

Committee on Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies 2007-08 Report to the Faculty

Faculty: Christopher Bailey; Ann Marie Stock; Berhanu Abegaz (fall); Arnab Basu (spring); John Griffin (fall); Barbara King; Michael Mehler; Katherin Levitan; Carey Bagdassarian; Josh Erlich, Joel Schwartz; Lisa Grimes. Students: Nathaniel Amos; Jessica Jung-Ae Kim; Sarah Thomas; Kathryn Thomson

The Committee met twice in the fall term and has met once so far this term. Primary items of business have included:

(1) Monroe Scholars

- ! 115 Monroe Scholars have been approved to do their upper-division projects (\$3,000) in summer, 2008.
- ! In addition, 53 freshman Monroes have been provided with funding to do freshman projects (\$1,000) in summer 2007. Unlike the upper-division grants, freshman grants are not guaranteed.
- ! We now have a total of about 135 Monroe Scholars in each class. To arrive at this number, we admit about 85 as entering freshmen and, depending on the specific number, “top up” the group with rising sophomores. We matriculated 82 freshman Monroes in fall, 2007, and faculty members of CHIS selected 53 rising sophomores in fall, 2007.

(2) May Seminars

Faculty members of CHIS will referee May Seminar proposals later this month.

(3) Concentration Honors

The committee discussed whether it might be advisable to increase the GPA minimum for honors to something higher than the current 3.0, perhaps something closer to the average graduating GPA, which now is ~3.2. Some departments and programs currently set a higher threshold. The committee decided not to recommend a change at this time.

138 students are currently preparing to defend their senior honors theses. Department numbers:

American Studies	0
Anthropology	7
Applied Science	0
Art and Art History	6
Biology	12
Chemistry	12
Classics	2
Economics	4
English	13
Env. Science and Policy	2
Geology	5
Global Studies	0
Government	7

History	12
Interdisciplinary Studies -(self- designed)	8
International Relations	5
Kinesiology	0
Linguistics	2
Literary and Cultural Studies	3
Mathematics	5
Medieval and Renaissance Studies	1
Modern Languages	2
Music	2
Neuroscience	3
Philosophy	2
Physics	5
Psychology	8
Public Policy	1
Religious Studies	5
Sociology	1
Theater, Speech and Dance	1
Women's Studies	2
Total	138