

Celebrating



Years

Annual Report



Honors College

Imagine • Pursue • Create

Message from the Dean



In Fall 2020, we will celebrate 60 years of honors education at Washington State University. Our history dates back to 1960 and the vision of Professor Sidney G. Hacker of the Department of Mathematics to create an

“academic program that would rank among the very best – one with a balanced curriculum, designed to promote intellectual curiosity and critical thinking long past graduation.” With the unflagging support of Vice President S. Town Stephenson and President C. Clement French an Honors Program was launched with an incoming class of 176 freshman students. Then, as today, Honors students represented all of the degree-granting colleges and came from nearly every department. Another parallel is that teaching in the Honors curriculum continues to attract the university’s top scholars from faculty across campus.

By the end of its first decade, the Honors Program at Washington State University had grown to more than 560 students. Under the direction of the legendary Professor V.N. “Vic” Bhatia, our Honors Program flourished and gained a reputation as one of the best in the nation and a model for other U.S. colleges and universities. A description of Vic that I particularly like is that he was a “builder” – “not with bricks and mortar, but with vision, drive, and diplomacy.”

In 1979 *The New York Times* wrote, “The extent to which an honors student pursues a deeper and more far-ranging education is seen at Washington State, where ... the Honors Program ... is widely regarded as one of the strongest in the country.”

Under the leadership of professors Jane Lawrence and then Mary Wack, the Honors Program was elevated to the status of Honors College in 1998 and moved into its permanent home in Elmina White Honors Hall in 2000. The Home Economics building, as it was originally known, was completely remodeled to facilitate a living-learning community that contained residential space for over 100 students, classrooms, faculty offices, a library, lounges, and a computer lab.

When Mary Wack moved to the Office of the Provost in 2007, Libby Walker took over as Dean until her retirement in 2013. She led the implementation of a fully integrated honors curriculum that not only continued the emphasis on critical thinking, communication, and discussion but also includes experiential learning activities

such as independent research, study abroad, global awareness, entrepreneurship, and leadership.

Excited by our curriculum and the opportunities offered by an honors education, enrollment in the Honors College continues to grow, far exceeding the predictions of its founders. In Fall 2019, we welcomed over 290 new students (7 percent of the incoming WSU class); total enrollment now exceeds 1,100 with representation from every degree-granting college.

As Dean I enjoy meeting with each of our first-year students. A question they frequently ask is, “What do you do?” There is, of course, the long answer, but my two overarching commitments are to do all I can to ensure that each student has the best possible undergraduate experience and to provide opportunities and resources so that our graduates are best prepared for the next step in their careers, enabled to make a positive impact on the world and be leaders in their respective fields.

An example of how we create innovative opportunities and programs is the recently launched certificate in Mindfulness-Based Emotional and Social Intelligence (MESI), which teaches happiness as a skill and provides students with the tools to improve their academic performance, relationships, health, and happiness. Through innovative coursework, workshops, local and global service projects, and guest speakers, the MESI certificate trains students in mindfulness, self-awareness, self-management, empathy, and compassion and prepares them for a life of personal and professional integrity and engagement.

In *The Mind of a Leader*, the authors Rasmus Hougaard and Jacqueline Carter write, “It’s no accident that organizations with more compassionate leaders have stronger connections between people, better collaboration, more trust, stronger commitment to the organization, and lower turnover. Simply put, compassion is core to effective leadership.”

The MESI certificate is just the latest example of how an Honors education at Washington State University is able to evolve to meet the needs of our students and provide them with important personal and professional skills for success now and into the future.

I hope that you will join us on September 10–12, 2020 to celebrate 60 years of excellence. The day will be marked with opportunities for alumni and friends to reconnect with Honors, to share time with current students, and to enjoy a diamond anniversary gala with many special guests.

