Author Kelsey Timmerman visits Ashland University to speak about his book *Where Am I Wearing?* 

(Photo from *The Collegian* printed with permission.)

By Alaina Berry

Honors Online

The Honors Program is proud to introduce two new websites for its students. The Honors Program Facebook page and blog are great ways for students to stay up-to-date on events, meetings, and lectures. Social media has become critical in the functioning of many students’ lives, which makes these information sources that much more necessary. Honors Program Director, Dr. Swanson, created these new options because he was searching for a “different way to reach both prospective students and current students” about Honors Program events. The blog and Facebook page bridge the gap between faculty and students as they display the information that the faculty wants to present in a place where it will be viewed frequently and easily understood. Both of these online options display pictures about upcoming events and are also open for questions and comments. According to Dr. Swanson, anyone could potentially be added as a member of the blog or Facebook page because they may be accessed by the public. However, the members and friends thus far are Ashland University Honors Program students and their parents. The acceptance of parents as members and friends of these websites keeps parents aware of what their students are involved in while away at school. These new resources will provide students with the opportunities to stay connected with their peers as well as stay current on Honors Program activities.

Ashland University Honors Program
ashlanduniversityhonorsprogram.blogspot.com
Nicholas Granitz
December Graduate

By Chris Beisel

The impact is evident that students can strive and succeed by working at their fullest potential here at Ashland University. Ashland senior, Nicholas Granitz, had the luxury of graduating early; he experienced his unforgettable commencement in December. Nick has worked hard to double major in Philosophy and History as well as minor in Classical Civilizations. Having had a constant workload as well as the further challenge of being a part of the Honors Program, Granitz has maintained an impressive name for himself to say the least. In addition to being an Honors Program student, Granitz is also a part of the Ashbrook Scholar program at Ashland University. After graduation, Granitz aspires to attend graduate school to obtain his Ph.D. in Ancient History.

“The Honors Program provides some nice academic perks such as early scheduling, guaranteed access to some popular core courses, and six credit hours for the completion of a senior thesis,” explained Granitz. Sure enough, as the month of December drew closer, Granitz continued to work on his senior thesis entitled Heracles and Divine Founders.

“After graduation, I am going to be going to grad school for Ancient History, with the goal that I will become a professor at the collegiate level,” says Granitz.

Being academically sound, an esteemed member of the Honors Program as well as Ashbrook Scholar, and meeting all requirements to graduate early, there is no doubt that Nick Granitz has worked at an outstanding level to accomplish all that he has. Perhaps other students at Ashland University may look to Granitz to believe that it is possible to keep going. He can be a motivation to us all.

Dr. Walters & HON 101

By Amanda Mayes

Dr. Howard Walters, Associate Professor of Education, was pleased to once again be selected to teach one of three Honors 101 First Year Seminars. He “stumbled upon” this teaching opportunity while at the Vatican; Honors Director, Dr. Christopher Swanson, via email, told Walters that there was an opening for teaching Honors for the fall semester. The only notes Walters had with him were those of the decline of Western Civilization, so that became the theme of his future seminar. “It’s an experience, not a course,” he says. The HON 101 Seminar centers on Morris Berman’s The Twilight of American Culture, a novel with the intent of educating its readers on how far America’s learned and insightful society has fallen. Walters wants his class to “spark a vision for what advanced education could look like.” He offers no tests and does not require notes. His goal, rather, is to “shape fifty minutes around important thoughts.” Walters also wants his students to create authentic experiences throughout the semester, so students can create memories more meaningful than merely sitting on a couch watching television. He loves teaching Honors students because they tend to be more serious—they are “accustomed to intellectual pursuit.” “That says something about you,” Walters says.

Dr. Walters is a shoe-hating, coffee-loving, family man. He may travel the world—and he does this quite a lot—but the most significant parts of his life are family and church. “Family has always been the big core for me,” he says. He’s also thrilled to have his first granddaughter.

His office is lined with books—his semester reading, Walters says matter-of-factly. He always encourages his students to read classics for no reason but to enjoy something outside of the norm. “If you want to be a person of the mind, you must exercise the mind,” he says. Dr. Walters says that the Honors students will “inherit the world.” Perhaps his class is his way of introducing his students to that world.
Comical Author Challenges Consumers

By Jeni Dodd

When Kelsey Timmerman, author of *Where Am I Wearing*, spoke to a large crowd at Ashland University in October, no one expected to see his underwear. To clarify, Kelsey did show us his underwear, but he wasn’t wearing them at the time, rather holding them up for the audience as an example of the clothing items that inspired his journey, turned career. Kelsey explained his desire to meet the individuals who made some of his favorite clothing items and see their work conditions. Sweatshops are a touchy topic, but Timmerman devoted part of his life to exploring the real conditions of workers, and the struggles these individuals face. From flip-flops to athletic shorts and boxers, Kelsey traveled to Honduras, China, and other countries to tour factories and meet the makers of his clothing. Bringing humor to the crowd, Timmerman explained his wild pursuit of information, even taking on the persona of an underwear buyer to gain special insight into production.

