

WITH HONORS

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Two Cultures, or One?

What's the relation of art to science? Are they really two cultures, as writer C. P. Snow stated? Or do the arts spur scientific discovery, as recent campus speakers (both guest and faculty) claim? You'll find opinions on this topic throughout this issue. Please let us know your thoughts on this topic, and also news you'd like to share! Simply contact Diane Maxwell at dmaxwell@iastate.edu to share your milestones and achievements.

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Tribute to a Champion: Edwin C. Lewis

By Dick Seagrave

In business, a champion is someone who takes an extraordinary interest in the adoption, implementation, and success of a cause. We knew someone like that.

In 50 years at ISU Edwin Lewis quietly, modestly, and effectively, without fanfare or recognition, etched an extraordinary career that affected the lives of students, staff, faculty, and alumni in ways that would probably surprise even



Edwin C. Lewis

him.

Starting from his first office in the basement of Old Botany (now Catt Hall) and proceeding to the halls of Beardshear, Ed was a true champion for the University Honors Program and for advancing women's welfare and career opportunities. Not only was he present at Honors' creation, but while serving as chair of the (1966-73) he was instrumental in developing Honors courses and seminars. He also organized the first Honors Student Advisory Board and established the first permanent office for the program.

After moving to Beardshear in 1973 to become Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, Ed was in an excellent position to champion and support the program to aid its development. This was a period of great expansion for Iowa State – enrollment tripled and the

number of colleges grew from five to eight. Ed was instrumental in expanding Honors to all undergraduate colleges, and in creating what's now the First-Year Honors Program and First-Year Mentor Program. In 1977 Ed promoted the move to Osborn Cottage and hired Liz Beck as Coordinator of Special Programs, an act he said was one of the best of his career. Few disagree!

After we met in 1966, I had the good fortune to work closely with Ed over the rest of our careers. We got to know each other well as a result of many Wednesday morning meetings at the New Bookshelf in Parks Library, scoping out and contending for the latest arrivals! In addition to our Honors relationships, we had interactions through several university committees for which he was administrative liaison.

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Changes to Alumni Board

Change (though sadly, not spring) was in the air in early April, when 13 Alumni Board members attended the Board's annual meeting in Jischke. Founding president Mark Law ('81, Computer Engineering) completed his term of eight years as Board president, handing the reins to Brent Carlson ('83, Computer Engineering). Learn more about Brent, p. 2).

Further change was evident when Ann Marie VanDerZanden, Professor of Horticulture and new Associate Provost for Academic Programs, spoke to the Board on her view of Honors and on "reframing the Honors experience." She seeks to build, in Honors and across the university, more of what are called "high-impact practices," or experiences that boost students' intellectual and emotional growth.

Cont. on p. 2

New Face in Honors: Laura Good

Honors welcomed Laura Good to the staff last August, as she filled the shoes of Assistant Director Dana Schumacher after her April retirement. In fact, Laura jumped into those shoes feet-first, taking on the roles of Assistant Director for Nationally Competitive Awards and for the University Honors Program. That is, Laura works with Iowa State's ablest students on nominations for Goldwater, Truman, Udall, and other scholarships, and also connects with sophomores through seniors in Honors.



Laura Good

Laura had to hit the ground running, for applications rolled in even as she settled into Jischke. This year's harvest includes ISU's first Udall scholar since 2012, two Goldwater Honorable Mentions, and a finalist for Stanford's new Knight-Hennessy fellowship. Conducting a campus-wide survey to identify faculty and staff who are interested in working with candidates for such awards (or were winners themselves), Laura has

identified new partners across campus.

Laura has also been building new opportunities for upper-level Honors students. Some of these include Bagels & Brew, a welcome-back for students this spring, and professional head

shot photos for Honors graduating seniors. She also initiated a pilot program of connecting staff with small groups of Honors sophomores in the spring semester – which resulted in larger numbers of students meeting their paperwork (POS) deadlines!

In addition to these responsibilities, Laura (along with Assistant Director Emily Wilcox, who handles social media) is bringing the office up to date. For example, now that email is considered slow, she signed up some 200 students for an app that pushes text messages to students' phones. She has found ways to streamline procedures, such as contracting for Honors credit, and is seeking the optimal platform for connecting alumni with current students (a topic at recent Alumni Board meetings). Laura is updating the Honors website, with Edell Aron ('18 Mathematics and Biology).