With sincere thanks and warmest wishes,
M. Grant Norton, Dean

INCOMING FRESHMEN

Fall 2019

GPA

3.76 – 3.91

25%

50%

25%

MSAT SCORES

600 – 650

25%

50%

25%

RSAT SCORES

610 – 650

25%

50%

25%

COMSAT SCORES

1240 – 1310

25%

50%

25%

ACT SCORES

26 – 29

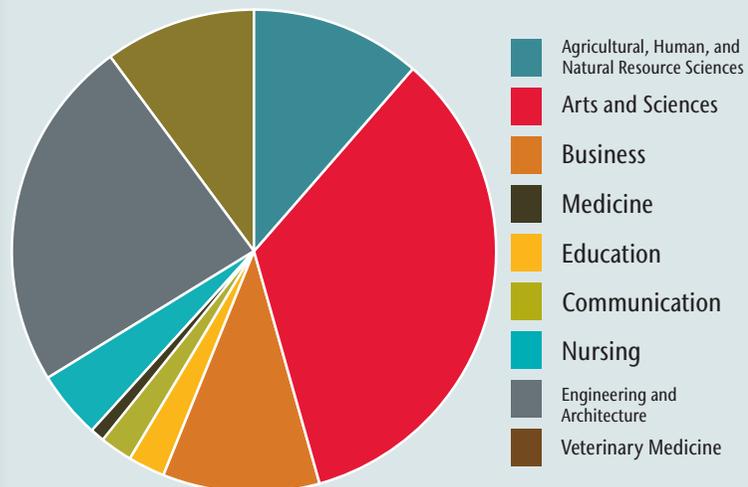
25%

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Majors by College

Honors Student Body—Fall 2019



Alumni Engagement

Honors Alumnus Jim Holt Creates WSU History with a Gutenberg Bible “Noble Fragment”

In Year 2050, alumnus Jim Holt ('74 Political Philosophy) plans to travel to Pullman to present to the WSU Honors College in person his most precious possession—a leaf from a Gutenberg Bible printed in 1450.

In 2050, Holt will be 98 years old and the Bible page, called a “Noble Fragment,” will be 600 years old; it is the first book produced using movable type. Johann Gutenberg of Germany developed the press.

Holt’s two-sided leaf is filled with 42 lines each in two columns of scripture from the book of Ecclesiastes. The black print is highlighted by hand lettering—rubrication—in red and blue. Holt said he takes it out about once a month from under lock and key in the Oak Harbor home he shares with his wife Hannah. Each time, he admires and marvels over the page.

“It inspires me, makes me appreciate Western culture and mankind as a whole, and makes me grateful that I’m somehow lucky enough to be the temporary steward of this incredible piece of history.”



“I am giving the leaf to WSU in my will in appreciation for all of the ways that my experiences and education there formed me.” He matriculated to WSU as a walk-on for the gymnastics team, and went on to earn a law degree. His experiences as an Honors student broadened his knowledge and understanding of the world, he said. Ultimately, gymnastics was the foundation of his long and successful career that spanned decades as an international coach.

Of the more than 175 Gutenberg Bibles originally printed, 49 have survived and are in institutions around the world. In 1923 a New York dealer came across a partial Gutenberg that was broken apart into individual pages, including the one Holt has now.

According to Holt’s wishes, his leaf will one day be housed with WSU Libraries’ Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collection department, accessible to the WSU community and beyond. It will be the earliest example of printing with moveable type there.

A Conversation with Gerri Martin-Flickinger ('85) Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, Starbucks

Gerri Martin-Flickinger ('85 Computer Science) leads global technology at Starbucks. She joined us in Pullman in May 2019 as the WSU Honors College Commencement Banquet keynote speaker.

How does technology impact the way Starbucks engages with its customers?

Starbucks is at an exciting point in its history. We’re reimagining the “third place,” a concept deeply-rooted in the importance of human connection. Many people are immediately familiar with our customer-facing technology like mobile order and pay in the Starbucks Mobile App. I’m equally excited about using technology to automate behind-the-scenes tasks like scheduling and inventory management, giving our partners more time to do what they love—creating moments of connection with our customers.

If you were not in your current role as Chief Technology Officer at Starbucks, what would you be doing?

I love being at Starbucks, but if I weren’t here, I could see myself back on a university campus, hopefully both learning and teaching. This is fascinating time in artificial intelligence and machine learning, and I would relish the opportunity to work with students—our next generation of technologists—on AI/ML research.



What are some important skills that students need today to be successful in life and work?

Storytelling is so important. The ability to bring others along on your vision is critical to success. Learn how to create communications supported by facts and data, and how to tell your story in a creative and compelling way.

How do you define success?

There is so much focus on our professional endeavors, and that’s certainly important. I’ve been incredibly fortunate to build a career doing what I love. But that’s not how I define or measure success. I count my success in the rich relationships I have with the people around me. For me, that includes a community of colleagues and friends, and especially my family.

What is one piece of advice that you would give to your younger self?

Those who attended the WSU Honors Commencement Ceremony in spring may remember this lesson: “Take time to look out the window!” I don’t mean a physical window. Today’s work is important, but be sure to ask yourself what’s around the corner? With growth in mind, protect time for ideation and imagination about what’s next. Take time to look out the window.

What Does Honors Mean to You?

