

SPRING 2021 | NO. 1

CHC Alumni Newsletter

UPDATES FROM THE ROBERT E. COOK HONORS COLLEGE

Welcome!

DR. CHAUNA CRAIG, CHC DIRECTOR

I'm pleased to share the first edition of what I hope will be many newsletters to keep Cook Honors College alumni aware of and involved in all that's happening in the college. Our first news is that after eighteen months as acting, then interim, director, I will be the CHC Director moving forward. Though this doesn't change my actual job description, I do feel a stronger sense of owning the role of leading us forward, and I'm grateful for the opportunity.



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Welcome! continued...

As you likely already know, IUP is in a time of transition with the job losses of faculty and staff and the creation of new, combined departments and colleges. IUP continues to affirm a commitment to honors education, and while the CHC mourns the retrenchment of dynamic faculty members who have taught for us, we are also turning this upheaval into an opportunity to assess what we still have and make our own necessary changes. To that end, I am working with faculty to assess the skills of current honors core students, and we are surveying graduating seniors about multiple dimensions of their honors college experience. Our next step will be an alumni survey, so please look for that in your email in late spring or early summer and respond. Feedback from former students now working in diverse career fields is very valuable to us as we consider how to develop and improve our program for the next generation.

How else can you be involved in the continuing success of your Honors College? Consider joining the Crimson Network, an IUP alumni network where you can connect with the groups most important to you, including the CHC. Here you can volunteer to mentor current honors students interested in your field, plan reunion activities, and make new connections with honors alumni who walked the Whitmyre corridors before or after you.

You can always donate to foundation funds that directly impact Honors College students. During IUP's Imagine Unlimited Campaign, 521 Honors College students were awarded \$2,366,186.00 in scholarships. A total of 628 donations amounting to \$221,661.00 went directly to Honors College funds as a result of the campaign. Donations from Honors College alumni to IUP totaled \$83,121.00, impacting each college on campus, as well as athletics. We appreciate your generosity, and as we look forward to raising future funds, please remember that every gift matters, whatever the amount.

Finally, you are welcome to share ideas for the College and your own updates with us to include in future newsletters. We hope to publish this twice a year and thank sophomore CHC student Amy Kukula (Interdisciplinary Fine Arts: Dance and English Education), assisted by alumni Ray Edwards and Pat Kalie, for laying the groundwork and producing this inaugural newsletter. Our alumni are a vital part of the Cook Honors College, and we are very interested in staying connected.

Stay safe and be well.



Looking for a good read?

THEY NEVER LEARN
BY CHC ALUM LAYNE
FARGO (BA, 2006),
WAS PUBLISHED
THIS PAST FALL. IN
THIS CAMPUS
THRILLER, AN
ENGLISH
PROFESSOR
COMBATS SEXISM
AND SEXUAL
VIOLENCE IN THE
STUDENT BODY BY
LEAVING A FEW
BODIES IN HER
WAKE. YOU MAY
RECOGNIZE THE
OAK GROVE AND AN
OLD-STYLE DORM
ON THE EDGE OF
CAMPUS THAT
EVERYONE CALLS
“WHIT.”

LEARN MORE AT
THE BOOK'S
OFFICIAL WEBSITE,
[HERE](#).



If you missed it...
**Whitmyre Hall
Memorabilia
Presentation**

[Click here to view the
slideshow from the
presentation](#)

After the renovation of Whitmyre Hall, the IUP Special Collections and University Archives collected and organized a literal time capsule of student life. These memorabilia were gleaned from generations of students since the residence hall was completed in 1952, including photographs, documents, even LP records, posters and IUP apparel discovered during the renovation. Dr. Harrison Wick, the IUP Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist, gave a Zoom presentation of selected items on March 10, 2021.

Flash Back to Whit

UNCOVERING THE CHC ARCHIVE

Thanks to the eclectic interests and serendipitous absentmindedness of generations of Whitmyre residents, misplaced family photos and at least half a dozen lost I-Cards are now filed away for posterity next to an ad from *MAD Magazine* declaring, "The toe bank needs toes: Pledge yours today!"

These and dozens of other relics came to light during the 2017-18 renovation of Whitmyre Hall, the home of IUP's Robert E. Cook Honors College. Each item was pulled from its decades-long resting place behind the furniture of Whitmyre's dorm rooms, resulting in a collection that ranges from mundane to truly strange. The renovation construction team dug up academic artifacts going all the way back to a 1958 library card for the "State Teachers College Library," dated one year before Indiana State Teachers College became Indiana State College in 1959. The college didn't officially become a university, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, until 1965.

