

Challenger

Volume 3, Number 6

The Harper College Honors Society Newsletter

March 1993

It's not for women only—History 210

History 210 Women: The American Experience—Mondays and Wednesdays, 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m., Instructor—Sharon Alter

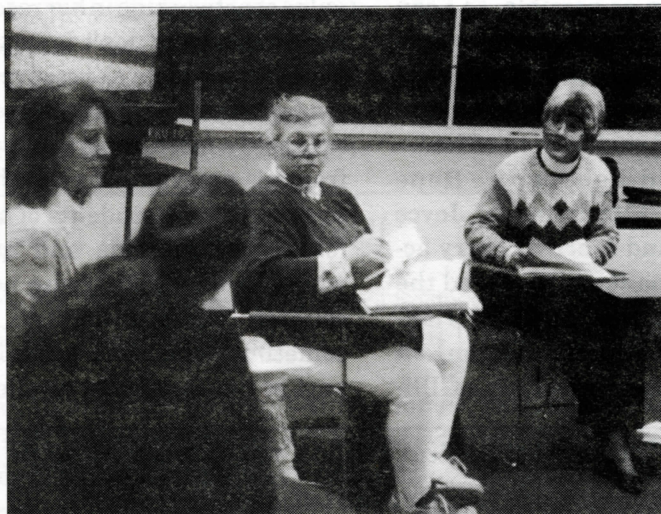
What is this class about, just some historical women? Can you relate to a class like this? Does this class seem to be for women only? Did you perhaps consider taking this class thinking it may be interesting—but not for a whole semester?

I had the opportunity to take a peek at one class session. Alter lead an interesting lecture the students felt compelled to participate in, sometimes sharing their

ancestor's experiences. A short film brought about more discussion and the class time flew by. At the end of class, students who didn't have to rush to another class lingered to exchange viewpoints and stories about their grandparents and other

need to. For example, the last test was in essay form and we had to write about six women. The information just started coming back as I wrote."

Cheryl Brandt took History 210 because she had Alter as a



Sharon Alter (right) emphasizes that what affects women also affects men and children.

Inside

- * Summer/fall Honors classes
- * Women in American history wordsearch
- * Student survey
- * Environmental Expo
- * Racism—Damaging freedom
- * Honors: In class and outside class

relatives. I talked to a few of the students about the class.

I asked Christopher Byrne why he took History 210. "It looked interesting and I want to graduate with Honors," Byrne said. When I asked him about the student's responsibilities, he told me, "Sharon Alter points out exactly how she wants it. There is a lot of reading and even though you don't realize it, you are learning about what you

teacher in a previous class and particularly enjoyed how she taught. Brandt said that History 210 is "...history from a different perspective."

Debbie Pickup had heard of Alter's teaching skills before she even looked into taking History 210. She needed to fulfill a history requirement and thought it would be an interesting subject.

Continued on page 8



From the desk of Dr. Hull

HONORS: IN CLASS AND OUTSIDE CLASS

In this issue you will find a listing of the Honors courses for summer and fall. We are especially pleased we have been able to respond to students' requests for summer and evening Honors courses. Remember each course is temporarily closed and requires an override form to register.

For students already in the program, I'll try to make it as easy as possible for you to pick up the overrides. Should you have an appointment to register before you can obtain the paperwork, you can use the drop-add system if you plan your other courses around the Honors courses you want.

If you know students who qualify, please encourage them to apply as soon as possible, so I can interview them prior to the registration rush. Applications for the Honors program are available in the Liberal Arts Division office.

In mid-February, Rene Cohen, Pat Fitzsimmons, Joyce Nordhaus, and Marilyn Perry accepted my challenge to attend the annual meeting of the HCIR (Honors Council-Illinois Region) in Urbana at the University of Illi-

annual meeting will be writing something about her impressions of the meeting for this issue. We all participated in a presentation on several special H a r p e r projects, such as the *Challenger*, the Environmental Expo coming up April 18, negotiated learning in the Honors math class and the weekly Honors discussion meetings.

