

## NCHC E-letter

February 2004

Edited by

Elizabeth Beck ([lcbeck@iastate.edu](mailto:lcbeck@iastate.edu))

Carol Lamb ([cjlamb@iastate.edu](mailto:cjlamb@iastate.edu))

NCHC Website: [www.nchchonors.org](http://www.nchchonors.org)

NCHC email: [nchc@iastate.edu](mailto:nchc@iastate.edu)

### Dues Reminder

We plan to print the 2004 Handbook/Membership book mid-March. If you want to be listed in it, we'll need to receive your membership renewal by February 27.

### NCHC Website

Be sure to visit your NCHC Web site [www.nchchonors.org](http://www.nchchonors.org) Updates include:

- Committee lists (will be up by February 15)
- 2004 Delta Airline discount tickets and Avis auto rental information
- Consulting Services (site visitors)
- 2004 Conference logo and theme
- 2003 Conference pictures

### NCHC Summer Semester, 2004

*London under Cover: Discovering London* facilitated by faculty of Ball State University. Application deadline is March 1, 2004. Contact John Emert at [emert@basu.edu](mailto:emert@basu.edu) or Cheryl Bove at [cbove@bsu.edu](mailto:cbove@bsu.edu) for more information or visit [www.bsu.edu/honors](http://www.bsu.edu/honors).

### National Conference Update from Virginia McCombs

**“Laissez les bon temps rouler!” This classic greeting from New Orleans may not exactly seem apropos as you look out your window and see grey winter skies. But take heart! Plans for the 2004 NCHC conference in New Orleans are well under way, and you can look forward to an exciting and rewarding conference.**

The 2004 Conference Planning committee is working very hard to bring NCHC a conference with unique features. Our conference opening will feature a performance by Dennis Stroughmatt and the Creole Stomp. Dennis is a national authority on Creole and Zydeco music and culture. In addition to playing at both the opening plenary and at our Gala, on Thursday Dennis will lecture on North American French Identity through Music and Language and on Friday teach two workshops on Cajun dance. Our second plenary speaker is John M. Barry, award-winning author of *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America*. Mr. Barry has a new book coming out in February about the influenza epidemic of 1918.

This year's Gala is another exciting feature of our conference. The gala site is Mardi Gras World, home to the workshop of world renowned Blaine Kern, whose workshop crafts floats for not only Mardi Gras in New Orleans but carnivals around the globe. In addition to the music of the Creole Stomp, guests will be treated to a jazz band, a mini Mardi Gras parade, tarot card readers, and a tour of Kern's workshops where artisans will

be working on floats. The food will be plentiful! We should all have a memorable evening.

Of course, no NCHC conference would be complete without the rich variety of workshops, presentations, poster sessions, Idea Exchange, Consultants' Lounge, and experiential sessions such as City as Text© and Master Classes. With such a varied conference, there naturally will be constraints of time and space. Also, in keeping with the precedent set in Chicago, we will schedule longer sessions to allow more time for discussion. For these reasons, please be aware that not every proposal can be accepted. Especially for the session presentations, we will give priority to those proposals that (1) address the conference theme; (2) are collaborative efforts between several institutions; (3) are of interest to a wide audience. Please see the conference theme statement below.

### **Bridging Currents and Cultures NCHC 2004**

New Orleans is an American city unlike any other. The product of vibrant diverse cultures and the mighty Mississippi River, New Orleans offers visitors and residents alike lagniappe, or “something extra,” when serving up spicy food, music, history, literature, or New Orleans' signature party, Mardi Gras. As host city for our 2004 conference, New Orleans offers members of NCHC the opportunity to celebrate both the diversity of our students and programs and our common vision of excellence in higher education. We invite you to consider how we bridge our differences and confront the changing currents on our campuses, in academia and American life. Just as the Mississippi River is fed by scores of rivers and streams, so also NCHC exists as a product of individual faculty, students, administrators, Honors Programs and Honors Colleges. We welcome you to join us for our celebration of Honors in one of the most celebrated cities in the world—New Orleans!

As has been the case in the past, there is a limit of two general presentations per individual for the conference.

Conference 2004 will be our first foray into on-line registration. You will be able to register for the conference, workshops, and submit your proposals. **Please note that barring unforeseen circumstances, all proposal submissions will be on-line.** We are in the processing of building our website and working out the kinks. We hope to have everything up and running by February 15.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Conference chair, Virginia McCombs, at 405-521-5457 or [vmccombs@okcu.edu](mailto:vmccombs@okcu.edu). I look forward to the months ahead as the Conference Planning committee continues to create the 2004 NCHC conference. We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

### **Regional Conferences Updates**

Mid-East Honors Association

The Mid-East Honors Association invites Honors students, faculty and staff to attend its Annual Conference to be held April 16-18, 2004 in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana.

Interested students, faculty, and administrators should submit session proposals no later than February 20, 2004. Topics of common interest include honors student associations and special events, honors housing issues, orientation and first-year experience activities, honors publications, service and service-learning, and recruitment strategies. The Committee also welcomes proposals involving the presentation of scholarly or creative work developed as part of an honors course.

Conference registration fees before March 26, 2004 are \$80 for students and \$90 for faculty and administrators. The registration rate after March 26, 2004 is \$100 for students and \$110 for faculty and administrators.

The conference hotel will be the Adam's Mark Hotel and Suites –Downtown. Reservations must be made by March 16, 2004 to receive the MEHA rates: Deluxe Queen/Queen: \$99 per night; Deluxe King: \$99 per night; Junior King Suite: \$129 per night. <<http://www.adamsmark.com/indy-downtown>>www.adamsmark.com/indy-downtown

For conference proposal forms, registration forms, and more information visit <<http://www.honors.uc.edu/meha>>www.honors.uc.edu/meha . If you have questions, you may call (513) 556-6255.

#### Honors Council of the Illinois Region

You are invited to participate in the Annual Conference, February 28, at Elmhurst College, just west of Chicago. Registration is only \$25 for up to four persons attending, with lunch provided. Additional attendees pay only \$7 each. For more information, contact Kathy Kadaras, Executive-Treasurer, Honors Council of the Illinois Region: K-Kadaras@neiu.edu

#### **NCHC Listserv**

We receive calls asking how to get on (or off) the NCHC listserv. Complete instructions are on NCHC's home page. Go to [www.nchchonors.org](http://www.nchchonors.org), scroll down to the button that asks "Want to join the ListServ?" and follow the links. Keep in mind that not everyone on the ListServ is an NCHC member and not all NCHC members are on the listserv. However, everyone on the ListServ is interested in Honors education.