

May 2007



# HONORS ALUMNI SOCIETY

*News, networking and support for BGSU Honors Alumni*

## CONTENTS

Welcome

Recognition of founding alumni board

Spotlight on Dr. Bob Bashore:  
First Director of the University  
Honors Program

The Critical Thinking  
Curriculum

Tuition Raffle: 25th Anniversary

Where in the world are our  
BGSU Honors Program Alumni?

## Welcome

Thanks to alumni like you, we received tremendous support for the creation of the Honors Alumni Society. The purpose of the Society is to provide Honors alumni and friends with an opportunity to network and socialize while supporting current students pursuing their educational goals. Membership is automatic and absolutely free for all BGSU alumni who participated in the Honors Program or the Honors Student Association. Other BGSU alumni may join by contacting the Alumni Office ([alumni@bgsu.edu](mailto:alumni@bgsu.edu)) or the Honors Program ([honors@bgsu.edu](mailto:honors@bgsu.edu)).

The timing of the creation of the Society is ideal in that the Honors Program will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2008. Planning for this celebration has already begun and volunteers are still being sought. To find out more information about volunteer opportunities, simply email the Honors Program. We hope that the newly created Society will continue to build enthusiasm and interest among alumni so that they may return to events like Homecoming 2007 -- designed to honor our past and celebrate our future!

## Recognition of founding alumni board

The Honors Program would like to recognize and thank the following alumni for their willingness to take on leadership roles as founding members of the Honors Alumni Society Board:

Chair - Paul Valdez '04  
Secretary/Treasurer - Katie Abell '04  
Trustee - Brett Berquist '94  
Trustee - Abbie Taylor Smith '89  
Trustee - Tom Garey '94  
Trustee - Therese Melko Lynch '00

Chair elect - Elizabeth Long '84  
Trustee - Matt Bertke '06  
Trustee - Katy Creecy '99  
Trustee - Aaron Schaub '96  
Trustee - Dennis Bentley '96

**BGSU**  
**alumni**  
association

Office of Alumni & Development  
Mileti Alumni Center  
Bowling Green State University  
Bowling Green, OH 43403-0054

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Dr. Bob Bashore

*First Director of the University  
Honors Program*



In the 1970s, a need was perceived on the campus of Bowling Green State University. That need was for a program that would bring together students of the highest caliber in pursuit of social ties to one another and intellectual challenge. A quest to nearby colleges and universities, led by Dr. James Litwin, provided insight as to how other institutions of higher education were meeting this need, and from this search, a 1978 prospectus for our beloved University Honors Program was born. Our Program evolved from the Little College, originally a residential program in which students could take all of their humanities requirements in one semester through team-teaching. It contained a core curriculum including a freshman colloquium, Honors sections of general education classes, Honors academic advisors, a residence hall designated especially for Honors students, and a trip to Stratford, Ontario! The question remained, however, as to who could take charge of this academic dream. The answer was **Dr. Bob Bashore**, or “Dr. Bob,” who became the very first director of our University Honors Program.

Dr. Bob is the proud owner of an eclectic background, consisting of scholarship in English and the sciences, as well as a stint in the U.S. Navy. Fondly remembered by Honors students of years past, Dr. Bob surely left a legacy when he completed his tenure as director. Dick Hoffman recalls that he “taught in a cloud of chalk dust,” while Scott Snyder remembers all of the time he spent traveling with Bob at the Stratford Shakespeare festival. Snyder remarked, “In the late 1990's, I...stayed in the same hotel [in Stratford] that the Honors groups always patronized. Upon check-in, I was asked how I'd come to hear about them, and of course, I had to mention Dr. Bob. They knew exactly who I was talking about! This just goes to show the influence and reach of Dr. Bob is both far and wide.” Bob also created an organization that has evolved into one of the most populated student groups on campus: the Honors Student Association. He recalled, “A dean, who will remain nameless, said ‘you don’t want to make this a social institution.’ And my answer was, ‘I don’t see why not.’ And the HSA has gone far beyond what I ever envisioned.”

Of the benefits of the Honors Program, Bob noted, “Meeting like-minded people in other fields. It’s one of those places where your student experience actually does cross fields...and to graduate with honors or have honors courses on your transcript does carry a certain academic cache.” Surely, Dr. Bob took the fledgling Honors Program and turned it into something remarkable. From an old, run-down meeting space at the bottom of Kresicher to our brand new Honors Program LOFT, we have come a long way since 1978, but many of Dr. Bob’s original traditions and program components are still with us today.



