

Student Laureate Janet Wade not your **typical** coed

"Allow me to introduce myself, because you might not recognize me as a 'coed' at first glance. I am a middle-aged mother of three who did not have the opportunity to attend college when I graduated high school 20-something years ago."

Thus begins Honors student Janet Wade's prize winning essay on "How Community College Changed My Life." Little did she know, when she wrote these words, that her life at Harper was about to change even more dramatically.

In spring 1993, Wade was enrolled in a feature writing course at Harper. The instructor, Rhea Dawson, encouraged the members of the class to enter the Illinois Community College Trustees Associates essay contest. Wade relates that she almost didn't follow through after her initial good intentions faded. But instead of burying the project in a heap of 'I'll get to it sometime' papers, Wade persisted.

Apparently she wasn't the only one who had second thoughts. According to

Dawson, Wade was the only student in the class of 22 who submitted an essay, even though most members had expressed an interest. "Janet's gift, and truly the gift of all high achievers, is that she acts on good intentions," Dawson said.

Wade's essay took first place at Harper. She won a \$100 gift certificate from the Harper Bookstore and was invited to have lunch with Harper president Paul Thompson.

Wade's essay was sent to the statewide competition, but it didn't win. She assumed that was the end of it. She was unaware

that Cary Israel, Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Board, had read her essay and nominated her as the Community College representative for the Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureate Award.

In October, 1993, Wade learned that she had been chosen as the first community college Student Laureate. She received a medallion and certificate from Governor and Mrs. Edgar at a ceremony at the Capitol in Springfield. Then she and her family attended lunch at the Governor's mansion along with the Student Laureates from four-year degree-granting schools.

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From the Desk of Dr. Hull: Knocking around in my head...

Last week, ten of us attended the annual meeting of the HCIR (Honors Council-Illinois Region), two faculty and eight students. A number of students were from Nancy Davis' Honors Women in Literature class last fall, and they did a fine presentation on two of the final projects from their course. One was a reading by Jody Shipka of her story, "Seeds" (written in the style of Virginia Woolf), which she interpreted very movingly. The other was a group presentation by Jeff Baran, Rene Cohen, Laura Halverson and Joyce Nordhaus, discussing the mak-

We heard a number of presentations on Generation X (people between age 18 and 29) and hot debates on how much hope there would be for the future when Generation X begins to make an impact on policy and government in the United States. As it happened, all of our students attending the conference were Generation Xers, although I know that many of our Honors students are older than this.

This started me thinking. Recently, an awful lot has been discussed and written about self-esteem (and false self-esteem), where it comes from, who's responsible for instilling it, and what the lack of it means for education and the future of our nation. Although there's a lot of controversy, what most people seem to agree on is that self esteem helps people to succeed in objective ways, that is in such things as getting good grades, earning money, gaining prestige in our profession or occupation and our community, being creative and finding a satisfactory mate. This is because people who lack self-esteem tend to give up

easily and become victims of self-fulfilling prophecies: if I can't succeed, why bother trying? Even that point of view has some opponents, however, who argue that many people "succeed" because they need to prove to the world

'If you're not completely satisfied with the world you inherit, do you have the self-confidence to try to change it in the ways you want?'

ing of their videotape, "The Literary Dating Game."

I was bursting with pride over the latter, not only because it was well done and well received by students from other schools, but also because it fulfilled so well one of the primary aims of the Honors Program: to have students working together to produce a team result that was greater than its parts. Also attending from Harper were Tim Davis, Debbie Maday and Shabana Jameel. You can ask one of them to tell you about their experiences at the conference.

(or to some individual they love or hate) that they are not as bad as they have been accused of being.

There is even some speculation that self esteem may derive from our genetic makeup (like shyness).

