Elyse Bennett

Bio (’21)
Elyse is a senior in the WSU Women’s Soccer team. Elyse is a young, slender, athletic player who excels in sports. Her father played football with the Green Bay Packers and Chicago Bears. Elyse went on to play soccer and received a scholarship to and played at the University of Nebraska before joining the WSU Women’s Soccer team, where she was one of the top scorers in the Big Eight National League. In her first year of Big Eight play, Elyse was named a Second Team All-Conference Honorable Mention. She has since been a consistent presence on the team and continues to excel in her role.

Kristin Gubsch

Chemical Engineering (’20)
In December 2019, Honors senior Kristian Gubsch was awarded a Marshall Scholarship to 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 recognizes the student’s outstanding academic record as well as his or her potential to serve as a future leader. Elyse’s selection as a Marshall Scholar is the most recent in a long list of nationally competitive awards that she has earned while pursuing her degree at WSU. As a chemical engineering student, Kristian has pursued research opportunities related to climate change and atmospheric science with an emphasis in pre-med. Elyse’s career goal is to become a Physician Assistant.

Sergey Lapin

Mathematics (’23)
Sergey Lapin is a junior in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. His research involves number theory and particularly his interest in Diophantine equations and elliptic curves. He has received various awards and recognitions, including a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship for students in STEM fields. He has also been selected for an Amgen Scholars research internship at Duke University in 2020.

Will Hamlin

English (’20)
William Professor William M. Hamlin has been selected as the first faculty member to serve on the WSU Faculty Senate and will serve as Chair. A native of Honors and is currently the Associate Dean of the Honors College. In addition to supporting classroom instruction, he is one of only a few faculty members who have received both awards. In 2016 he was appointed an Honors College Thesis Advisor Award and was appointed as the first faculty member to serve on the Honors College 60th Anniversary Celebration committee.

Economics (’20)
Daniel Goto was selected for a PPIA Summer Institute Scholarship. PPIA is a program that provides opportunities for students from underrepresented minorities in the fields of science and technology. Daniel received the scholarship to study in China.

Past Winners

Vanessa Giramata was selected for a Fulbright Fellowship. Mary Freddye T. Davy Scholarship—In 2019, Vanessa Giramata was named a Gilman Scholar to study in Hungary, and Tatianna Wade was awarded the Gilman Scholarship to study in Kenya.

Gulfam Khan

Mathematics (’20)
Gulfam Khan is a junior in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. His research is in the field of number theory and particularly his interest in Diophantine equations and elliptic curves. He has also been selected for a PPIA Summer Institute Scholarship in 2020.

Potential Events for 2020

• Wednesday, March 11
  CougsFirst! Spokane, Spokane (cougsfirst.org)
• Wednesday, February 26
  CougsFirst! Show, Spokane (cougsfirst.org)
• Friday—Sunday, March 26–28, 2020
  WSU Honors College will host the Western Regional Honors Conference “People and Ideas: Cooperation and Conscience” at Pullman, WA.
Honor Alumnus Jim Holt Creates WSU History with a Gutenberg Bible “Noble Fragment”

In 2010, alumnus Jim Holt (’74 Communication) embarks on a journey to fulfill a lifelong dream of possessing an artifact from a Gutenberg Bible. Holt, a physician and honors student at WSU in 1974, has long been fascinated with the history of printing and the Gutenberg Bible.

In 2010, Holt will be 54 years old and the Bible will be 500 years old. Holt describes this as a “Noble Fragment,” which is a term used to identify a piece of a Gutenberg Bible. Holt believes that his acquisition of such a historical artifact will be a significant accomplishment in his life.

Of the more than 175 Gutenberg Bibles originally printed, 62 have survived and are known to exist today. In 1923, a New York dealer came across a partial Gutenberg Bible that had been acquired in 1919 by a Russian书籍 collector. Holt eventually acquired the Gutenberg Bible through his connections with people involved in the book trade and was able to purchase the fragment.

Holt’s acquisition of the Historical fragment filled an enormous void in his personal collection. Holt’s extensive knowledge of the history of printing and his passion for historical artifacts are evident in his essay about his experiences with the Gutenberg Bible fragment.

“I am going to lose the Bible to my will upon my death,” Holt states. “I am prepared for any of the ways in which my experiences and education have prepared me. I have maintained my interest in WSU as a walk on the years for the gymnastics team and went on to earn a law degree. This project has contributed to my understanding of the world, he said. Ultimately, Gutenberg was the foundation of learning, understanding and the world is an integral part of any project, and the WSU committees for students and the community and the ability to do what is needed.

