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Dr. Thomas G. Velek
Director, Gordy Honors College

Mississippi University for Women
Founded 1884 Coeducational since 1982

THE INA E. GORDY HONORS COLLEGE

Savannah – Southern Regional Honors Conference
In March 2014, four honors students traveled to the Southern Regional Honors Conference in Savannah, GA. Phillip Stoner and Amber Shoffner, presented with Honors Director, Dr. Thomas G. Velek. In the paper entitled “Challenging the Boundaries of the Classroom,” Phillip Stoner’s paper discussed the role of student mentors within the Residential Honors Program in breaking the boundaries of the classroom. Amber Shoffner’s paper examined the part study abroad plays in challenging the standard classroom. Olivia Trammel and Christopher Lucas served as student moderators for presentations.

Recruiting Exceptional Students
Gordy Honors College is dedicated to recruiting top students to The W.
Prospective students may contact the Honors College (662-241-6850) or e-mail Dr. Velek at tgv@muw.edu for information on coming to The W as a member of the Honors College. Further information can be found online at www.muw.edu/honors.

Students, who are interested in interviewing for Centennial and Honors scholarships should note the following date:
Hons Spring Interviews: February 21, 2014
Dr. Thomas G. Velek will travel to high schools to do a presentation on academic excellence and the value of higher education. The Honors College will also host high school groups on The W campus. If you know a high school that would be interested in such a presentation, contact Dr. Velek at tgv@muw.edu.

Supporting the Gordy Honors College
Support for undergraduate research, internships, the Forum Series, conference travel, and the Honors Study Abroad is made possible by the Honors College endowment and the continued support of alumni and friends of the Honors College.

As an alumnus or friend of the Gordy Honors College you can help continue to offer exceptional opportunities, academic support, and scholarship to current and future students. By sending a gift to the Gordy Honors College you show your appreciation for the Honors College and what it has provided you. A contribution also provides the needed resources to help support students.

Stay connected to the Gordy Honors College
Please support the work of the Gordy Honors College and its students by sending a contribution made payable to the Gordy Honors College to:

MUW Foundation
Mississippi University for Women
1100 College St. MUW-1618
Columbus, MS 39701

Contact
Dr. Thomas G. Velek, Director, Gordy Honors College
1100 College St. MUW-399
Columbus, MS 39701
662-241-4850 tgv@muw.edu

SPRING 2015

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January 22
Faculty Member of the Year Lectures
Mary Jo Kulpashov, Director of the associated Science in Nursing program, 2014 FOY

February 5
Film: “Spies of Mississippi”

February 19
“Spies of Mississippi; the Campaign to Stop the Civil Rights Movement”
Dawn Porter
Award winning film director, author, attorney

March 5
“Blood and Guts but Little Glory; When Military Leadership Fails the Soldiers”
Dr. Thomas G. Velek, MUW
(Part of the World War I Symposium)

March 26
Hall Hall History Series
Presented by the Gordy Honors College
in President Hall
*Islamic Pacifism, Global Medicine
*Erica Bonnano Fay
Anjali Bhatkar
Author of “Islamic Pacifism”,
Senior editor “The Islamic Monthly”,
human rights attorney

April 9
MUW Faculty Research Symposium

April 23
Spring Honors Research Symposium Part I

April 30
Spring Honors Research Symposium Part II

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Lauren Stackhouse Morgan is a registered nurse with the DCH Regional Medical Center in Tuscaloosa, AL.

Kelsey Boyce (Samples) accepted a position as an Accounting Assistant for the South Sound YMCA Child Care office in Olympia, teaching for KIPP Believe College Prep in New Orleans, LA.

Leigh Pourciau was featured in “Visions” magazine for her award winning work in education. She recently accepted a position of the accomplishments of our alumni.

Lizzy Locker is the Assistant Director and Creative Writing/Screenwriting teacher with the TRU afterschool program in San Madeleine Gardiner is a 5th & 6th grade teacher at Icolph School in Everett, WA.

Scottland 2014

In the summer of 2014 the Honors Study Abroad Program returned to Edinburgh, Scotland. Required of residents of the Mississippi Rural Scholars Program, the city was open to any number of the Honors College who had completed their sophomore year. The students were accompanied by faculty Brian Anderson, Dr. Beverly Joyce, and honors mentors Phillip Stoner and Amber Shoffner.

The students took two honors seminars in an intensive format. Dr. Joyce taught “The Culture and Art of Scotland” and Dr. Anderson taught “National Identity and Francophilia.” Students conducted research using resources such as the National Library of Scotland, the National Archives, and the University of Edinburgh.

In addition to courses work, the students took trips to Glasgow and to Stirling, where they were given the opportunity to hike the Pentland Hills. Living and studying in the center of Edinburgh just steps from the Royal Mile, Scotland, the National Archives, and the University of Edinburgh.

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Dr. Brian Anderson, published an article in “PS: Political Science & Politics” on his experience of managing political science internships at The W. “High-Impact Political Science Internships in a Low-Density Opportunity Environment” was released in the October edition.

This article has its origins in a paper that Dr. Anderson was invited to present by the Gordy Honors College at the 2012 National NCHC meeting in Boston. Anderson was part of a Gujarat panel focused on “Breaking the boundaries of the classroom.” Also presenting on that panel was Prof. Thomas Viik and Madeline Gardiner.

Dr. Viik presented two papers this year. “Utilizing the Urban Landscape, Expanding the Boundaries of the Classroom” was accepted acceptance for publication at the Southwestern Regional Honors Conference in Savannah in March. “Challenging the Role of the Professor, Student Directed Learning Initiative” was accepted acceptance for presentation at the National Meeting of the National Collegiate Honors Conference in Denver in November 2014. Both papers were part of panels that included students from the Gordy Honors College.

Dr. Viik was chosen by the NCHC as a national judge for the honors research poster session at the NCHC National Meeting in Denver.

Dr. Erin Rezac, who teaches the honors section of American history, was recently selected as a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholar. As a participant, she attended the seminar instituted by the NEH, which focused on “Finding Mississippi in the National Civil Rights Narrative: Struggle, Institution Building, and Power at the Local Level.”

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