We listened to presentations by other Honors students from all over the state as well as a couple of presentations from Missouri. A student from NIU discussed the value of networking in her research; her advice was "don't ignore your personal contacts as resources." A student from the University of Illinois said a more important benefit from his program was that he got to meet Honors students of all different backgrounds and majors whom he might otherwise not encounter. These encounters were sometimes the most stimulating part of his social and intellectual

ing of Honors Directors and passed the gavel to Sonia Carringer of the University of Illinois. She promised to let me know, as soon as

arrangements are firm, where the 1994 meeting will be held. I hope we will again be able to take a group to

"We do not expect to solve the problems we discuss, but we frequently gain some insight..."

—Dr. Hull

HCIR next spring.

Rita Blackwell, Gayle Corcoran, Pat Fitzsimmons, Joyce Nordhaus and Marilyn Perry are making plans to attend the annual meeting of the Upper Midwest Honors Council at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisc., the April 22-24 weekend. The theme for the UMHC conference is "What's Your Story?" Our presentation will cover some of the same material we discussed in Urbana, and we'll be adding to and polishing our presentations. This is valuable training for the kinds of professional presentations people in all careers can be called to do.

Please see the list of upcoming discussion topics included here. Although most meetings are just for free exchange of information, experiences, opinions and thoughts, several meetings will feature resource persons to help stimulate thought. Meetings are from 3 p.m. to 4 or 5 p.m. each Wednesday afternoon in F321. You may bring non-member guests whom you think would be interested in any special topic. You may come late or leave early if your class schedule, work commitments or family obligations cut into the meeting time. We're glad to have you for as long as you can participate.

continued on page 7

Honors Society meeting topics for the balance of the semester:

- April 7 Origin of the Universe: the Big Bang
- April 14 Alcohol Abuse (Wellness Week)
- April 21 Career Opportunities
- April 28 Artificial Intelligence/Genetic Engineering
- May 5 Why Are We Here?
- May 12 Prenuptial Agreements/Community Property

nois. Art Weston and Cheryl Brandt were unable to attend due to Student Senate obligations. I expect at least one of those who attended the

growth, a kind of catalyst to thought processes.

I finished my term as HCIR president, presiding over the meet-

A word from the President

Hi, everyone! The Honors Conference Illinois Region, held at the University of Illinois campus in Champaign on February 22 and 23, was a wonderful experience.

The university campus is impressive and made me homesick for New England with its beautiful architecture and trees. The inside of the buildings were especially grand: glass chandeliers, wooden trim and molding and wooden furniture—complete with a grandfather clock in the union that chimes the hours!

It was enjoyable networking with other honors students and faculty. Southeastern Missouri State's Honors Society is only two years old. In order to foster closer ties between the college and the community, they are planning to offer a three-credit course in which

their students would perform community services. They were seeking suggestions from other participants concerning the types of community services they could offer. They received several unique ideas. The

group leader will be updating me on this course as plans are finalized.

A young woman who spent three months living on a Native American reservation

in South Dakota had won a President's scholarship. She gave a slide presentation and discussed her experiences. I was able to spend some time with her and found her very bright and extremely knowledgeable.

I participated in a group discussion regarding the past, present, and future status of education, pri-

marily at the college level. Harper's General Education Review Committee is currently rewriting the school's general education philosophy statement, so this topic was of particular interest to me. Conferences are a great way to meet new people who may share some of the same interests you have.

Plans are being finalized to attend the Midwest Region Conference in April. It's something everyone should give some thought to doing before graduation.

We are considering a round table discussion for students interested in taking Honors-level courses. It would be held during spring registration and would consist of a panel of former and current honors teachers and former honors students. Look for future information regarding this topic.

That's all for this issue, and don't forget the Wednesday meetings at 3 p.m.

— Pat Fitzsimmons

"Conferences are a great way to meet new people who may share some of the same interests you may have."

Helping hands needed!

In celebration of Earth Day, Harper's Phi Theta Kappa and Honors Society, in cooperation with ECOcentrics, will host an Environment Expo: "Imagine Your World" on April 18, 1993. In order to make this event a success, your help is needed.

The Expo will feature speakers, films, information booths, T-shirts, music, food, an elementary school poster contest, and a time capsule dedication. Committee heads are already in place but Honors Society and Phi Theta Kappa volunteers are needed to help in other ways either before or on the day of the event.

