

The HoHoSeMo

A semimonthly news update of the NKU Honors Program
July 15, 2008

IMPORTANT DATES AND NOTICES: Mark your calendars!

Summer's relaxing schedule encourages picnics, long friendly chats and frosty glasses of ice tea. But before you get completely lost in "summertime, and the living is easy..." here are a few reminders from NKU.

New Website!

Check out the beautiful new honors website! <http://honors.nku.edu>.

New Facilities!

Callahan Residential Hall has been dedicated and will be opening on schedule in August complete with a full Honors Wing. An HNR 101 class is being taught there this fall, and Dr. Z's planning on teaching an international film class there in the spring. Even better, he'll be living in Callahan as of January! That's right, the oldest co-ed on record! Start Dr Zaniello mementos for the "Decorate the Director's Door" Contest now!

Meanwhile, look for Honors movie nights and other fun activities in Callahan during the coming semesters.

New Fellows!

Summer Orientations are in full swing. The welcome picnic for incoming honors freshmen is coming soon. (Remember when...?) This year we will be matriculating over 180 of the latest and greatest of NKU's freshmen class into 12 sections of HNR 101.

New Fun Things to Do!

Upcoming Honors Social events in the fall, which are being planned by the HNR 101 peer mentors, will be on **Thursdays, September 25, October 30, and November 20** from 6:00 – 9:00 pm.

New Classes!

The Honors All-program meeting will be **Wednesday, October 1 from 2:00 – 5:00 pm in BEP 200**. Preview the spring classes and be recognized for your accomplishments.

New Capstones!

The fall Conference of Honors will be afternoons of **December 2 and 3 in Budig Theatre**.

Newly Returned!

We happily report that two out of two honors groups safely returned from Mexico (IBHF and the coffee and travel writing classes – see article below), one out of one group safely returned from Ireland (HITF), and one out of one group safely returned from Cedar Point in Northern Ohio (the amusement park class). Three honors students are studying in Europe now.

New Opportunity!

Tutor Position with the NKU UPWARD BOUND Program

Upward Bound targets two STRIVE high schools – Holmes in Covington and Newport High School. Upward Bound participants are placed on an academic contract and may be assigned to tutoring to improve core curriculum grades (English, Math, Foreign Language, Social Studies, and

Science) that fall below a C. Therefore, Upward Bound is offering outreach-tutoring positions to qualified NKU students. Tutors would be paid \$10/hour to work with a small number of students at Holmes High School and Newport High School in an effort to improve the students' grades in one or more core curriculum subjects. If interested, please contact Eric Brose, UB Director, brosee@nku.edu or 859 442-3520.

Jodi Ferner Reports on the May Mexico Trip to Veracruz

In May students from Jodi Ferner's "Uncommon Grounds: The World of Coffee" and "The Written World" spent a week in Coatepec, in the state of Veracruz, Mexico. The students, **Emily Murphy, Sarah Carnahan, Jenna Torres, Lauren Cook, Sarah Herndon, Colleen O'Connell** and alum **Shannon O'Connell '07** along with Belle Zembrodt, John Ferner and Jodi, had the opportunity to visit several coffee haciendas, meet with local coffee growers, explore the famous *Cascadas del Texolo*, and experience the Anthropology Museum in Jalapa as well as travel to La Antigua, the landing site of Cortes.

The group was able to experience in tangible ways the challenges facing coffee producers in Mexico and, by extension, around the world. They saw first-hand the demanding nature of the coffee business as they hiked the steep hillsides in the cloud shrouded mountains as well as the delicate touch required in the roasting process when they visited locally owned cafes. After a semester spent sampling coffees from every coffee growing region in the world, the students agreed that the Coatepec Arabica coffees are among the very finest.

As part of the experience, Jodi selected El Retono Eco-lodge as the group's home for the duration of their stay. The lodge was built in accord with the principles put forth by the Quebec Declaration on Ecotourism. The buildings are sited on the land to avoid the cutting of trees, all water is recycled, available technologies are incorporated to insure low energy consumption, and the owners use local materials for building and decorating whenever possible. The lodge's commitment to sustainability provided students with insights into the role of eco-tourism as well environmentally responsible building practices.

In the short time the group was there, they were able to easily integrate into the daily life of the Coatepec community, including participating in an English conversation class for locals and the Sunday night *baile*—the weekly dance which brings out the whole town, young and old alike, to listen and dance to wonderful live music. Another highlight for the group was a private musical performance by a remarkable group, *Son Jorocho*. The three members of the group perform traditional *campesino* music, keeping it alive for current and future generations by adding their own modern interpretations. These events and many more afforded the group tremendous opportunities to meet people and experience the rich culture of this beautiful mountain town.

The students report that the trip made real the material they had covered in both courses. While most people understand that coffee has historically sold for less than it costs to produce, meeting the coffee growers and becoming a part of their lives, even briefly, gives students a new appreciation for the economic as well as environmental and social issues that fill every cup of coffee you drink. In addition, the eco-lodge and eco-tourism experience provided new perspectives on sustainability and traveling responsibly. These experiences and many more will be highlighted by **Colleen O'Connell** and **Lauren Cook** at the October National Collegiate Honors Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

HoHoSeMo is assembled and edited by Rees Storm, HoHoSeMoCo, on the 15th and the 30th of every month. Please contact her with questions regarding this publication at stormr@nku.edu.