Ten years ago, Dr. Mark Hussung, Music and Piano professor, was asked by Provost Dr. Mark Heinrich if he would accept the position of Director of the Carson-Newman College Honors Program. After hesitating, he agreed to take on the challenge. For the past ten years, Hussung has faithfully served as director of the Program. He has done an exemplary job at keeping the students informed, keeping the program organized, and helping the students reach their fullest potential at Carson-Newman. After ten years of faithful service, good organization, and cherished memories, Hussung decided that it was finally time to step down from his position as Honors Program Director.

“It was a great experience,” he said, “I loved being director.” He is especially grateful for all of the memories he made with students: from meeting them at Honors Weekend, to watching students struggle then succeed in finishing their Honors Theses, to even seeing one student receive a full-tuition scholarship to Princeton University. As he recounted memory after memory of specific students and different things they did, from silly to scholarly, his face lit up with joy. When asked why he decided to step down, he simply said, “It was just time.”

Even though he is no longer the director, he is still actively involved in the program. He currently sits on the Honors Council, to approve and assist seniors as they formulate and create (Continued on page 2)
Austin was already involved, serving on the Honors Council and teaching the class Humanity and the Cosmos I. It only seemed natural that current Provost Dr. Kina Mallard contacted him over the summer concerning the job. Austin knew that it would be demanding but he gladly stepped up to the challenge. His transition was definitely a change, but the organization Hussung had instilled in the program helped make Austin’s transition smoother. He described the program as “very mature” and “strong” which helped to keep the change less chaotic. When asked what he wanted to retain from Hussung’s ten years, he said, “All of it; as much as possible.” He does, however, have some new ideas for the Program that he hopes to see come to action soon.

For his first year, he wanted to follow the pattern that Hussung had established as closely as possible. This way, he could become accustomed to running the program before he tried anything new. Over the next few years, he hopes to expand the Program. He wants current students of the College who are not members of the Program to know that they are welcome to apply. He wants to plan events centered on leadership development. He hopes to develop different tracks in the Program for students to follow (i.e. leadership, creativity, etc.). He also wants to provide a study abroad scholarship specifically for Honors Students. The eventual goal is the development of President Randall O’Brien’s dream of the Honors College, but that is several years down the road.

Austin said that his first year had been “thoroughly enjoyable, and quite chaotic,” saying that he had not expected all of the administrative details. He has, however, enjoyed getting to know all of the students outside of class. He has done an outstanding job in his first year as Director. His hard work has not gone unnoticed. President O’Brien said that Austin is “an outstanding professor to build upon the fine work of Dr. Hussung. As a philosophy professor, he is committed to higher order thinking, critical analysis, give-and-take argument, problem solving, and synthesis. I am grateful that he has agreed to lead the program to its bright future.” Hussung commended Austin on his hard work by saying that this year has “gone well” and that Austin is, “aware of certain places that need improvement, and has been able to accomplish things that hadn’t been able to happen in previous years.”

As the year draws to a close, Austin says that he is “looking to the future with great hopes to make an already highly successful program even better.”

Are you one of Dr. H’s former Honors students? He wants to hear from you! He would love to know how you are doing and what you are up to. His email address is mhussung@cn.edu.
Vision: Honors College (continued from front page)

The Honors Program has been in existence for 48 years, since the 1960s, and has produced at least 450 Honors Carson-Newman students since its beginning. In the 2010-2011 a new chapter began with the transition between Dr. Hussung and Dr. Austin as director. President O’Brien, like Dr. Austin, has many high hopes not only for Carson-Newman, but the Honors Program as well.

“It’s an outstanding program as is,” said O’Brien. “But I have a dream of an Honors College at Carson-Newman, across the banks of Mossy Creek, perhaps on the hill.”

This building would be patterned after the ancient structures of Greece and of Oxford, with male and female wings. It would include classrooms, seminar rooms, a fire place, dining, a commercialized kitchen, more socializing space, a pool table, a large television, and perhaps a coffee shop. O’Brien says there might also be a room for a professor and his or her family to live. Included in this vision is the University Scholars Program, in which students who qualified would be allowed to design their own curriculum, guided by an advisor. “I think it’d be so exciting on a certain level to not be boxed in,” said O’Brien. “I’d love an Honors College where you go get advised, and the advisor says, ‘Take what you want.’”

“That’s one part of an Honors College,” says Austin. This is so students do not have to be forced “into a predefined curriculum.” It would be crafted over the four years the student was here. However, time and money are essential. O’Brien said he looks at it this way: There are goals, visions, and dreams. Goals are short range, like cleaning out the basement. Visions are long range, like within the next few years or so. Dreams are ideas to aim for, but not something immediately attainable.

“Right now the Honors College is a vision,” said O’Brien. “I don’t want it to be a dream, because dreams sometimes feel like vapor.” He is aiming for the College to become a goal within the next ten years, depending on funding. “Surely there’s someone on this planet that thinks it’s [the Honors College] is a grand enough scheme,” he said. They are trying to build it under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to nurture academic and Christian excellence. For the short term, Austin wanted to follow the pattern already established. He said he was intentionally not changing anything the first year because it works well. He wants to retain as much as possible of the program from Hussung’s ten years as director. “I think it’s a very strong program,” said Austin. The program incorporates curriculum, thesis, socializing activities, and enrichment, and he says these things are very important.

