

UMKC HONORS PROGRAM

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

April 24, 2007

Meet at Oak Street Courtyard this week for class*

- I. Honors LLC Weekly Event
- II. Colloquium Topics
- III. Registration Information
- IV. Contract Completion
- V. Fuel Big Sister Applications

I. On April 29th at 7:00 pm there will be a Birthday Bash! If you would like to attend just meet in the Oak Street Residence Hall's honors lounge.

II. Colloquium Option 1: The Welfare State:

For the topic of the welfare state we plan on splitting the discussion into three areas consisting of: healthcare, education, and poverty in today's society. These are three areas that can be covered under the heading of welfare and can all be tied in to today's society.

Some of the guided questions for this topic are: What is the role of government in the areas of poverty, healthcare, and education? What has the government done right/wrong? What is the relationship between poverty and healthcare? How does the U.S. compare to other countries? Where are we going as a country? How will social welfare change in the near and distant future?

Some professors that have said they would be interested in speaking are:

Mathew Forstater on Keynesian economics

Drew Bergerson on totalitarianism and welfare

Linda Payne on UK and Swedish welfare states compared to the U.S.

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Colloquium Option 2: Images of Children in Media Directed at Children

Guiding Questions:

1) What are the significant changes in types/content of children's media?

- 2) Does children's media have a direct correlation to behaviors and attitudes in adulthood?
- 3) What can be said about American culture based on children's literature? (Particularly in terms of gender roles and racial stereotypes)
- 4) What is being taught by the means of different kinds of media?
- 5) What themes and traditions prevail throughout?

Possible Speakers:

Matt Raithel on violence in children's media (specifically video games)

Owner of Reading Reptile (children's bookstore)

Kristen Kerne-Miller, Dr. Leah Gensheimer, Cynthia Jones who were recommended as perhaps being able to speak about issues relating to child psychology and children's media in general

Various Topics:

Media in general, Disney (how it shapes our morals and beliefs), race and class in media, educational programs (i.e. Barney, etc) and if they work, violence in video games/tv, Internet use, evolution of children's media through time (how has it changed, is it better/worse)

Movie:

A comparison between the old stuff (i.e. Mickey Mouse, etc). vs. today.

A documentary on the topic.

Book:

We will read a children's book towards the end of the semester and then discuss the various topics that we hit on earlier in the year. Which children's book it will be has yet to be determined.

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III. IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Honors students can begin signing up for classes on Apr. 14. With the new Pathway system, you don't need reference or consent numbers. You will find the "catalogue number" (old course number) (i.e. Honors 301) and the "class number" (old registration number) (i.e. 43802) on the schedule of classes, but only honors students will be able to enroll for the class. If

you have problems, email Prof. Levy (levyg@umkc.edu). We will offer honors sections of Eng. 225 and A&S 100 for FS 07. There will be honors discussion sections for Philo. 210, History 201, Chem. 211, French, Spanish, and German. If 5 or more students would like a discussion section for Environmental Sci., or any other class, please tell me. Also, if you are interested in leading the Philosophy discussion section, please see Prof. Sheppard. Ideally you should be a Philosophy major. Finally, if you will be doing a senior honors thesis, please contact me before enrolling in Honors 495.

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IV. Contract Completion Forms: Please turn these in to Sally Conrad (204 Haag Hall) by June 4<sup>th</sup> at the latest. If you are graduating this spring, please turn your contracts in by May 10<sup>th</sup>. You will find one attached to this email. Or you can find them on our website: [http://cas.umkc.edu/honors/completion\\_form.pdf](http://cas.umkc.edu/honors/completion_form.pdf)

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V. FUEL Big Sister Applications Now Available! The UMKC Women's Center is currently accepting applications for Big Sisters in the Females Understanding Empowerment & Leadership (FUEL) Program for the 2007-08 Academic Year. Modeled on the Young Women Leaders Program at the University of Virginia, FUEL is a year-long mentoring program that focuses on promoting middle school girls' leadership abilities by combining the benefits of one-on-one mentoring with targeted group activities for a year. During the year, each middle-school girl is paired with a college woman-her "Big Sister"-with whom she meets twice weekly to address issues related to girls' sense of self, scholastic achievement, body image, social aggression, and healthy decision-making. Each Big and Little Sister pair also meets individually for an additional hour each week to develop their personal relationship. Big Sisters will earn 4-5 academic credits during the academic year by enrolling in FUEL-related courses. For details on the program and how to apply, please see the FUEL website: <http://www.umkc.edu/womenc/fuel.html> or contact Brenda Bethman at [bethmanb@umkc.edu](mailto:bethmanb@umkc.edu) or 816.235.1643.