Vanessa Giramata

Economic Sciences ('20)



The Honors College has encouraged me to dream big. From activities I am involved in to programs I apply for, I wouldn't have thought about going after these

opportunities if it wasn't for Honors faculty seeing potential in me and encouraging me to aim high!

Ava Beck

Humanities – Linguistics and Spanish ('21)



The Honors College is what has made me proud to be a Cougar; the most memorable classes I've taken, people I've encountered, discussions I've had, and opportunities I've pursued while at WSU

have taken place through Honors. I couldn't have asked for a richer set of experiences to enhance my academic career, and to push me towards the student—and person—I strive to become.

Nam Nguyen

Business ('19)



What I like the most in the Honors College are the experiential learning opportunities—from presenting at a research conference to studying abroad, to completing my Honors thesis and

many other engagement opportunities. I've learned a lot from these opportunities, and they helped me significantly in bridging the gap between theory and practice, making myself more competitive for the competitive workforce nowadays.

Alida Melse

Microbiology and German for the Professions ('20)



I like the small class sizes and how subjects range from creative writing to astronomy. Through Honors classes, I was regularly encouraged to consider topics from multiple

perspectives and engage in discussion with my classmates.

Alumni Reflections

"From analyzing German films and the pharmacology of emerging drugs to being immersed in the histories of Tang China and Renaissance Italy, my time in WSU's Honors College was enriching and inspiring. My perspective on the world was forever broadened—and my way-of-learning forever molded—by my choice to join the Honors College at WSU"



Jansen VanderMeulen ('16)

Law Clerk, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

"I still remember being fascinated by my Honors Eastern and Western Civilizations classes. Being in the Honors Program was probably a factor in my being awarded a full WSU scholarship to study in Paris for a year. All of these experiences provided a great base for my career as a diplomat."



Leslie V. Rowe ('70)

U.S. Ambassador (ret.)

"Through the WSU Honors College, I was able to engage in a study abroad experience in Spain. The experience was exceedingly memorable and made for an amazing summer. Studying abroad combined with the other opportunities from being part of the Honors College helped me in achieving my goals after I graduated from Washington State University."



Derick En'wezoh ('10)

MD, MBA

Linda Infranco

Director of Development

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It is time for us to celebrate 60 years of honors education at Washington State University! As we reflect on the progression of Honors since 1960, it is no wonder that, as one alumnus wrote recently, the Honors College is the "crown jewel" of Washington State University. From science to business, engineering to the arts, the Honors College enhances learning in all disciplines and encourages students to nurture their intellectual growth and curiosity.

Let us also reflect on the experiences we've had here on campus and the many mentors, friends, and professors who have guided us along the way. Washington State University is a special place where memories are made, and the Honors College is a community that brings us all together. Next September, we will reconnect, rediscover and be reminded of the impact that an honors education has on our communities, our families and ourselves.

As I meet with our alumni and friends of Honors throughout the year, I am in awe of the talented, thoughtful, and visionary individuals who have made their own unique contributions to society. These same leaders create their legacies in Honors by investing in programs and scholarships that align with their passions and enhance the student experience.

Let's bring the Honors College community together in September 2020 and celebrate how far we've come and the vision of where we are headed! Contact me any time to learn how you can get engaged! I look forward to meeting you. Thank you for your support of the WSU Honors College. Take care, be well, and as always – **Go Cougs!**

Thank you to our Commencement Banquet Speakers!

Thomas ('69) and Linda ('71) Nihoul
December 2018

Gerri Martin-Flickinger ('85)
May 2019



Success at a Glance



Elyse Bennett

Biology ('20)

Elyse is a Forward on the WSU Women's Soccer team. From a young age, Elyse had a passion for sports. Her father played football with the Green Bay Packers and Chicago Bears. Elyse was drawn to soccer and played for DePere High School in Wisconsin before joining FC Wisconsin Eclipse

where she was one of the top scorers in the Elite Club National League. In her first year at Washington State University, Elyse was named to the Pac-12 All Freshman team and, as a sophomore, she was named a Pac-12 All-American Honorable Mention. Elyse has a current career total of 10 goals and six assists. Academically, Elyse is part of the Honors College where she is pursuing a degree in Biology with an emphasis in pre-med. Elyse's career goal is to become a Physician Assistant.