Ads are needed for the event's program ad book. Camera ready ads are reasonable: \$50 for a full page, \$30 for a half page, and \$10 for business card size. Both personal and business ads are welcome.

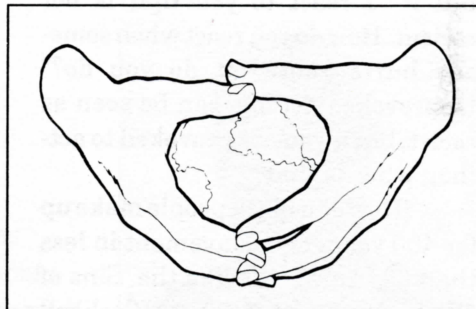
It's nice to have the name recognition of a prestigious organization like the Honors Society but in reality, the recognition does little good without community service participation. Environmental Expo is an opportunity for community service that can enhance your future for the price of an hour or two of your time. Al Gore and Bill Kurtis have been invited to this event. If they accept, lucky Expo

volunteers will have an up-close vantage point.

Can you help? Just call one of the co-chairwomen.

Marilyn Perry 398-7375

Gayle Corcoran 884-8361



—Marilyn Perry

Damaging Freedom

Think about what you're doing, because you don't know whom you're hurting

At the Feb. 10, 1993 Honor Society meeting, Rita Blackbell, Honor Society member, shared a documentary video about Malcolm X.

Blackbell said, "Malcolm felt blacks needed to become separate from whites; not necessarily through violence. 'Basically, if people do not want you then don't force yourself on them,'" Blackbell said. "But after his trip to Mecca, I think X changed from wanting separation to just wanting to coexist, not love, just live together."

X stated at a press conference on the video that after his trip to Mecca (a traditional pilgrimage for Muslims) he saw the problem of prejudice as an international problem not just an American one. He said prejudice is "...a problem of humanity, a problem of civilization."

Blackbell also believes many people have a long way to go before they naturally accept everyone for who they are.

"Racism is alive and well today," Blackbell said. "I don't think if someone retaliates against racism that means they are racist. If you throw a rock at me and call me a nigger for no reason—that's racism. But if I react to you that is not racism. How do you react when someone hurts you—what do you do?" Unprovoked actions can be seen as racist; but if you are provoked to act then what is that?

"How can black people make up for 400 years of enslavement in less than 60 years? It's like the 'Sins of Our Fathers' type of thing." Blackbell feels strongly that the definition of racism is often misconstrued.

In one excerpt from the video X states, "When he speaks with a loud voice like a black man, the white man calls him a racist."

Here is another misconception of racism.

X also had a "racist quarrel" with American society—that "...black men had

been excluded from any place."

Blackbell feels many blacks are still excluded. She has felt discrimination because of her color. When will this stop?

Blackbell suggests, "You have to be willing to die in order to bring about change. No one will relinquish power" willingly. "Force must be met with force. Kindness will not overcome."

X saw a similar view but with a different light. "You have to communicate with the enemy in a language he understands. The language of morality and nonviolence is a language he doesn't understand."

X also felt power should be overcome with power. But also through legislation, education, and reeducation—all focused to change the hate in men's hearts.

Blackbell said she knows this

hate has not vanished—maybe just swept under the rug. Ignoring this hate can be worse than directly confronting it (as seen during X's lifetime.) How can this hate be changed?

Both X and Rita feel the media is a power to help change this "climate of hate."

In another speech excerpt X stated that the media created and perpetuates climates of hate. He gave the Nazi and KKK groups as examples.

Blackbell feels the media shows blacks in bad lighting. On the news we might see blacks shooting someone or dealing drugs—not much coverage on the "black brain surgeons" of this world. This is part of the indirect racism plaguing our country and continuing a climate of hate that separates us like never before.