Holt is a strong believer in the importance of education and the role of universities in society. He states, “I have learned a lot from these opportunities, and they have taught me that I am not the only person to have the ability to learn and grow.” Holt’s acquisition of the Gutenberg Bible fragment is a significant achievement that will serve as a testament to his dedication to the pursuit of knowledge.

In conclusion, Jim Holt’s acquisition of the Gutenberg Bible fragment is a significant achievement that serves as a reminder of the importance of education and the role of universities in society. Holt’s experiences with this project have taught him valuable lessons, and he is committed to continuing his pursuit of knowledge and understanding of the world.

Linda Infranco
Director of Development
linda.infranco@wsu.edu | 509-335-7801

Fall is here. It is time to cultivate our 60 years of honors education at Washington State University. As you reflect on the progress of Honors since 1960, it is no wonder that, as you mentioned recently, the Honors Program is “awe-inspiring” at Washington State University. From sciences to business, in all the arts, the Honors College engages in learning that encompasses all disciplines and encourages students to think critically to more successful in life and work.

Let us also reflect on the experiences we’ve had here on campus and the many people who have guided us along the way. The WSU Honors College is celebrating a special place where memories are made, and the Honors College community is always there for each other. We will never cease, we will continue to be the impact that it has on our current and future students. As I mentioned, you are a vital part of the Honors Program, and I look forward to hearing from you and learning more about the impact you have had on the Honors Program.

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Message from the Dean

Honor Alumnus Jim Holt Creates WSU History with a Gutenberg Bible "Noble Fragment"

In Year 2015, alumnus Jim Holt (74 Fine Arts) had the opportunity to travel to Pullman to present to the WSU Honors College in Fall 2015 an important artifact: a "Noble Fragment"—a leaf from a Gutenberg Bible printed in 1454. Holt brought the leaf to WSU to share its story with the students, faculty and staff who have worked so hard to ensure the success of the Honors College.

As Dean, I enjoy meeting with each of our first-year students. A new year brings new faces and new opportunities. Our Honors Program helps our students to develop into the leaders they will be tomorrow. The Honors Program has always been a place where students come together to learn and grow, and this year is no exception.

The Home Economics building, as it is now known, was constructed in 1901 at Washington State. The building was later renamed in honor of the Honors Program. In 1915, the building was elevated to the status of Honors College, and in 1921, the building was renamed the Honors College. In 1947, the building was renamed again to the Honors College Building.

The Honors Program is widely recognized as one of the best in the nation and a model for other U.S. colleges and universities. A Program flourished and gained a reputation as one of the best in the country at Washington State University. Today, the Honors Program continues to attract the university's top scholars from around the world.

Fall 2019 GPA
1.76 - 1.91 23%
1.92 - 2.09 40%
2.10 - 2.29 12%
2.30 - 2.49 25%
2.50 - 2.69 25%
2.70 - 2.89 20%
2.90 - 3.09 30%
3.10 - 3.29 25%
3.30 - 3.49 15%
3.50 - 3.69 10%
3.70 - 3.91 20%
3.92 - 4.00 30%
MAJOR SCORES
Biological, Human, and Social Sciences 500 - 650 25%
Business 600 - 650 20%
Compassionate Service 650 - 800 75%
Direct Admission 800 - 850 50%
Graduate School 850 - 900 25%
EDUCATION
Communication 40 - 50 50%
Creative and Performing Arts 40 - 50 25%
Fine Arts 50 - 60 25%
Business 50 - 60 25%
Critical Thinking 50 - 60 25%
Innovative Learning 50 - 60 25%
Electrical, Engineering, and Related Technologies 60 - 70 50%
Environmental Technology 60 - 70 25%
Education 70 - 80 25%
Business 70 - 80 25%
Critical Thinking 70 - 80 25%
Innovative Learning 70 - 80 25%
Health Sciences 80 - 90 50%
Information Technology 80 - 90 25%
Mathematics 90 - 100 50%
Physics 90 - 100 25%
Chemistry 100 - 110 50%
Geology 100 - 110 25%
Physics 110 - 120 50%
Chemistry 120 - 130 25%
ECONOMICS
ACT Score 26 - 29 70%
Business 29 - 32 30%
Critical Thinking 29 - 32 70%
Innovative Learning 29 - 32 50%
Geology 32 - 35 50%
Physics 32 - 35 25%
Chemistry 35 - 38 70%
Information Technology 35 - 38 25%
Mathematics 38 - 40 50%
Physics 40 - 42 25%
Chemistry 42 - 45 70%
ECONOMICS
ACT Score 26 - 29 70%
Business 29 - 32 30%
Critical Thinking 29 - 32 70%
Innovative Learning 29 - 32 50%
Geology 32 - 35 50%
Physics 32 - 35 25%
Chemistry 35 - 38 70%
Information Technology 35 - 38 25%
Mathematics 38 - 40 50%
Physics 40 - 42 25%
Chemistry 42 - 45 70%
What does Honors Mean to You?