Laura holds a BA in Spanish Language and Literature from Kansas State and an MS in Higher Education Administration from Kansas. A Fulbright scholar, she met her husband, Isidro, in Spain. Before moving to Iowa, she and Isidro spent seven years in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, where Laura helped develop a scholarship program for high-ability students to study in the US and UK. Laura's husband is currently a Ph.D. student in the College of Business' Department of Supply Chain Management. In her spare time, she enjoys chasing after her three daughters, Olivia (5) and Aria and Maia (3-year-old twins).

Board Continuation

Cont. from p. 1.

In addition to Honors, which Ann Marie calls a "model that's beneficial across the board," high-impact practices include undergraduate research, learning communities, service-learning, and study abroad.

Board members followed up with questions and comments about "immersive experiences," including travel and research, as being central to Honors. Goals for students, particularly in Honors, include developing resiliency, curiosity, and a sense of ethics and professionalism. Over the past academic year, Honors co-directors Laurie Law and Susan Yager have spoken with several campus partners about focusing Honors growth on the concept of innovation, an idea which the Associate Provost applauded.

Later in the day, Board members participated in a conversation with Frank Montabon, Associate Professor, Supply Chain and Information systems and chair of an Honors task force recently organized through the Provost Office. This

group is charged with considering optimal ways to organize and fund Honors, and to make suggestions for strengthening the program.

Frank and Kyle asked Board members what's necessary for any Honors program to succeed; responses included a customized college education, excellent preparation for career or next steps, and alumni success over the arc of a career. Asked for their vision of the Honors Program, Board members mentioned the importance of developing well-rounded, self-motivated students; the significance of curiosity and critical thinking; and creating a rich, globally aware undergraduate experience. The task force will report some time in the fall term.

Some Board members finished their day in Jischke by joining students at a Friday Salon – the latter-day version of "fireside chats" in Osborn Cottage. Even here, the theme of change continued, with Sarah Nusser, Vice President for Research, speaking on "The Future of Research."

About Brent Carlson

Brent Carlson ('83, Computer Engineering), new president of the Honors Alumni Board is Vice President of Engineering, Akana at Rogue Wave Software. He was also co-founder and Chief Technology Officer of LogicLibrary, Inc., a software and technology services company.



Brent Carlson

Brent worked for 17 years at IBM before becoming a software entrepreneur. He holds many patents and published two books on software applications and development. Brent lives in Minneapolis with his wife, Kim. He hopes to build on the strong

foundation established by Mark Law ('81, Computer Engineering) developing and expanding effective relationships with faculty, staff and alumni to further the cause of Honors at Iowa State.

On the relation of the arts and sciences, Brent says his interests in music, arts, and fiction have "given me a wide-ranging perspective," making him more open to new ideas and able to respond to new challenges.

Lauren Hughes Promotes Pennsylvanians' Health

Lauren Hughes ('02, Spanish and Zoology), is a physician in Philadelphia. But she also has responsibilities for the health of people across the state of Pennsylvania.

Seems impossible? Lauren manages it because, in addition to her own practice, she is Deputy Secretary for Health Innovation in the Pennsylvania Department of Health. In other words, Lauren helps keep the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in a state of well-being.

Juggling varied responsibilities is daunting, but it's an ability Lauren has practiced since graduating from Iowa State. Before medical school at the U. of Iowa, she volunteered with Community HealthCorps at a clinic and homeless shelter. In medical school, Lauren helped teach a course in community health outreach. However, Iowa City wasn't the only place Lauren learned about medicine, as she spent her first med school summer studying tropical diseases in Brazil (she's since studied or worked in Sweden and Tanzania).

After two years in Iowa City, Lauren paused her medical education in order to earn a Master's of Public Health at

George Washington U. in Washington, D.C. "I always wanted to study public health and medicine together," she says. Training in both subjects helped her "gain the individual perspective of caring for patients" and the broader skills of "caring for populations." While in D.C., Lauren interned in the office of Iowa's Sen. Tom Harkin.