Those who accept this idea speculate on the stipulation that Americans in general seem to have relatively high self esteem: we think we are "number one" or at least we certainly should be. Could that be because most of us are descended from people who had the self confidence to strike out from the "old world," and believed that they could survive better outside the confines of their society there? Or might it just be that success itself breeds a feeling of self worth? Or maybe it's merely because we're insular and have no nearby comparison to make us feel inferior! Whatever the answer, we should recognize that Americans in general are not *all* Americans, and *some* Americans do *not* feel proud of themselves and do not believe they can "over-

come." And the people who lack pride are apt to produce problems for the rest of us, manifest in joblessness (perhaps even unemployability), homelessness, and criminal, often violent, behavior. These are problems that we can ignore—many of us do—but we must not expect that they will just go away. Realizing that, we should also see that with the rising global population and expanding communication, the same holds true for the entire world—one world, not first, second and third worlds.

Whether we belong to Generation X or not, if we want to make a better world for ourselves and for our own children, we must think about the social and economic health of the world, not merely our own relative position on the social ladder. We must look for solutions to problems that do not produce winners and losers, ones in which everyone feels like a winner and has high self esteem, or we will merely be sweeping the dirt under the carpet, postponing it for some future generation to deal with.

And we must recognize that making anything better implies change. Of course, change carries with it the threat of making things worse, so we can't just embrace every change without a fight. But neither should we lay waste our powers trying to reconstruct Humpty Dumpty. We can not go back to a Golden Age, because that age was an illusion of our childhood, before we became aware of the complexity of the world we live in. Every generation has discovered this complexity and suffered disillusionment, not just Generation X.

It seems reasonable to assume that people who are respected by those around them (family, friends, and strangers) are most likely to respect themselves, and those who have been loved are more likely to love themselves and are then more capable of loving others. Everyone knows some child that has not been treasured by his or her family, and if we are completely honest with ourselves, we know how difficult it is to love such children, even while we pity them. But we turn our backs on them at our own peril.

There was much discussion at the conference on Generation X's (lack of) assuming responsibility for themselves individually, as well as for social change. When you're in the middle of a situation, it's not easy to see the whole thing. Sometimes you

"If I can't succeed, why bother trying?"

can't say for sure what the general trend is; you can only know what you and the people around you are doing. If you're not completely satisfied with the world you inherit, do you have the self-confidence to try to change it in the ways you want? We all *can* make a difference.

Anway, we took some pictures for the scrapbook, and we'll take more at the Upper Midwest Honors Council meeting in Osh Kosh and the Phi Theta Kappa meeting in Anaheim, and you can see them at the end-of-the-semester party at my house.

We're starting to make plans already for summer, reserving a pavilion at Twin Lakes for the end-of-summer picnic. We'll probably plan on a concert at Ravinia again, since that has proven popular the last few summers. If you're going to be around, let us know what other social/cultural activities you'd like to do.

—Dr. Betty Hull

Generation

Soaps:

Not just
for bubbleheads!

Why on earth would an intelligent, sane person want to watch a soap opera? Well, I'm glad you asked. I will proudly admit that (gasp!) I watch my soaps daily, and I am an Honors Society member!

Soaps can be an excellent escape from the bothers of everyday life. Submersion in a fictional character's problems not only helps me to forget about mine, but it occasionally helps me solve them. Believe it or not, it is possible for me to see something in the character that I didn't see in myself—a flaw, an asset, an obvious solution to a situation.

Soaps are also a great way to visit exotic locations such as Mexico and Italy, two places that I have seen via "Days of Our Lives," without leaving the comfort of your own home. Being shipwrecked on deserted islands, mystery cruises and Beverly Hills shopping sprees will most likely never happen for me in real life, but I can experience those kind of things through my soap. I'm invited to all the elegant society balls and I don't have to get dressed up at all! The latest fashions are brought into my home every day courtesy of my soaps. I've even watched staged deaths, now how many people can say they regularly see those in real life?

I become omniscient when I watch soaps. I knew that Kate was really Austin and Billie's mother though none of the three had a clue they were related until recently. I laugh at the characters who are determined to keep something a secret from another character who already knows the secret anyway.

That's another reason I watch soaps: they're funny! Sure, they're not laugh-a-minute sitcoms, but the humor can be great at times. Doctors at a sanitarium shaved the head of Vivian on "Days" when they attempted to give her a lobotomy. Now that she is out of the asylum, the socialite must cope with her baldness by donning various outrageous wigs and turbans. She also schemes with her

manservant, Ivan, to bring down Kate, her adversary. Their escapades are a riot!

