

HONORS Study Break

UNIVERSITY of DELAWARE

ISSUE 7 | MAY 2017



Freshmen Fellows, in the spring of 2015, create the periodic table out of cupcakes to celebrate Dr. Munson's birthday in Louis L. Redding Hall.

Student Feature

INTERVIEW WITH DR. MUNSON

After 49 years as a "Blue Hen Chemist," Dr. Burnaby Munson can tell you all about how the University has evolved. The one thing that has remained constant, however, is Dr. Munson's dedication to developing personal and meaningful relationships with his students.

Dr. Munson is a beloved chemistry professor and played an integral role in founding the University's Honors Program in the fall of 1976 and later served as director. Dr. Munson is retiring at the end of the academic year.

Despite the substantial growth the University has experienced during his time here, he recognized that the Honors Program has consistently provided students with a smaller community on what is otherwise a very large campus.

Although he is unsure exactly what post-retirement life will look like for him, Dr. Munson is excited by the idea of finally returning home to Texas after 50 years.

Though adjusting to the weather in Texas will be challenging after nearly 50 years of northeastern winters, Dr. Munson is excited to return to the place where he grew up. And if that means adjusting back to Texas' four seasons, which he describes as, "almost summer, summer, still summer, and Christmas," then he's up for the challenge.

While Dr. Munson's legacy will live on at UD through the Honors Program and the Munson Fellow peer mentor program, he hopes that he is remembered not just on an institutional level but on a personal level by all of the students with whom he has had the pleasure of interacting through the years.

When asked what he wants the University and his students to remember most about him, Dr. Munson's response was simple.

"I tried."

"My experience at the University of Delaware wouldn't have been the same without Dr. Munson. I still remember visiting at Delaware Discovery Days and seeing him at the Chemistry table, dipping Oreos in liquid nitrogen.

Life at UD with Dr. Munson was an adventure. Freshmen year, we were never without food. Between him providing smarties and gummy bears during quizzes and tests to his study breaks on Wednesday, where he'd convince freshmen to eat habaneros and watch what unfolded, it's safe to say no one ever went hungry around him. Dr. Munson also invited the Chemistry, Biochemistry, and Chemistry Education students to his house every fall and spring for a barbecue. It was here that I ate my first burger and I have to say, it's still the best burger I've ever had.

Dr. Munson even invited students over to his house on Halloween to sit, eat candy, and just talk. He always joined us in dressing up in costume, and one year was a safety conscious Dementor!

Dr. Munson has been an integral part of my UD experience. Without him, I'm not sure my four years would have been as fun. He has always looked out for his students and stays in touch with the alumni.

Dr. Munson, thank you for everything. Best wishes for you in all your future endeavors."

— Colleen McClatchy '14



"If you don't know him as the man who brings gummy bears to freshmen honors students every Wednesday night, you'll know him as the man who has a name tag stuck to his forehead. I have very fond memories with Dr. Munson- from four years of study breaks, to hot pepper eating competitions, BBQs at his house, and freezing cookies with liquid nitrogen, I'm so grateful that he was a part of my UD experience, and I was honored to be in the first group of "Munson" Fellows. The man doesn't even like gummy bears, but he dedicated years to bringing sweetness (and also some spiciness) to brighten the long nights of freshmen honors students. I can't thank him enough for everything he has done and given to the UD community, and I wish him all the best in his retirement! Future chemistry and honors students will be missing out."

— Jessica Applebaum '14

HONORS DOUBLE DELS



 BEN AND REBECCA ATTIA 

Ben Attia '16 and Rebecca LaPlaca '16 met as Honors freshmen living in Russell A. They started walking together to their Honors Colloquium, First Amendment Law, and became fast friends and soon began dating. Ben earned an Honors BS with Distinction in Energy & Environmental Policy and Economics and an MA of Energy & Environmental Policy, and Becca earned a BFA in Visual Communications. Ben now works as a Research Associate for Global Solar Markets at GTM Research in Boston and Becca holds a Technology Studio Education Fellowship at Boston's Museum of Science.

WANT TO BE FEATURED? Email honorsprogram@udel.edu with "Honors Double Dels" as the subject line.