Lauren's continued interest in health care for underserved areas led her to found and direct a Rural Health Scholars Program for the American Medical Student Association. She even served a year as president of that association before completing her residency. And then, she did what any indefatigable high achiever would – earned another degree, this time at Michigan, studying health services research.

All these experiences brought her to a position where she can treat individuals yet improve many lives through health policy. She focuses on combatting the state's opioid and heroin epidemics and on rural health care. She says that beyond basic health services, many "social factors" affect health.



Lauren Hughes:

Safe housing, for example, can greatly influence a community's health.

Since Lauren's undergraduate education balanced humanities and science – she earned both a B.A. and B.S. at ISU – she fully agrees that "the arts and humanities spark imagination and creativity. They also build a well-rounded, full life." Lauren's own rounded life includes travel (especially to national parks), theater, writing, photography, and – when there's time! – quilting.

St-Art-ling Honors Projects



Three of this year's seniors demonstrated the meeting of art and science in their Honors projects. At left, Cassandra Gearhart (English, Tech Comm) wrote technical documentation and publicity materials with the student group CySLI (Cyclone Student Launch Initiative), which created a rocket to compete in NASA's Student Launch Initiative – rocket is to her right. Center, Jett Ptacek (Computer Engineering) built an easily replicable machine that lets users recycle plastic waste into crafts or artwork. And at right, Michaela Minock (Food Science, Performing Arts), seen left of the globe, choreographed and performed several dances, including sequences that illustrated principles of food safety through dance.

Remembering Ed Lewis

Cont. from p. 1

I came to think of Ed as the keeper of the university's core values (many of which are embedded in Honors) – learning to interact with diverse academic groups, helping students and faculty develop together, knowing how to compromise with an eye on principle, and promoting interdisciplinary work. Ed was a patient and superb mediator, a skilled problem solver, and a thoughtful and caring administrator (all while possessing a great sense of humor!). He helped me, and many others, to improve and develop those characteristics that are central to the operation of a great university.

One could say that Ed spent his career "behind the scenes" or as the "inside man." He once, with his wry sense of humor, described himself as a "speed bump on the highway." His legendary modesty and the nature of his work largely kept him out of the limelight. Only a few knew him well. But for the students, graduates, faculty, and staff of the Honors Program and for those of us who worked closely with him, we are in his debt, and he is indeed our champion.

Dick Seagrave retired from ISU in 2003 as a Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering. He was very active in the Honors Program and served as ISU's Interim President in 2000-01. He and his wife Jan now live in Green Valley, Arizona.

News and Notes about Honors

❁ Retreat rained out!

For the first time in many years, the First-Year Honors retreat had to be canceled due to foul weather. Nothing daunted, over the next few weeks student and staff organizers held the retreat piecemeal-style on campus: Olympics on central campus, skits in the Kildee Pavilion, and late night in Jischke (nothing novel about *that*).

❁ Honors Alumni Reap Awards

Two Honors alums were honored on campus last fall as Distinguished Alumni of their departments. William G. Bock ('73, Computer Science) recently retired as President of Silicon Laboratories Inc. of Austin, Texas. Lynette Hornung ('93, Political Science), who earned an MS in Information Assurance in 2004, is senior privacy and enterprise security architecture manager at TCG, Inc., an IT and management services company in Washington, D.C.

❁ Honors student wins Udall

Zoey Mauck ('19, Landscape Architecture) has been named a Udall scholar for 2018. The Udall Scholarship is awarded to college sophomores and juniors who demonstrate outstanding leadership, public service, or commitment to matters related to Native American nations or the environment. Zoey is Iowa State's first Udall winner since 2012, but she didn't stop by Jischke to express her joy at receiving it. Instead, she emailed from Sweden, where she studied abroad this past semester.

❁ New Steps for Faculty Directors

Gene Takle, Distinguished Professor of Agronomy and Geological and Atmospheric Sciences, retired this spring after an amazing 47 years at Iowa State. Long a friend of Honors, Gene served as Faculty Director from 2006-08. His successor, Susan Yager, Morrill Professor of English, returned to her department fulltime this summer after 10 years as Faculty Director.

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