*“It is our job in the Honors Program to teach students to transform themselves intellectually. It is our responsibility to teach students to think consciously and deliberately and skillfully and to understand why they think the way that they do. It is our job to give them the tools to start their own intellectual revolution and to rise above a mundane life. We enable students to live the examined life.”*

**Paul A. Moore, Director**



## The Critical Thinking Curriculum

In his lyrics to “We Won’t Get Fooled Again,” Pete Townshend of the Who refers to ideas on truth and lies and figuring out what is really going on in the world. Although this song was not in our minds when we designed the core curricula, the lyrics and thoughts behind the lyrics are as appropriate now as they were in the 70’s or in the context of the CSI shows on which they are now featured. In particular, the Honors Program wanted to provide students with the skills to figure out what to believe and why they should believe it.

We felt that the central theme (what to believe and why) entailed in the Honors Program experience produces better citizens, better leaders and certainly better employees. Thus, we created the core curricula of Introduction to Critical Thinking and Great Ideas. The first course provides our students with the skills to distinguish fact from fiction and to effectively understand and control their thought processes; the second course provides students with the content and context of ideas that have shaped our culture.

These skills are necessary across all majors and all disciplines making them a perfect fit for our multifaceted Honors Program. In addition, this educational experience is a unique experience in that we are the only Honors Program in the nation that requires a critical thinking course of all incoming freshmen. When coupled with the subsequent Great Ideas course, we have provided our students with a cutting edge educational program designed to produce the leaders and thinkers necessary for our changing world. To return to the Who and quote Pete Townshend, “The change, it had to come. We knew it all along. We were liberated from the fold.” Our educational experience will liberate our students and make them independent thinkers.

### Tuition Raffle: 25th Anniversary!

We are pleased to announce that the Tuition Raffle fundraiser is in its 25th year and going strong! Each year, as you may remember, students band together to stuff and label thousands of envelopes to send to BGSU faculty, parents, and graduate students, advertising a raffle for which the grand prize is free tuition! Proceeds have traditionally funded the J. Robert Bashore scholarship for students with high GPAs who have sought a liberal education. This year, we will also be contributing to the new Tom Klein scholarship, for students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, and we hope to begin another scholarship within the next year! We want to thank any alumni who have contributed to this event over the years, and hope you will continue to do so in the future!

### Where in the World are our BGSU Honors Program Alumni?

Have you climbed Machu Picchu? Celebrated the birth of a child or grandchild? Snorkeled the Great Barrier Reef? Learned a new hobby? Published an article? Or changed careers? Well, the Honors Program wants to know about it! Please tell us all the wonderful things you have done since graduating from BGSU. There is no accomplishment too big or too small! We will compile your personal biographies into a “virtual yearbook” and provide the weblink for you and other Honors program alumni.



Please also send along a photo (to accompany your biography) and your contact information. We will provide as much or as little contact information in the “virtual yearbook” as you would like. This is a great opportunity to reconnect with classmates, catch up with old friends and reflect on the eventful years since graduating from the Honors Program. Submissions can be emailed to [honors@bgsu.edu](mailto:honors@bgsu.edu) (with the subject line: Virtual Yearbook) or mailed to 125 N. Mercer Road, 209 Harshman, Bowling Green, OH, 43403-0229. We look forward to hearing from you!



Office of Alumni & Development  
 Mileti Alumni Center  
 Bowling Green State University  
 Bowling Green, OH 43403-0054

**SAVE THE DATE**  
 The Honors Alumni Society will be joining BGSU's annual Homecoming festivities on September 29, 2007. For more information, contact [honors@bgsu.edu](mailto:honors@bgsu.edu).

**More information**

Updates will be provided to members through this bi-annual newsletter and through monthly email updates. Not sure we have your updated email address? Contact the Alumni Office at [alumni@bgsu.edu](mailto:alumni@bgsu.edu) with your updated information.

**Staff contact information**

Need to contact a member of the Honors Program staff? Please call us at 419-372-8504 or email us at [honors@bgsu.edu](mailto:honors@bgsu.edu). Please also consider stopping by to visit our new Learning Community and office space by visiting us in the LOFT (Harshman Quad, 209E).

**Dr. Paul A. Moore**, Director  
**Dr. Jodi L. Devine**, Associate Director  
**Dawn Shores**, Assistant Director  
**Denise Vollmar**, Administrative Assistant

**Amy Davidson**, Secretary  
**Katie Cameron**, Program Assistant  
**Jennie Lee**, Program Assistant

<b>STAYING CONNECTED</b>		<b>BGSU HONORS ALUMNI SOCIETY</b>	
NAME _____	GRADUATION YEAR _____		
ADDRESS _____			
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP _____	_____
COMPANY _____	E-MAIL _____		
<b>SUBMIT TO:</b>	OFFICE OF ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT MILETI ALUMNI CENTER BOWLING GREEN, OH 43403 - 0054	<b>FAX TO:</b> 419-372-7697	<b>E-MAIL:</b> <a href="mailto:ALUMNI@BGSU.EDU">ALUMNI@BGSU.EDU</a>