Kristian Gubsch

Chemical Engineering ('20)

In December 2019, Honors senior Kristian Gubsch was awarded a Marshall Scholarship for two years of study at the University of Sheffield in the U.K. The Marshall Scholarship is one of the oldest and most prestigious scholarships offered to U.S. citizens and it recognizes the

close relationship between the U.S. and the U.K. as allies and world leaders. For Kristian, the Marshall Scholarship is the most recent in a long list of nationally competitive awards that he has earned while pursuing his bachelor's degree at WSU. As a chemical engineering student, Kristian has pursued research opportunities related to air quality and climate change. In 2018, he received an Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and was selected in 2019 for a Barry. M. Goldwater Scholarship for students in STEM fields. He balances his dedication to research with his involvement with the Honors community as a student facilitator in the Honors College Freshman Experience program, where he co-teaches a class of 15 first-year Honors students. Kristian's many accomplishments in the field of climate change research recently earned him an invitation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Madrid, Spain.



Sergey Lapin

Sergey Lapin is a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. He teaches Honors calculus and linear algebra in addition to an Honors 390 Global Issues in the Sciences course, and his most recent Honors 380 course on Russian culture, history, and language. His classes are popular and among many positive

student comments was a suggestion: "If I could propose any changes it would be that this course be required for a whole year! Super engaging, interesting, and fun!"

Lapin was awarded the 2018 Honors College award for faculty excellence. One award is made each year and it recognizes not only excellence in classroom instruction, but overall contributions to the mission of the Honors College. In addition to supporting classroom instruction in the Honors College, Sergey has acted as advisor on a number of Honors College theses and was recognized with the Honors College Thesis Advisor Award in 2016. He is one of only a few faculty to have received both awards. In 2016 he was appointed an Honors Faculty Fellow.



Will Hamlin

English Professor William M. Hamlin has been selected as the first faculty member to serve the Honors College as the Elma Ryan Bordenander Honors Chair. Associated with Honors since 2014, Hamlin taught a seminar on "Twice-Told Tales: Biblical and Classical Narratives in Renaissance Retellings." In his new appointment, the award-winning scholar, author, and researcher will teach and research exclusively in Honors

for four semesters. His spring 2020 course is aimed at junior-level students and is titled "Global Shakespeare." Hamlin will help students explore how the Bard's works are understood and performed in different parts of world, he said. Also in his new Honors role, Hamlin employs Honor students to assist with his research. One project involves using computational linguistics to study the use of language over time, made possible thanks to the digitization of literature. "I love teaching Honors classes. The students work hard and the administration is caring. I plan to serve the College well in my new role," said Hamlin.

Distinguished Scholarships

Amgen Scholars U.S. program—**Owen Canterbury** was selected for an Amgen Scholars research internship at Duke University.

Freddye T. Davy Scholarship—In 2019, **Vanessa Giramata** was awarded the Davy Scholarship from the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Fulbright Fellowship—**Garrett Snedeker** was awarded a Fulbright fellowship in 2019 to complete a Master's degree in London, England.

Fulbright U.K. Summer Institutes—**Ava Beck** was selected for a summer program at Aberystwyth, Wales, in 2019.

German Academic Exchange (DAAD)—Research Internships in Science and Engineering (RISE)—**Chance Lewis** and **Chase Lewis** were selected as interns for the RISE program in summer 2019.

Gilman Scholarship—In 2019 **John Barnwell** received the Gilman scholarship to study in Hungary, and **Tatianna Wade** was awarded the scholarship to study in China.

Goldwater Scholarship—**Daniel Goto**, **Kristian Gubsch**, and **Courtney Klappenbach** were awarded Goldwater awards in 2019.

Marshall Scholarship—In 2019, **Kristian Gubsch** became the first ever WSU student to receive the Marshall scholarship. He will pursue graduate study at the University of Sheffield, U.K. starting in fall 2020.

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP)—**Jacob Woodbury** ('19 Genetics & Cell Biology) was awarded a graduate fellowship from the NSF to pursue graduate study at WSU.

Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Program—**Vanessa Giramata** was selected for a PPIA Summer Institute at Princeton University in 2019.



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CELEBRATING
60 Years
OF EXCELLENCE

Save the Date in 2020!
Honors College 60th Anniversary Celebration
Thursday–Saturday | September 10–12

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Upcoming Events for 2020

- **Wednesday, March 11**
CougsFirst! Show, Seattle
(cougsfirst.org)
- **Wednesday, April 22**
CougsFirst! Show, Spokane
(cougsfirst.org)
- **Friday, May 8**
Honors College Spring
Commencement Reception
- **Thursday–Saturday,
September 10–12**
Honors College 60th
Anniversary Celebration
- **Friday, December 11**
Honors College Fall
Commencement Banquet
- **Friday–Sunday,
March 26–28, 2021**
WSU Honors College will
host the Western Regional
Honors Conference
“Planet and Peoples:
Conservation and Coexistence”