Yet jokes aside, Kelsey brought an important message to students and faculty: Be mindful of the merchandise you purchase. While he did not declare sweatshops are evil, Kelsey warned that consumers should be informed about the way products are made, and how workers are compensated. While sweatshops provide crucial income for many people of the world, Kelsey offered his opinion that it is important to check out a company’s policy about production. If companies are not committed to a safe work environment, Timmerman suggests looking for other companies who will make these commitments. Although there are regulations in place to monitor the safety of production warehouses, it is difficult to control the conditions on a global scale. The consumer needs to be wise and think about the consequences of the purchases he or she may make, and who’s handling their underwear.

By Jeni Dodd

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Megan Liggett, Shanna Srock, Jeni Dodd, and Katy Higaki with Author Timmerman.
The Honors Program is known for its benefits such as smaller class sizes, better dorm rooms, and first pick of classes, but there is another side of the Program that is often forgotten: the social side. And that’s where the Honors Society steps in.

“It’s about having fun and building relationships,” explains junior Hospitality Management major and Honors Society President, Lindsey Van Sparrentak. The goal of the Honors Society is simple: “It takes members of the Honors Program and shows them a social aspect of the program,” says Lindsey.

As president of the Honors Society, Lindsey is responsible for quite a few things. “First and foremost,” Lindsey explains, “I am here to serve members of the Honors Society.” She says one way she does this is by helping its members communicate effectively with one another.

Another one of Lindsey’s responsibilities includes helping plan social events. “I am in charge of other officers to ensure that our society is working together to plan social events,” states Lindsey. The Honors Society hosts a number of social events such as Frisbee golf, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, and group outings to places like Ashland’s Field of Screams corn maze. None of these events would be possible without the help of Society members like Lindsey.

Lindsey ran for president of the Honors Society last spring and was elected to the position for the 2011-2012 school year. She says, “I wanted to become president because I thought it was a great way to take an active role within our Society.” Lindsey hopes to make everyone in the Honors Program feel welcome this year and also to get to know more students. In fact, her favorite thing about her position as Honors Society President is that it allows her to “get to know more people on campus.”

Lindsey’s ambitious and enthusiastic personality is perfect for the position as Honors Society President and it has shown. She has helped the Society a lot so far and, if the rest of the year is as eventful as it has been so far, it promises to be an exciting one.
This year the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Conference was held in Phoenix, Arizona, from October 19th through the 23rd. Dr. Christopher Swanson, the Director of Ashland University's Honors Program, and Honors Program students Sarah Guarino, Theresa Riley, Shanna Srock, and Caitlin Music (pictured above) presented at the Conference. The Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar class from Fall 2010 was the focus of the presentation, with an emphasis on the Solyia Connect Program. Different aspects of the HON 390 course were discussed including a cultural metaphor project and interreligious dialogue with international students.

The Solyia Connect Program, a national program enabling videoconferencing with students from other countries, was of great interest to the audience; made noticeable during the question and answer session after presenting. Professors and students from other universities were interested in how they could potentially implement the Solyia Program into their own honors programs. During the other days of the Conference, attendees had the opportunity to go to other presentations and workshops, including a debate on the immigration issues currently confronting Arizona, as well as a “City as Text” event. The “City as Text” event allowed members of the Conference to go out and explore the city of Phoenix, and later relate to the entire group what they had seen. A great cultural component to the Conference, “City as Text” made it possible to truly take in the abundant artwork, history, and cuisine of Phoenix.

The 2011 NCHC Conference was a great opportunity to socialize and interact with members of other honors programs, and provided a rich educational experience as well.
A huge thank you to all of the Honors Society Officers and Honors Program Interns for 2011-2012!

Honors Society Officers >>>
President: Lindsey Van Sparrentak
Vice President: Lindsey Knapp
Public Relations: Katy Higaki
Secretary: Melany Bagnola
Treasurer: Hailey Sult
Freshman Reps: Ethan Crawford & Kate Brickner

Honors Program Interns >>>
Melany Bagnola  Chris Beisel
Sarah Guarino  Kyle Buxton
Jeni Dodd  Amanda Mayes
Alaina Berry

Visit us on the web:
www.ashland.edu/academics/honors-program

Letter from the Editor
Hello all!
I cannot believe how quickly this semester has flown by! It has been wonderful welcoming in all of our wonderful new members to the Honors Program! We have such an amazing group of individuals and I am honored to be among all of you.

This newsletter has been such a wonderful process. It is so exciting to be able to pass along updates and fun information about what is happening in this magnificent program.

I would like to thank Nancy Andres for her amazing patience, understanding, and support as well as all of the wonderful interns who put their time and efforts into contributing to this issue. You all are amazing!

I hope that everyone has a restful break and is as excited as I am for what is to come in the new year for the Honors Program!

~Melany Bagnola :)

401 College Avenue
103 Clayton Hall
Ashland, OH  44805
800•882•1548  Ext. 5260
Dr. Christopher Swanson, Director
cswanson@ashland.edu