Vanessa Gramata
Economics Student (20)

What I value the most is that the Honors Program gives me the opportunity to focus on the things that I want to focus on. I think what stands out the most is that it is a place where you can be yourself and that you can foster your own interests. I’ve been able to connect with people in such a way that I never thought I would be able to do.

Alma Ruck
Humanities and Languages (Spanish) (22)

For me, Honors College is a community that I could be a part of. It’s a community where I could find other people who have similar interests, so it was a very welcoming environment for me. I think it really helped me feel comfortable in a college where otherwise I could have felt quite out of place. The Honors Program is for people who want to pursue a total education and that’s what it did for me.

Linda Infranco
Director of Development

It is time for us to celebrate 60 years of honors education at Washington State University! As we reflect on the progress of the Honors Program since its inception in 1960, it is not modest to say that the Honors Program is the "crown jewel" of Washington State University. From science to business to the arts, the Honors Program offers an education that enhances all disciplines and advocates for the interconnection of thought between theory and practice, making itself impactful in all areas.

What Are Some Important Skills That Students Need 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 communicate your message in a clear and concise way, and how to tell your story in a creative and compelling way.

What Does Honors Mean to You?

Vanessa Gramata
Economics Student (20)

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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 Fall 2019 as part of 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’ve been in business for 49 years, and Starbucks plants are among the most immediately recognizable with our customer-facing technology. We are increasingly present in our mobile app and Starbucks Mobile App. I’m excited about the opportunity technology is giving us to engage with customers and improve their experience in the stores. We’re always looking for new ways to engage with customers.

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

Technology is important, but it’s just one part of the equation. Communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking are essential skills. When I was in college, those skills were just as important as they are today.

What is one piece of advice that you would give to your younger colleagues and friends, and especially my family.

I would say to take advantage of all the opportunities that are available to you. Don’t be afraid to try new things and take risks. And always remember to have fun and enjoy the process.

Thank you to our Commencement Banquet Speaker!

Background: Gerri Martin-Flickinger ('85) MBA, 2019

Robert KeWorth ('10) U.S. Ambassador (ret.)

They love the impact technology can have on our society. They understand that technology is not an end in itself, but rather a tool to be used for good. They are passionate about making a positive impact in the world and using their skills to help others.

Thank you for your support of the WSU Honors College. Take care, be well, and always – Keep the Window Open!
Elyse Bennett
Biology (’19)

Elyse is aformer WSU Women’s Soccer team. Even away from the field, she still practices her sports. Her father played football with the Green Bay Packers and Chicago Bears. Elyse decided to play soccer and alleles for her high school in Wisconsin before joining the WSU women’s soccer team. She was one of the top two players in the Elite Club National League. Her first year at Washington State University, Elyse was named to the NWCAA All-American Third Team. The next year, she was named to the NWCAA All-American and the NAIA All-American First Team. Academically, she is part of the Honors College when she is pursuing a degree in biology with an emphasis in environmental science. Elyse’s goal is to become a Physician Assistant.

Kristin Gubisch
Chemical Engineering (’20)

In December 2019, Honors senior Kristin Gubisch was awarded a Marshall Scholarship in 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 highest standards of academic excellence and leadership. The award is named for U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. Frustrated by the Marshall Scholarship is the most recent in a long list of nationally competitive awards that he has earned while pursuing his degree at WSU. As a chemical engineering student, Kristin has earned research support in areas of environmental chemistry and Bioenergy. He is currently completing his senior thesis, which explores the use of computational chemistry to study the mechanism of action of enzymes that are important in the bioconversion of biomass to biofuels. Kristin has also presented his research at national and international conferences. His research has been published in several peer-reviewed journals and he has been invited to speak at various conferences and seminars. He is currently working on a project to develop a new method for the production of biofuels using enzymes from plants.