Vivian is doing all of this to get a man, which brings me to the next reason why I watch soaps—the romance! You knew this was coming, but don't stop reading in disgust. I am not talking about the smut: love scenes where people like Martina the adulteress sneaks into the conference room with her lover John while her clueless husband, Roman, is downstairs at a party. Those things make me sick, too.

I am referring to the touching declarations of love and slow courtships, full of fun and good old-fashioned romance. Currently, the story of Bo and Billie is beautiful and sweet without steamy sex scenes to break the mood. They do all sorts of fun things—like getting locked in the basement of a department store around Christmas and decorating a forgotten tree.

Friendship plays a big part in soaps; not everyone is a backstabber. One great "Days" episode showed Jennifer, Kristen and Billie, three twentysomething women with problems they each had to face that day, helping each other forget those problems and have a great time. They shopped, ate pizza and danced. The women offered great advice to the others, which was also probably helpful to some audience members who are possibly facing a divorce (like Jennifer), on trial for a crime she did not commit (like Billie) or in love with two men at the same time (like Kristen).

Soaps are not mindless garbage to be taken off the air and replaced with talk shows (which are sometimes even worse!). They are wonderful entertaining for those with the time and patience to see characters through sometimes agonizingly long or emotionally trying storylines. Soaps are fashion shows, travel brochures and in-home shrinks for their loyal—and yes, intelligent—viewers.

- by Michelle Knapp

MEET YOUR EDITORS



Being an editor of *The Challenger* has proven so far to be an exciting, creatively challenging experience, as well as an excellent way to meet new people and work together as a team. Each one of us is an individual and contributes our past experiences and knowledge to the production of the newsletter. Not only are we getting class credit, but more importantly, we are having a lot of fun! This article is an opportunity for you, the reader, to get to know us, the editors of *The Challenger* this semester.

Michelle Knapp (picture shown top left), a freshman, took this course to add to the long list of journalism experience she has already obtained, and to prepare for the degree in magazine journalism she plans to achieve at either Columbia College Chicago or Drake University. Along with her newsletter work with her church and youth group, Knapp was also editor of her high school yearbook, entertainment editor of the *College of Lake County Chronicle*, and was, until just recently, copy editor of *The Harbinger* here at Harper. In her spare time, she enjoys watching soap operas (see article on page four), dancing and going to movies.



Just moving to the United States from Poland two and a half years ago, Anna Kuzniar (center left) enrolled in this course to try something new. She has just been accepted to University of Illinois Urbana, and is very excited to be transferring there in the fall, where she

will be majoring in Medicine with a minor in Chemistry.

Lisa McBride (shown center right) chose this course because of the convenience of fitting an independent study class in her busy schedule and her love of English and writing. She will receive her degree in Liberal Arts in May, and looks forward to transferring to Roosevelt to work on her degree in secondary english education. She loves to run, swim, backpack and camp, and will be participating in the Chicago Marathon in October. Her words to live by? "Always continue to learn and grow in life. Once you tell yourself that you're 'too old,' it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy."



I am the fourth editor of this newsletter (bottom right). I am a part-time student in my third semester at Harper, and I plan to transfer to De Paul this fall to work toward a Bachelor's degree in accountancy or business, with a minor in early childhood education. I took this course because it was the only honors course offered this semester that fit my schedule, and I've always loved to write. I took a creative writing class last semester, and I figured a journalism class would offer something new to work on my writing with. And since we use PageMaker for the layout of the newsletter, I can also explore graphics, which is something I've always wanted to try, but never really got around to it.

The end of the semester is near, and the course is almost over for us, but next semester *The Challenger* will need new editors. I encourage anyone who is interested in journalism, graphic art, writing, English, or trying something different to find out more about the class. Maybe next semester we will be reading about you in this article!



- by Angela Williamson

Letters to the Editors

Prose and cons

While up to their necks in Whitewater,
The Clintons continue to swim;
Traveling and pitching their Health care,
Dodging questions and looking quite grim.