While replacing years-old furniture, workers paused to gather these odds and ends, including a Certificate of Academic Achievement made out to Meghan Fitzpatrick, a thesis paper assignment completed by Rachel Sullivan, a sign--probably snatched from a bathroom--declaring "DON'T SPIT ON THE FLOOR," a colorful book of Pez Collectibles, a certificate naming Angelique J. Weger as a 1997 Provost's Scholar, a newspaper clipping announcing the winner of the 1966 Miss Halloween competition, an old-fashioned scheduling punch card, a "Seals Spirit Card" for the Selinsgrove High School Band (expired in 1998), and a 1997 certificate recognizing that Michelle Chroninger earned the Warrior Battalion Adventure ribbon.

One document from 1954 approves a student's application for Junior Standing with the State Teachers College. It wordily congratulates, "You are to be commended on having attained this goal."

Archive continued...

One student left behind a program to an October 2000 Student Showcase performed by IUP Dance Theater Company. The program lists pieces like "Forces," "Impossible You Say," and "Nutcracker Chicago." The program's former owner took notes on the front of the program, most likely to aid them in writing a paper about the performance for class.

Greeting cards and photos were also fixtures among the forgotten items. One apologetic greeting card reads, "I admit it. I'm a b****. Thanks for putting up with me; you're the best. I love you. Love, D." A jaunty banjo-playing clown adorns a birthday card signed, simply, "Mom." An Easter card (signed "I love you! Nana") bears the message, "A grandson has a special place in your heart that nothing can ever change" with an added "Happy Easter?!!!" Yet another greeting card reads, "Ooh, how I miss you! Here's my lament--I can't be content since you have went. Love, Joan."

Photos of family, friends, and couples add a personal touch to the archive's collection. One particularly distinctive image shows two distressed students crouched over the unfortunate remains of a shattered glass jar and its contents, which have splattered all over the floor of the Whitmyre community kitchen.

All of these photos, cards, awards, and knickknacks now make up the contents of seven boxes stored in the Stapleton Library archive. Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist Dr. Harrison Wick carefully preserved, cataloged, and stored decades worth of Whitmyre memorabilia in file folder-style boxes that hold all but the largest pieces in the collection. These items, including a poster from December 1973 advertising Duke Ellington's performance at Fisher Auditorium, are stored in a special oversized file.

As these items lie safely in storage, one thing is certain. They represent the generations of brilliant and zany minds that have populated Whitmyre Hall, both Cook Honors College students and their predecessors, students of what was then the Indiana State Teachers College and later Indiana State College.

If you recognize any of the items listed or pictured here, please drop us a line at honors@iup.edu and tell us the story behind a piece of Whitmyre's past. To learn more about the renovations, check out [this article from the Spring 2018 edition of IUP Magazine](#) or contact Harrison Wick at 724-357-3039 or hwick@iup.edu. ■



Future is Bright for Fulbright Finalist

Maddie Hendricks

For Maddison Hendricks, teaching is more than a career. Teaching is a worldview--a framework for understanding others that lays the foundation for human compassion. Recently, becoming a Fulbright grant award finalist has brought her one step closer toward her dream of becoming an educator.

Maddie is a fifth year undergraduate student at IUP, earning a dual baccalaureate degree in music education and Spanish education. Besides being an inspiring and successful aspiring educator, Maddie has been selected as a Fulbright award finalist in the English Teaching Assistant Program. In her time at IUP, Maddie has been a part of the Pennsylvania Collegiate Music Educators Association, Andale! (Spanish club), the National Society for Leadership and Success, IUP percussion ensemble, wind ensemble, treble clef chorus, symphony band, and the Cook Honors College. Some of her fondest memories are of chatting with Kevin and Lisa, taking Dr. McLeod's amazing unit H honors core class, walking with the CHC in IUP homecoming parades, meeting her best friends, and hanging around Whitmyre doing homework. "I love school," she says. "If I could be a professional student, I would." Her teaching skills are just as impressive as her skills as a student. She is also a peer mentor and teaching assistant for the University College. If she is chosen as a Fulbright winner, Maddie will work in Spain, teaching English to students who could range anywhere from elementary age to university level.

Teaching has always been in Maddie's blood. She remembers growing up playing in her mom's first grade classroom in the evening while her mom graded papers, before Maddie was even old enough for kindergarten. Maddie still holds a soft spot for elementary education, although she will be extremely happy to work with any age group in her future career.