Will Hamlin
English (’20)

English Professor William M. Hamlin has been selected as the first faculty member to serve the Honors College as the Allen Ryan Bartender Honors Chair. Associated with Honors since 2004, Hamlin taught a seminar on Shakespeare’s Hamlet, “Twice-Told Tales: Biblical and Classical Narratives,” in his new appointment, the award-winning scholar, author, and teacher will teach and research exclusively at Honors for four years. Hamlin’s academic and research commitments are to the study of language and literature. His work has been published in numerous journals and books, and he has given lectures and workshops around the world. He is particularly interested in the ways in which language and literature can be used to explore and understand complex social, cultural, and historical issues. His research focuses on the uses of language in different parts of the world, and he is particularly interested in the ways in which language is used to express and shape identities. His work has been supported by several grants and awards, and he has been invited to speak at many conferences and seminars. He is currently working on a project to explore the ways in which language is used to express and shape identities in different parts of the world.

Daniel Goto
Goldwater Scholarship—

Daniel Goto is a chemical engineering student at Washington State University. He was awarded the Goldwater Scholarship in 2019. The Goldwater Scholarship is one of the oldest and most prestigious scholarships offered to U.S. citizens and it recognizes the highest standards of academic excellence and leadership. The award is named for U.S. Senator Barry M. Goldwater. Daniel is currently completing his senior thesis, which explores the use of computational chemistry to study the mechanism of action of enzymes that are important in the bioconversion of biomass to biofuels. Daniel has also presented his research at national and international conferences. His research has been published in several peer-reviewed journals and he has been invited to speak at various conferences and seminars. He is currently working on a project to develop a new method for the production of biofuels using enzymes from plants.

Sergey Lapin
Physics (’20)

Sergey Lapin is a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. He teaches courses in mathematics and also advises PhD students in his research group. In addition to his teaching and research responsibilities, he also serves as the Honors College Thesis Advisor. In 2016, he was appointed an Honors College Thesis Advisor award, which is given to faculty members who have demonstrated 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 also served as a mentor to students in the STEM fields. He is currently working on a project to develop a new method for the production of biofuels using enzymes from plants.

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

Celebrating 60 Years of Excellence
Elyse Bennett
Bio (75)
Elyse is a forward on the WSU Women’s Soccer team. Elyse is a junior, with a passion for sports. Her father played football with the Green Bay Packers and Chicago Bears so it was to occur and she played for DePaul High School in Wisconsin before joining the WSU Women’s Soccer. When she was one of the top two players in the Salt Lake National League. In her first year at Washington State University, Elyse was a proud 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.

Sergey Lapin
Bio (75)
Sergey Lapin is a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. He teaches honors courses and herein relates in addition to his Honors 390 Global Issues in Science, culture, and his work focuses on Honors 391 courses on bi-weekly problem solving. He is also a part of the Honors College where he is pursuing a degree in Biology with an emphasis in pre-med. Elyse’s career goal is to become a Physician Assistant.

Kristian Gubsch
Bio (75)
In December 2019, Honors senior Kristian Gubsch was awarded a Marshall Scholarship to study in the U.K. The Marshall Scholarships are one of the oldest and most prestigious scholarships offered to U.S. citizens and recognizes the applicant’s academic excellence, leadership skills, and potential for significant contributions to their fields. For Kristian, the Marshall Scholarship is the most recent in a long line of significant academic opportunities that have led him to this point in pursuing his bachelor’s degree at WSU. As a chemical engineering student, Kristian has learned research responsibilities to his country and the scientific community. He is a student in the Honors Collegeanos’ program, where he is a part of the Honors College where he is pursuing a degree in Biology with an emphasis in pre-med. Elyse’s career goal is to become a Physician Assistant.

Will Hamlin
Bio (75)
English Professor William M. Hamlin has been selected as the first faculty member to serve in the Honors College as the Alumni Board’s first inaugural Honors Chair Associate with Honors. Since 2014, Hamlin taught a seminar on Renaissance literature. “This new appointment, the onboarding scholar, author, and researcher will teach and research exclusively at the Honors for four semesters. His spring 2020 course is aimed at junior-level students and is titled “Global Shakespeare.” Hamlin will teach students how the Bard’s work is an authentic and pertinent in different parts of the world. He said, in his new Honors role, Hamlin employs Honor students to assist with his research. (He) teaches a course on the importance of language over time, made possible thanks to the digitization of literature. “I love teaching history classes. The students work hard and the administration is caring. I plan to serve the College well in my new role,” said Hamlin.

Gillian Scholarship—In 2019 John Barash was awarded the Gillman Scholarship to study in Hungary, and volunteer. Wade was awarded the scholarship to study in China.

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