Reporters have jumped in Whitewater,
Diving for truth that they want exposed;
The Clintons remain in denial,
Getting deeper each question that's posed.

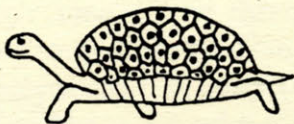
Did the Clintons fill their bank account,
While they watched the Whitewater raft sink;
Or was it just a coincidence,
Madison's accounts fell into the drink?

Although this fishing expedition,
Hasn't determined criminals yet;
In this great monsoon of evidence,
There may be no one not getting wet.

Another Savings and Loan mistake,
Seems to surface at Congress' door;
Could Richard Nixon have ever guessed,
What a "Water" ride he had in store?

Were the Clintons caught in wrongdoings,
Or was it just a judgment mistake;
The wave of this investigation,
May leave Democrats caught in its wake!

—by Barbara Ray



On Comraderie

While at U of I, I tried to stay in the company of friends who motivated me. Scott Brun, Yvonne Kew and I went out for Korean food one night compliments of Yvonne. Afterwards, we hung out on the quad.

While Mars beamed a distant smile
Shining through the moonlit view
Three friends gathered on the quad
Each of an assorted hue

First, there was the disciplined one
With whom I parried a word or two
Then there was Yvonne
Who had served us with the compassion of a Kew

From my friends that evening
I yearned to learn
Self-reliance is the key
Said Sir Brun
Why not let feelings flow free
Gently spoke the compassionate one

That night I prayed to Almighty Dieu
May he befriend those who I befriended
Of their virtues may He grant me un peu

in life-theft discipline of a Brun
in love-the compassion of Yvonne
in learning-a place among such stars
whom God may shine far brighter than Mars
—by Mansoor (fall 1988)

As it turned out my imagination was not far off the mark. Scott is now a doctor happily married to his TA from Johns Hopkins. After graduation Yvonne did research for NIH National Institute of Health for a year before joining the medical scholars program at the Albert Einstein University School of Medicine.

Dieu - French word for 'God' un peu -French for 'a little'

Challenger

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EDITORIAL POLICY

Challenger is the voice of the Harper College Honors Society. We welcome articles, ideas and letters of interest appropriate for our members. Final editorial judgment is the sole responsibility of the editorial staff. Written material should be placed in the Challenger box in the Journalism office, A379. Published by students in IDS-290 for class credit.

Business, poetry added to curriculum

Student involvement is key to new Honors courses

*Two roads diverged at the end of the woods
And I, I took the one less traveled by.*

—Robert Frost

Robert Frost, Emily Dickinson and John Donne are three poets emphasized in LIT-105. This literature class is one of the new Honors courses offered this summer. The class will concentrate on understanding, appreciating and enjoying poetry. To make the class interesting, instructor Barbara Hickey will use voice and vision to introduce the climate of poets' times. "It takes you back to the era," Hickey said. She also wants to invite two poets, Annie Davidovicz and John Muchmore, to share their poetry with the students. She wants to give students the opportunity to talk to the poets, to give them a better understanding of their feelings and emotions while writing poetry. Hickey hopes that the course will provide the opportunity for more in-depth discussion.

Another new Honors course, MNG-111, will be offered in the fall. This course will look at the

business world as a whole. The inside pieces will be treated as internal components and the outside pieces as external influences. This course will survey the entire picture and will not concentrate on any particular business. The instructor, Barbara Radebaugh, will incorporate real area local businesses into the learning process through a series of field trips and guest speakers. She wants to introduce negotiated learning, where students, along with the teacher and business representatives, negotiate the curriculum and learning criteria of the class. Radebaugh plans to base the class preparation on articles and current business periodicals. The book will be used only as a resource for terminology. "The class will be student-centered, and it will be different because of active involvement," Radebaugh said.

These new additions to the line up of Honors courses will be ideal offerings for those who take the road less traveled.

—by Anna Kuzniar

"Student Laureate"
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Wade says that it gave her a good feeling to see that one doesn't have to be 19 to be recognized for his or her efforts as a student.