ALUMNI WEEKEND

JUNE 2-4, 2017

Friday, June 2, 2017
6:00-8:00 pm

Honors Program
Reception

186. S. College Avenue

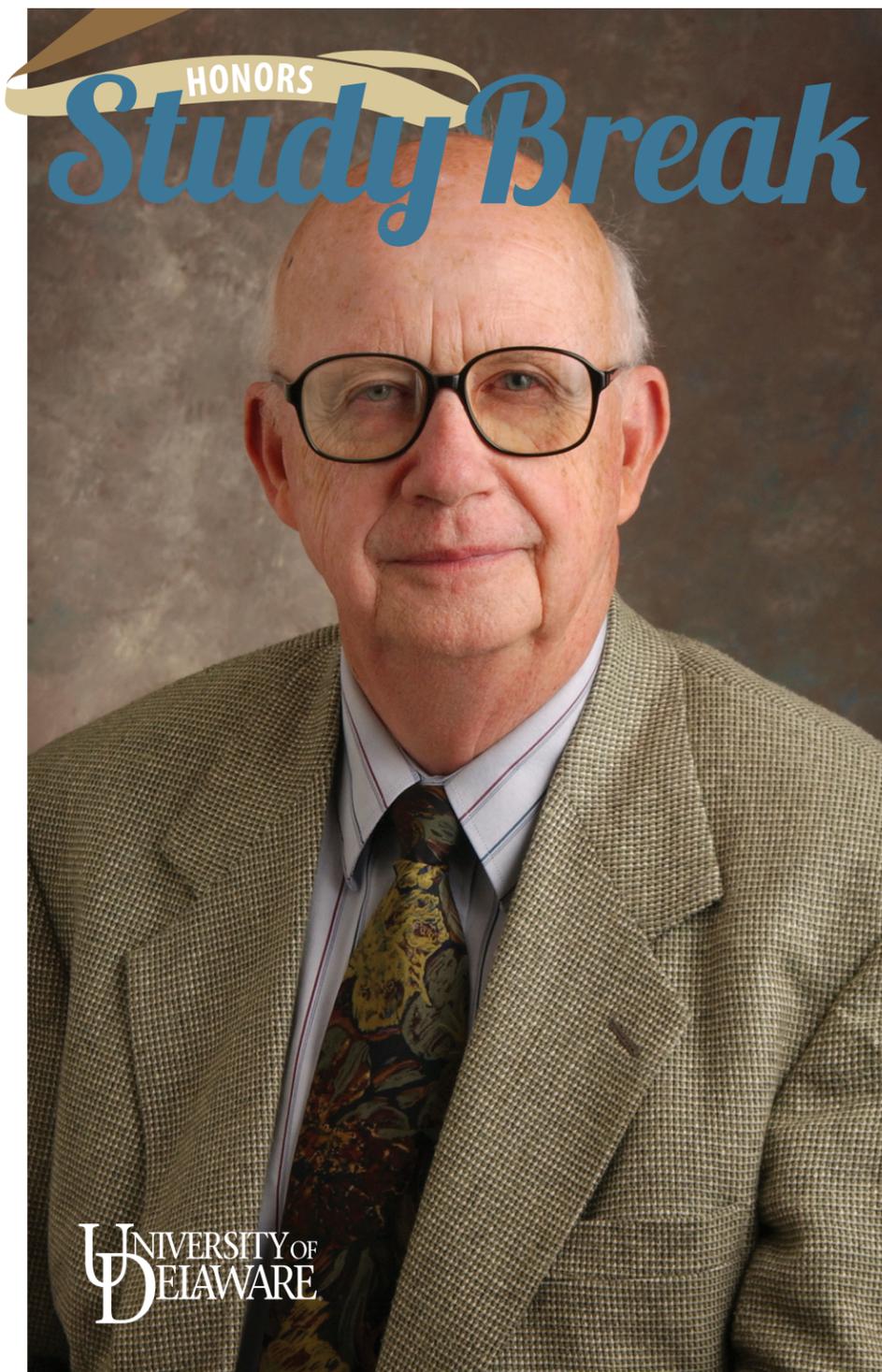
Saturday, June 3, 2017
1:00-3:00 pm

Dr. Munson's
Final Study Break
& Honors Program
40th Anniversary
Celebration

Perkins Student Center
West Lounge

RSVP: [www.udel.edu/
alumniweekend](http://www.udel.edu/alumniweekend)