A Fulbright teaching position in Spain would not be Maddie's first experience with international travel. She has hoped to return to Spain ever since COVID-19 cut her study abroad experience short last spring. With financial support from the CHC, Maddie got to live with a host family and adorable host brothers, learn and live in a major urban area for the first time, and experience a whole new level of independence and confidence. "If I could, I would make everybody study abroad, somewhere, because I think that is an incredible experience," she says. "It makes the world seem like a lot less of a scary place. It feels a lot less foreign when you've been abroad. It's hard to distance yourself between 'us' and 'them' when 'them' starts to feel like 'us.'" If Maddie wins the Fulbright grant, the U.S. government will award Maddie a grant to return to Spain and continue her journey abroad, this time as a teacher instead of a student.

Christie De Vito '14 (IUP CHC), M'17 (University of Iowa-College of Public Health) became a Certified Industrial Hygienist after passing the exam in November 2020.

Alexandra Donaldson '16, M'17 married Collin Donaldson '15 in May 2017. They met her freshman year, when he was also a member of the CHC. The opportunities afforded to Donaldson through the CHC helped her land a successful career as an Operations and Analytics Admin for a global cyber security and compliance firm.

In Memoriam

Dr. Cecil Thomas "Tom" Ault, Jr., a beloved Theater professor who taught fine arts units for us for years, passed away March 7, 2021 in Iowa. Read his amazing obituary [here](#).

If you would like to donate in Dr. Ault's memory, you can do so through the support link on our homepage at www.iup.edu/honors.



Maddie Hendricks (Fulbright Finalist), continued...

Clearly, by the time she tackled the intensive Fulbright application, Maddie was no stranger to new challenges. With the help of Dr. Christian Vaccaro (sociology) and Dr. Francis Allard (anthropology), Maddie spent over a month compiling materials and making never-ending, precise revisions to her Fulbright application. "You have 850 words to tell your life story," she explains. Her advisors, Dr. Jason Killam (Spanish) and Dr. Laura Ferguson (music), wrote her letters of recommendation. "Haunt office hours. Find a mentor," Maddie recommends to CHC underclassmen. "Especially at IUP, there are so many wonderful professors that I've had the opportunity to work with, who have your back through a lot of different situations."

In the future, Maddie hopes to win the Fulbright grant and teach in Spain. She is excited to be able to teach language through teaching music and combine her multiple passions. Afterward, she plans to join the Peace Corps, earn a master's degree in TESOL (teaching English to speakers of other languages), and continue teaching in a wide variety of settings and demographics, from urban to rural. Eventually, she wants to earn a PhD or doctorate degree in child psychology, educational psychology, or educational anthropology and become a teacher educator.

Her goals provide a glimpse of Maddie's genuine sense of empathy and compassion for every learner. She is even able to see the learning opportunity in being sent home from her amazing study abroad trip to Spain last spring. She says, "This is the truth for a lot of our students, getting pulled from one family situation into another in a foster situation and being completely uprooted. It's a good perspective on how a kid might be feeling someday."

A related piece of advice: "Don't ever be afraid to ask for help. This is such an interdependent world that we live in. We need each other, and that's okay."

As the world faces a year of challenging times, Maddie has continued to power through a student teaching placement, where she simultaneously teaches kids in the classroom and virtually, every day. She hopes that the setbacks will prove to make the educational system even stronger with time: "If we can get through this, we can get through any other educational situation too."

Maddie could find out any day now whether she has received the Fulbright grant, or she might be kept in suspense until late May. Either way, the CHC is proud to name Maddie among its students and wishes her all the best in her bright future as an educator. ■

Articles and layout by Amy Kukula

Your journey began here. Why not theirs?

The screenshot shows the website for the Summer Honors Program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the IUPUI logo and the text 'Indiana University of Pennsylvania'. Below this are several menu items: ADMISSIONS, ACADEMICS, RESEARCH, STUDENT LIFE, ALUMNI, ABOUT IUP, and NEWS AND EVENTS. The main content area is titled 'SUMMER HONORS PROGRAM' in large, bold, red letters. To the left of this title is a sidebar with the heading 'COOK HONORS COLLEGE ADMISSIONS' and a list of links: Summer Honors Program, Courses, What Former Students Say, Summer Honors Program Information Request, Room and Board, Program Costs, and Summer Honors Program Student Nomination Form. To the right of the title is a large, stylized hand icon pointing towards an 'APPLY NOW' button. Below the hand icon is the text 'Click here to learn more'. The background of the page features a photograph of students in a laboratory setting, wearing blue gloves and working with equipment.