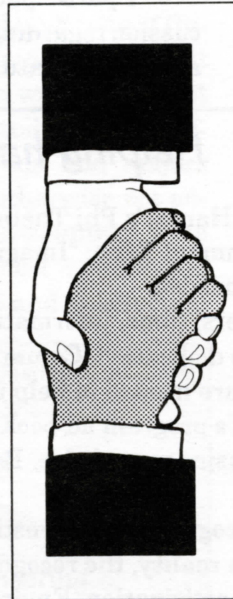
Yet, in an emotionally charged speech X said, "Freedom is something you have to do for yourself."

Does it matter whether the media misrepresents a whole segment of the population? Does it matter whether KKK and Neo-Nazi members are still misguided by prejudice? Don't be afraid to claim freedom for yourself—freedom is not the only thing you need to do for yourself.

To become a producer not a consumer, in Blackbell's opinion, is where the black community must start.

But beyond that, not only black people, everyone must work toward reducing the prejudices they hold that are damaging freedom in their own and others' lives.

—Vicki Milewski

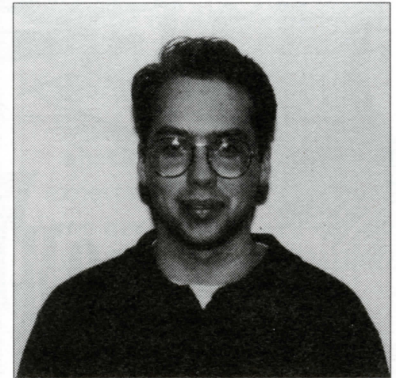


Honors Survey

What issues would you like to see covered in the newsletter?

Adam McCabe-student

"I would like to read articles about political issues and current events. I would also like to contribute to the newsletter."



Adam McCabe



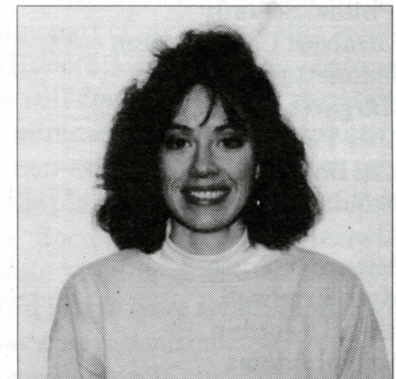
Chris Byrne

Chris Byrne-student

"I am interested in seeing articles written by Harper students who have participated in the foreign exchange program to England and Austria. They could discuss their experiences with people, education, and food."

Laura Wilcox-student

"I would like to see a write-up on what was discussed at the Honors Society meeting, and what the discussions will be."



Laura Wilcox



Jennifer Schwartz

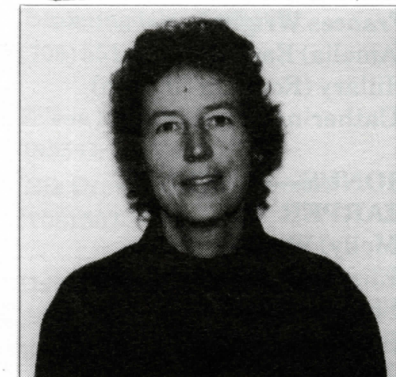
Jennifer Schwartz-student

"Answers to questions like 'What perpetuates violence against women?' would interest me."

Molly Waite

Molly Waite-professor of Political Science

"I would like to see students share, give hints, and tell their likes and dislikes about their experiences with classes at Harper, including ideas about the best sequence to take classes, or if they should have even taken Honors classes."





WOMEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY

PUZZLE NAMES

Shirley Chisholm
 Margaret Fuller
 Harriet Tubman
 Lucy Stone
 (Betty) Friedan
 (Phillis) Schlafly
 Elizabeth Cady Stanton
 Jeannette Rankin
 Margaret Sanger
 Alice Paul
 Ella Baker
 (Sandra Day) O'Connor
 (Gloria) Steinem
 Sojourner Truth
 Myra Bradwell
 Barbara Jordan
 Abigail Adams
 Mother Jones
 Jane Addams
 Susan B. Anthony
 (Greta) Garbo
 (Katherine) Hepburn
 (Lillian) Gish
 Frances Wright
 (Amelia) Earhart
 Hillary (Rodham) Clinton
 (Catherine) Beecher

BONUS—WOMEN AT HARPER

(Molly) Waite
 (Elizabeth Anne) Hull
 (Sharon) Alter
 (Susanne) Havlic
 (Jeanne) Pankanin
 (Bonnie) Henry

