

The Wayne and Claire Horton Honors Scholarship

For Students in the College of Engineering

Contact Person: Russell Shrader, Assistant Director, University Honors

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2009 Scholarship Recipient: Cody Dunn, mcdunn07@vt.edu

2008 Scholarship Recipient: Tory Smith, tpsmith@vt.edu

2007 Scholarship Recipient: John Helveston, jhelvy02@vt.edu

Introduction

The Wayne and Claire Horton Honors Scholarship provides assistance to outstanding honors students in the College of Engineering. The purpose of the scholarship is twofold: first, to provide financial assistance for tuition, room, and board for the third and fourth years of study, and second, to provide the students the resources to design and complete a major educational experience that gives focus and direction to their undergraduate efforts. The central goal of the scholarship is to insure that, in addition to the outstanding education offered by the College of Engineering, the Horton Scholars will obtain significant and organized study in the humanities and the social sciences. The Horton Scholar graduate will be broadly knowledgeable of world affairs, the social and political issues of the time, and have an appreciation of language and the arts.

Wayne Horton is a graduate of Virginia Tech's College of Engineering. Claire Horton is an anthropology professor who taught at Marshall University. They currently reside in Huntington, West Virginia.

The Scholarship

The Horton Scholar will receive a total of \$10,000 for an experience that:

- a) Requires international travel
- b) Demonstrates an awareness and knowledge of cultural and social differences
- c) Attempts a project of meaning to both the student and the host country
- d) Develops a program to internationalize the engineering education of the student

Eligibility:

All second year engineering students who are registered with University Honors and who will be in course for two full years after the scholarship is awarded are eligible to apply. The appointments are made in the spring semester. Special attention will be given to students who are interested in those fields of engineering that confront the issues of energy and alternative energy sources.

General Requirements:

All honors students completing three semesters of study in the College of Engineering with a grade point average of 3.70 or above are eligible to apply for the Horton Scholarship. In making application, the students agree (if they win the scholarship) to pursue an Honors degree, and to seek a minor or a second major in the Humanities or Social Sciences (College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences).

Students who win this award must **demonstrate** in the first and second year of study the following:

1. Outstanding intellectual ability
2. A high level of achievement
3. A high level of motivation and creativity
4. Character and integrity
5. Persistence and tenacity in their approach to life

Specific Requirements for the Horton Scholars:

The Horton Scholarship requires that a student:

1. Gain a major in the College of Engineering.
2. Gain a second major or a minor in a field of the Humanities or Social Sciences.
3. Gain significant capability with at least one language other than English.
4. Gain an Honors Scholar, *in-Honors*, or Honors Baccalaureate Degree.
5. Give a presentation to the campus community concerning the international experiences. The University Honors Program will host these presentations each year. Special visitors will be invited to these events.
6. During their Junior and Senior year, winners are expected to participate fully in the selection process for the new Horton Scholar.

The Application Process

Much of the value of this scholarship is the application process itself. The second year of college proves perhaps the most critical in terms of decision making for the future. Adjustment to college life, most decisions on majors, and an assessment of additional opportunities have largely been accomplished. The application for the Horton Scholars Program is the best time for the student to receive the mentoring and advising that is specific to their lives.

For these reasons, and to insure that the Scholars chosen meet the high standards of this scholarship, the application process is rigorous. It requires that the applicants assess the future direction of their lives and to plan the events that will add significant value to their college education. This must be done with the assistance of a faculty mentor. The duties of the mentor include acting as academic advisor to the student, assisting the student in developing the proposal for the educational experience component of the scholarship, and serving as a proponent during the selection process.

Prior to making application for the Horton Scholarship, the student must schedule an appointment with Russell Shrader, Assistant Director of University Honors.

Application is made through the development of a portfolio. The portfolio is a collection of the work and ideas of the student and, properly done, should provide the selection committees with a portrait of the applicant. The portfolio for the Horton Honors Scholars remains a work-in-progress until the Scholar graduates.

The basic document of the application is a portfolio of no more than twenty-five pages (front only). The portfolio must contain the following documents, *in this order*:

1. An endorsement from the faculty mentor, specifying why the applicant is a viable candidate and how the applicant's scholarship plans meet the spirit and requirements of the scholarship
2. A statement signed by the applicant that all work in the portfolio is that of the applicant
3. Updated, current Curriculum vitae
4. Personal Statement of 1000-1200 words
5. Detailed proposal for the travel/research experience
6. Documentation of work completed by the student*
7. A Current Course of Study Planner detailing how the major/minor requirements will be met

(Change for 2010 scholarship competition: The cover letter has been omitted from the portfolio, replaced by a thorough, thoughtful endorsement letter from the faculty mentor.)

*The portfolio should include documentation of work completed by the student. Please note that the presentation should provide insight into character and beliefs. The committees seek to gauge the extent of the applicant's knowledge, the manner in which the applicant makes decisions, and the motivation of the applicant to improve his or her intellectual life. It may take the following forms:

- Papers written by the student
- Artistic works by the student
- Photographs of the work of the student
- Notes from applicant's journal or diary
- Letters or other evidence documenting the work of the student. If in doubt about whether to include something, please ask.

