitted,

Vallorie J. Peridier
Associate Professor Mechanical Engineering 27/April/2018