S	H	I	R	L	E	Y	C	H	I	S	H	O	L	M	G	J	C	C	N
M	A	R	G	A	R	E	T	F	U	L	L	E	R	O	E	S	N	A	O
M	R	Y	L	H	E	L	L	A	B	A	K	E	R	A	F	O	E	R	T
L	R	L	U	D	Y	R	O	N	N	O	C	O	N	N	F	J	N	R	N
U	I	F	A	M	E	N	I	E	T	S	I	N	A	S	H	O	U	I	A
C	E	A	P	R	E	H	C	E	E	B	E	D	F	E	M	U	H	E	T
Y	T	L	E	F	H	U	L	L	H	T	R	R	N	N	Y	R	T	C	S
S	T	H	C	U	L	O	D	G	T	O	A	R	I	O	R	N	E	H	Y
T	U	C	I	P	B	O	H	E	J	N	Y	O	R	J	A	E	B	A	D
O	B	S	L	R	F	A	R	A	C	V	A	T	E	R	B	R	D	P	A
N	M	M	A	R	G	A	R	E	T	S	A	N	G	E	R	T	O	M	C
E	A	G	H	N	N	A	S	D	N	C	A	T	I	H	A	R	E	A	H
N	N	H	I	K	B	W	H	H	N	C	F	O	S	T	D	U	L	N	T
A	I	S	I	R	R	A	G	A	I	I	E	O	H	O	W	T	C	C	E
D	O	N	A	I	V	L	N	R	V	L	N	K	O	M	E	H	M	A	B
E	F	B	G	A	W	A	I	T	E	L	L	A	E	J	L	N	Y	T	A
I	G	H	N	R	U	B	P	E	H	T	I	A	K	L	L	O	R	T	Z
R	T	E	A	R	H	A	R	T	O	O	L	C	R	N	L	O	A	J	I
F	F	A	T	S	M	A	D	D	A	E	N	A	J	Y	A	E	M	I	L
A	B	I	G	A	I	L	A	D	A	M	S	Y	B	A	D	P	Y	I	E

Honors Courses for Summer 1993

LIT 115-001 (Fiction) 3 hrs. 10:30 a.m.-1:05 p.m. MW Barbara Hickey
ENG IDS (Honors Advanced Creative Writing—requires contract)
3 or 4 hrs. TBA prereq. ENG220 or consent of instructor,
Betty Hull

Honors Courses for Fall 1993

ENG 101-028 3 hrs. M-W-F 12:00-12:50 p.m. Martha Simonsen
GEO 101-003 4 hrs. M-W 1:00-2:15 p.m., R lab 1:40-3:30 p.m.
Larry Knight
MTH 120-004 3 hrs. T-TR 12:15-1:30 p.m. Ceil Cooper
requires placement test
LIT 224-001 (Women in Literature) 3 hrs. W 6:35-9:15 p.m.
Nancy Davis
ENG 102-029 3 hrs. R 6:35-9:15 p.m. Jack Dodds
JNM IDS (Honors Newsletters—requires contract) 3 or 4 hrs. TBA

NEW!!! Direct call in number for Honors program—(708)925-6323

KATHY BERBAUM FOUND!

Member Kathy Berbaum, missing from her classes for weeks, was in a car accident February 3. She is home, and will possibly have another surgery, but she expects to be back next fall. Drop her a line or call her at: 1111 West Wilson Palatine, IL 60067 358-9373

continued from page 2

All our recent discussions have been interesting for me, and I think they are for the students as well. One of the nice things about the discussions is there is no teacher to grade you or to make sure material is covered, so people are free to follow their thoughts wherever they lead. From my perspective, I am released of the responsibility to see the discussion sticks to the topic, and sometimes serendipity takes us into very interesting territory.

We do not expect to solve the problems we discuss, but we frequently gain some insight into the complexity of the problem and come

to respect why those who don't agree with our own experience hold their views. Our lively discussion of gays in the military was a good example of this.

