Welcome to the first issue of the Concord University Honors Program Newsletter. The primary purpose of the newsletter is to inform honors students, faculty and staff about opportunities, activities and requirements related to the Honors Program at CU. The secondary purpose is to create a stronger sense of group identity among CU honors students. The newsletter will be published monthly during the Fall and Spring semesters. My goal is for the newsletter to eventually be student organized, written and produced. Anyone and everyone can help us move toward that goal.

Are there aspects of the Honors Program that need to be communicated more clearly? **Suggest** content for the newsletter. Did you learn something in an honors class that inspired you? **Write** a story about it for the newsletter. Do you enjoy publication **design**? Please pitch in as my skills are quite basic! I will be in the Honors Lounge on Friday afternoons working on the newsletter—please stop by. We have some exciting things in store this semester and I look forward to sharing them with you. I hope you all had a restful break and wish you a productive and engaging new year!

---Dr. Luff

**Excellence Through Knowledge:**
The Opening Honors Colloquium for Spring 2016

The Honors Colloquia Series will kick off during the first week of classes on **Thursday January 14th at 4:30** in the State Room. This opening colloquium, “Excellence Through Knowledge” will focus on information, organization and planning for the Honors Program. Dr. Luff will present and explain recent changes to the Enrichment Point System as well as other new initiatives such as the newsletter and “Last Fridays in the Honors Lounge.” All honors students are strongly encouraged to attend.
Instead of counting points, honors students will be required to attend three events per semester.

Poverty & Inequality Symposium

The Honors Program is partnering with the Social Science Division this semester to sponsor a symposium on poverty and inequality. Critical Reflections on Poverty and Inequality in America will take place on March 9th from 1-5pm in University Point. The event, organized by Assistant Professor of Sociology, Dr Lawrence Eppard, will include scholarly presentations by faculty from around the region, a student poster session, and addresses by poverty scholar Mark Robert Rank and inequality scholar Richard Wilkinson. Honors students can fulfill an Academic Enrichment Event requirement by attending the event. If your research fits with the symposium theme, you are encouraged to participate in the student poster session. This would also fulfill the research presentation requirement for seniors. Contact Dr. Luff or Dr. Eppard for more information about the symposium.

Enrichment Points No More

The Honors Committee approved HSAC’s proposal for changing the Enrichment Point System. Beginning Spring 2016, instead of counting points, honors students will be required to attend three events per semester: One academic, one cultural, and one social or service event. New forms for recording your attendance will be sent to your CU email. We plan to offer more Honors sponsored and co-sponsored events so that students involved in the program have greater opportunities to interact with each other. The changes will be explained fully at the opening Honors Colloquium on January 14th. If you have suggestions for Honors sponsored or co-sponsored events and activities, please share.

Enrichment Activities Abound!

Here are some suggestions for enrichment activities this semester. Academic: Honors Colloquia, Poverty & Inequality Symposium, Career Fair, Undergraduate Research Day. Cultural: Tactile Art Show, International Banquet, Film Society films, Coal Lecture Series on the Beckley campus. Social or Service: Last Fridays in the Honors Lounge, Earth Day activities, end of the year cookout, SAC activities. Keep an eye out for more activities and events throughout the semester and feel free to suggest your favorites!