SELECTION OF A FACULTY MENTOR

Students also ask the following question: "How do I select a faculty mentor?" Hopefully, you have established a relationship with at least one faculty member during your first year at Virginia Tech. Think about classes you have had previously. Which professor(s) inspire you? Which professors share your research and other interests? Who could you see working with for the next two years?

Your faculty mentor must be willing to be an advocate for you, and should you be selected as the scholarship recipient, willing to assist you with your future duties as the Horton Scholar. Administrative duties of the mentor include attending the final selection dinner with you if you are a finalist, helping you with the preliminary committee in your junior year, and being a proponent of the scholarship and your interests. But most importantly, he or she should want to help you develop and grow in your plans. Your mentor cannot write the portfolio for you or plan your trip, but an engaged mentor will want to share the journey and dream with you, providing feedback and suggestions where needed. Do not select a mentor who seems disengaged and/or unwilling to assist you with the required portions of the portfolio development and scholarship selection.

JUDGING THE PORTFOLIO

When the applicants have submitted their preliminary portfolios, University Honors reviews them. The review is for the purpose of checking the portfolio. Applicants will be notified of problems and will be permitted to correct the

portfolio and submit the final application. Once this process is complete, the applicant may make no further changes. Should the applicant's record of accomplishment change, the Assistant Director of University Honors must be notified.

THE CAMPUS COMMITTEE

The submitted portfolios will be judged by a committee of faculty appointed by University Honors. The committee will make its decisions on the following bases:

- Does the applicant demonstrate the qualities listed above (see General Requirements)?
- Does the applicant propose a significant educational, international experience in engineering/humanities/social sciences?
- In the judgment of the committee, will the applicant complete the experience in a manner appropriate to be designated a Horton Honors Scholar?

After the portfolios are judged, the faculty committee will select applicants to be interviewed. The faculty committee will interview applicants and will, at their discretion, pick the finalists. The committee will convey to the Chair, a Junior Honors Award winner, and the Assistant Director of University Honors the reasons for selection or exclusion of each applicant. Everyone interviewed will receive feedback concerning their interview.

During the interview process, applicants can expect questions concerning any item in the portfolio, current world, national, or state events, or their education.

THE HORTON HONORS AWARD COMMITTEE

Those applicants put forward by the first Campus Committee will undergo one more interview to determine the Horton Scholar. This committee may consist of Virginia Tech faculty and citizens from outside the University committee. They will be selected on the basis of their achievements and their representation of the ideals espoused by this Scholar Program. Following the interviews with the applicants, the Committee will select the Horton Honors Scholar. Their decision will be final and will be announced as soon as the committee adjourns.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 2009

16 – Information meeting concerning the Horton Scholarship

21- - October 2 – Schedule appointment with Mr. Shrader to discuss application process. You may email Mr. Shrader to schedule.

October

2 – Deadline to declare intent to apply for scholarship

16 – First draft of personal statement (suggested). Please consult with your advisor and/or the University Honors staff for assistance. You are welcome to discuss your personal statement with any member of University Honors. However, please keep Mr. Shrader up to date regarding your progress.

21 – Presentations by former sophomore scholarship winners. This year's presenters will be John Helveston and Tory Smith (Horton), Jennifer Lamb (Cloyd), and Rehan Dawood (Gough). Presentations will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Hillcrest Dining Room (Hillcrest 143).

30 – First draft of trip proposal and ideas. Again, meet regularly with your faculty advisor. Talk with Mr. Shrader as necessary. Feel free to talk with other Honors staff or past scholars.

November

13 – Second draft of personal statement. Begin visualizing your finished portfolio.

20 – Complete updated curriculum vitae.

Over Thanksgiving Break – Look at your progress. Re-read drafts of personal statement. Think about extra information you wish to include in the portfolio.

30 – First draft of portfolio due by 12:00 p.m.

December

11 – By this date, you should have met with any faculty/Honors staff you wish to assist you in final portfolio development.

February 2010

1 – Final portfolio due by 12:00 p.m.

2-5 – Faculty on interview committee to review portfolios

8-12 – Preliminary interviews.

15-19 – Students will meet with Cody Dunn and/or Mr. Shrader to discuss their candidacy.

26 – Dinner for all sophomore scholarship finalists at 6:00 p.m.

27 – Final Scholarship Selection. Recipient announced at the end of interviews.

The following students are recent winners and finalists for sophomore scholarships. Feel free to contact them for suggestions regarding portfolio development, trip ideas, etc.

Horton Scholars:

Pete Evans, 2009 finalist: evansp@vt.edu

Maggie Morrison, 2008 finalist: mags2010@vt.edu

Elaine Huffman, 2008 finalist: elaine10@vt.edu