NOTE THESE DATES: Following suggestions from the responses to the *Challenger's* survey last fall, we are planning an all-day excursion to Chicago on Saturday, May 1. A walking tour of the Loop will be influenced by the weather and the particular interests of the participants (maybe a view from the top of Sears Tower if it's a clear day!) An end-of-the-semester potluck party is scheduled for Saturday, May 22, at my

home. This is always a time to say goodbye to those who will graduate and hello to new members. And we get to sample lots of good recipes! Bring a dish to serve six.

One last item: I've devoted a large part of my column this month to Honors Society activities because we still don't have a new secretary, so minutes of meetings are sketchy or non-existent. At this point most of the planning/business of the Honors Society is pretty routine, so minute-taking should be minimal. We'd like to have someone who will make the commitment to attend and record key decisions. How about it?

—Dr. Elizabeth Anne Hull

Editorial Staff
Joy Phillips Blocki
Kathy Kokoszka
Vicki Milewski
Tasha Ponczek

Editorial Policy
The *Challenger* is the voice of the membership of the Harper College Honors Society. We welcome articles and letters of interest to our members. Articles should contribute constructively to the goals and ideals of the Honors Society. Articles should be informative and should include verification of facts presented. Please check with the editors before writing an article for details on acceptable style and format. Call EXT. 2581. Letters should be addressed to: Challenger Room A 379

Directory Updates

New phone numbers:

Honors Program—925-6323
Debbie Dobberty (708) 705-8398

New address and phone numbers

Cheryl Brandt
c/o Richie residence
125 E. Hillside
Barrington, IL 60010
(708) 381-4601

Welcome! and add:

Rosemary Grow
72 Country Club Drive,
Bloomington, IL 60108
(708) 351-1971 (work)

Eileen Manusos
1835 Oriole Drive,
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
(708) 307-8677

David Peeler
38 Cedar Lane,
Wheeling, IL 60090
(708) 541-4429

Student Activities Events Calendar

April

Friday 2

Harper Symphony Orchestra
"Spotlight on Strings"
8 p.m. J143
\$5 Harper \$10 Public

Thursday 8

Film "Howard's End"
7:30 p.m. J143
\$2 Harper \$3 Public

Wednesday 14

Second City Excursion
Bus leaves at 5:30 p.m.
from A building \$15 All

Friday 16

Kids' Show Illustrated Theater
7:30 p.m. J143
\$1 kids under 13 \$2 Harper
\$3 Public

Friday&Saturday 23 & 24

Harper Dance Company
7:30 p.m. J143
\$3 Harper \$5 Public

Saturday 24

Hand bell Festival
5:00 p.m. M building
\$2 Harper \$4 Public

Thursday 29

Film- "My Father's Glory"
7:30 p.m. J143
\$2 Harper \$3 Public

Friday 30

Poetry Slam
7:30 p.m. J143
\$3 Harper \$5 Public

For more information on
these and other events, and
for ticket information, call or
visit the Box Office at
397-3000 X2547 in J building.

History 210 continued from page 1

subject." About the instructor she said, "She's an interesting teacher who makes the class good."

Alter teaches History 210 with energy, sensitivity and insight. She shares parts of these historical and nonhistorical women's lives with us leaving us with an understanding that we can somehow relate to directly.

This class, like other Honors classes, has a small class

size. The students sit in a large, loose, circle which helps everyone to share their ideas and views.

A description of History 210 in Alter's words is "...a history of women in the U.S., from colonial America to the present, dealing with examples of specific women

and what their impact was, as well as the history of women thematically."

She wants people to know the class as she is teaching is not just focused on women, but on men and women. Alter also feels strongly about showing her students that "...today is not as unique as we might think

it is." This becomes clear when she gets into the area of sexuality, birth-control, abortion and the

family and the history of these issues. She hopes she can "...help people in her class better understand the attitudes of today."

It doesn't take long to realize events that affected women had a huge impact on the family and so-

'...today is not as unique as we might think it is.'

— Sharon Alter

ciety. Many of the students, both women and men can relate to much of the class through their own relatives' experiences. I think all the students will leave History 210 at the end of the semester with an appreciation for the historical women and their families that shaped the world we live in. History 210 isn't for women only!

—Joy Phillips Blocki