Student Laureates are chosen for their overall academic excellence and commitment to extracurricular activities. Wade has three young children and is active in PTO. She works part-time in the Harper Tutoring Center as an English tutor, an experience she calls "very rewarding." She maintains a 4.0 grade point average and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, as well as the Honors Society. Wade, an English major, will graduate in May with an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts.

Dawson sums up her student's strengths: "Do things come easily to Janet? Not necessarily. She expressed frustration over drafts of her other work in the feature writing class. The difference was Janet, unlike many people, worked through the tough spots, rather than letting it go as 'good enough.' In college and beyond, that's what separates top level people from the rest." —by Lisa McBride

President's Corner

We've moved! The Honors Society meetings will now be held every Wednesday at 3 p.m. in the new Building L, room 311. I would like to thank all the new members who have given the meetings a try this semester. Further, I would like to encourage those who have yet to attend to do so before the end of the semester. Each Wednesday the group discusses a topic. The outcomes have proven to be enjoyable as well as enlightening. Hope to see you there!

—Art Weston



We welcome articles
poems, graphics and
cartoons! Deadline for
submissions is May 3.

Politics offer chance for growth

Being president of the Harper College Student Senate (HCSS) has been a fantastic learning opportunity for me. Much of the credit for my involvement with the HCSS is owed to the Honors Society.

Two years ago, when I became a student at Harper, I joined the Honors Society. It was the first club I had ever belonged to. I looked forward to the weekly meetings because of the people I met there. Dr. Hull was always abreast of events at the College and willingly shared her information. She was genuinely interested in helping students get the most out of their college experience.

'I was curious as to how the senators would work out their differences and arrive at a consensus.'

Because of my positive experiences networking with her and the other students at the weekly meetings, I decided to explore what the campus had to offer. My next step was to see what the Student Senate was all about.

As you probably know, the Student Senate is the student government body. It represents the students with the Board of Trustees, administrators and faculty. Responsibilities include budgeting of student activity fees, reviewing and recommending changes in College policy and represent-

ing the concerns of the student body.

The HCSS consists of nine senators and the executive body. The members are elected by a plurality of votes in a general election held each spring. Members of the executive body (the president, vice-president and treasurer) must have previously held one of the nine departmental senate seats. Occasionally, for a variety of reasons, a seat becomes vacant. When this happens, the vacancy is filled by appointment as needed.

I attended a few meetings and was intrigued with the diversity of opinions. More importantly, I was curious as to how the senators would work out their differences and arrive at a consensus.

Within two to three months, I became the Senator of Liberal Arts. Being the 'new kid on the block' wasn't easy, and there weren't many people who were willing to assist me. That's Politics! And so I have learned. This was a complete change from the pleasant social environment of the Honors Society meetings. I enjoyed the new challenges, however, and even changed my undergrad major from Liberal Arts to Political Science!

Today I am active in many clubs and organizations. Besides being the President of the HCSS, I am the Vice-Chairperson of the Harper College Community Service Club, a Board Member of the American Association of Women

in Community Colleges, and a member of the Student Advisory Council (SAC) in Springfield. In addition, I have participated in many events such as the Northern Illinois Plunge and the Names Project.

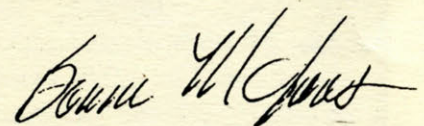
I would encourage any Honors student to become involved in the Student Senate. It will add depth to your educational experience which you won't get from any other area.

Meetings are held approximately twice a month, on Fridays, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Visitors are welcome. We will be filling a couple of vacancies in the fall, so there will be opportunities to become involved. Honors student Terri Ellis has been elected president for next year.

In addition, we are looking for a secretary. The position pays \$5.00 an hour. You would be responsible for taking minutes of the meetings and typing them up. It would require about 20-25 hours a month.

Even though I am not able to attend the weekly Honors Society meetings, due to a class conflict, I really want to express my appreciation to the Honors Society and its members for making my experience at Harper College something very special.

Sincerely,



—Bonnie M. Jones