One change he would like to see happen soon is an increase in contact with alumni. “Freshmen honors students must conduct at least a phone interview with an alumnus,” said Austin. The purpose is to pair students with alumni in similar fields to offer advice and support. “It’s good for alumni, good for students,” said Austin.

Another new focus is leadership; the upcoming freshman scholarships will focus on leadership. He also wants to make sure to identify talented or gifted students who didn’t quite have the ACT score to qualify, or someone who has been looked over and is already here but not a part of the program. Austin is hopeful and determined to make the program even better in the years to come.

“I am grateful that [Dr. Austin] has agreed to lead the program to its bright future.”

- President O’Brien
Meet the Students

Jody Barker // senior
Major: Family and Consumer Science - Interior Design
Minor: Art
Hometown: Kingsport, TN
Extracurriculars: Mortar Board, Student Ambassadors Association, Dreamcatchers Club, Alpha Chi, Kappa Omicron Nu, Phi Sigma Tau Philosophy Honor Society

Favorite Honors Class: Humanity and the Cosmos, followed closely by Society and the Individual
Honors Thesis: Designing Refuge for the Abused and Neglected in the Islands of Lake Nicaragua.

Fun Fact: Jody was raised on an island in Lake Nicaragua, and used to have a female spider monkey named George.

Aspiration: To put first the Kingdom of God. To be ever moving towards improvement. To know and communicate Jesus. To seek truth like it is Life. To find Beauty in all things and make Beauty in all things. To look at others through Heaven’s eyes. To love without prejudice. To inhabit the Joy of Beethoven’s 9th. To point others to Life more Abundant. To never be given a speeding ticket.

Garam Han // junior
Major: Biology, Pre-Medicine
Minor: French and Missions
Hometown: South Korea
Current City: Jefferson City, TN
Extracurriculars: Alpha Lambda Delta; Tri-Beta; Intramural Sports

Favorite Honors Class: Humanity and the Cosmos I

Honors Program Experience: “The Honors Program gets the best professors to teach you things that stretch your mind and capabilities farther than you thought they could go,” says Garam.

Fun Fact: Garam grew up in Africa because her parents were missionaries there.

Aspiration: She wants to be a doctor in a third world country, possibly as a missionary doctor.

Destiny Parks // sophomore
Major: Music Theory
Minor: Psychology and German
Hometown: Fürth, Germany
Current City: Kingston, TN
Extracurriculars: Delta Omicron; Symphonic Band; Wind Ensemble; Employee of the C-N cafeteria

Favorite Honors Class: Humanity and the Cosmos I

Honors Program Experience: “Not what I expected, but I enjoyed all the hard work and knowledge that I gained from this year in honors,” says Destiny.

Fun Fact: She drives a minivan.

Aspiration: She wants to be a counselor for children who are going through the divorce of their parents.
2011 Honors Theses

Art
Sarah Faith Morris
A Comprehensive Corporate Identity Program for the Shepherd’s Home

Biology
Torie Belcher
Introducing Epitopes Intop the GPRI Gene of Yeast and Studying Their Interactions With Other Proteins

Biochemistry
Linley Freeman
Developing a Functional Assay for Glucose Sensing Via GPRI Pathway

William D. Hogdson
Inhibition of the Gpr1p protein in Saccharomyces cerevisiae

Communication Arts
Josh Adams
You Can’t Handle the Truth ®: Irony in Antismoking Advertising

Kristen L. Buckles
Cultural Diversity, Print Media and the Social Expectations Theory

Computer Science
Terry D. Rogers
Designing and Penetrating Firewalls

Music
Kristina Seabolt
A Musical Analysis of the Concerto for Violin and Orchestra by Jean Sibelius

Allison K. Hill
A Comparative Analysis of Louis Durey and Francis Poulenc’s Settings of Selections from Le Bestiaire by Guillaume Apolliniare

Political Science/History
J. Mitchell Barton
The Development of Partisanship in Tennessee: A Divergence from National Partisanship Trends

Logan B. McDaniel
A Religious Shift: the Impact of Catholic Justices on the Supreme Court

Psychology
Lindsay Estep
Who is the Better Parent?: Evaluating Gender Bias in Child Custody Decisions

Tyler N. Engle
Disinheriting Appalachia: A Study of the Disappearing Regional Identity of Appalachian “Young’uns”

Religion
Jamie E. McGregor
An Exploration of Open Theism

Spanish
Whitney Tipton
A History of the Union Evangelica Bautista Espanola

CONGRATULATIONS: President O’Brien took the class of 2011 Honors students out to dinner before they graduated.
“MAJOR” FUN: The Honors Program offers various major events throughout the year. Right, some students went to Atlanta to visit the CDC and CNN. Below, Dr. Lee took some students on a hike in the Smoky Mountains.

HONORS HOUSE

2010–2011 RESIDENTS: Sarah Faith Morris, Logan McDaniel, and Lindsay Estep lived in the Honors House last year. (Below, respectively.)

MONDAY NIGHTS: Above, Kyle Motts, Steph Mays, and Cait Pianalto attend a costume party. Left, Todd Caywood, Bradley Clarke, and Brandon Jessie prepare for one of the events.