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Message FROM THE Director



Transitions. Graduation is always a time of many emotions, mostly joy and excitement about the accomplishments of the past four years and the adventures that lie ahead. As we celebrate our Honors Program Class of 2017, I have mixed emotions about two particular transitions. First, after seven years as Director, I will be taking a sabbatical in the fall and then returning to the Economics Department as the next chair. It has been a great privilege to work with Honors Program students, staff, faculty and alumni in this position! My time as Director will certainly be a highlight of my UD career.

Second, and much more significantly, after more than 50 years at UD, Professor Burnaby Munson is retiring. His commitment to the Honors Program throughout his career, as one of the founders of the program, a beloved teacher, and presider over weekly study breaks has been simply remarkable. To top it off, Professor Munson has generously established two endowed funds to support faculty engagement with Honors students and Honors student undergraduate research. I encourage you to join me in celebrating and thanking Professor Munson by making a gift to the funds he has endowed. Details are available by clicking here: <https://udel.givecorps.com/projects/30096-burnaby-munson-funds>

Michael Arnold

Dr. Michael Arnold, Director
University Honors Program

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Classroom Sneak Peek:

MAKING SHAKESPEARE

Led by Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Matthew Kinservik and Graduate Teaching Assistant Jordan Howell, the freshmen in the Honors Colloquium "Making Shakespeare" interpreted the legacy of Shakespeare through primary sources in UD's very own library.

Utilizing the "Shakespeare Through the Ages" Special Collections exhibit for their final research project, the freshman Honors class created their own online exhibit that tells the story of how Shakespeare came to be elevated above all other writers in the English tradition during the 18th century.

Professor Kinservik feels that this opportunity provides his students with significantly more quality information than can be found by using an online database alone. Not only does the Special Collection provide a wider and more in-depth variety of sources, but also gives these students a deeper connection with these works by allowing them to engage in the visceral experience of turning pages. He notes the class would not be as fulfilling without access to these works. The student-friendly environment created by the Special Collections team coupled with collection's permanent presence in the library has allowed him to incorporate this unique and vital component of his class into his syllabus with ease.

HONORS STUDY BREAK

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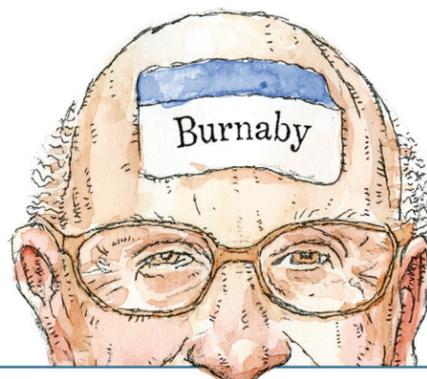
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HONORS PROGRAM

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MUNSON'S TOP 10:

- Favorite Study Break memories:** Theatric "Habanero Pepper Eating Performance," which was recorded on another student's cell phone. He also vividly remembers an instance where a student dipped cookies into onion dip, which he never quite understood. He once tried to tempt students who gave up soda for Lent with Hawaiian Punch, only to later realize that Hawaiian Punch was not in the "carbonated beverage" category.
- Favorite classroom memory:** Taking one of his chemistry lab classes to Saratoga Springs during the off-season of '87. Back then, he had fewer students and had the opportunity to get to know them better.
- Favorite element on the periodic table:** Copper, because there are lots of lab experiments that you can perform with it.
- Favorite snack to serve at Study Breaks:** Gummy bears have remained a hit among students, but he also noticed that in recent years students have taken more of a liking to cauliflower, broccoli and carrots.
- Least favorite snack to serve at Study Breaks:** Gummy bears. Students may love them, but he hates them.
- Favorite spot on campus:** Brown Lab, since that is where he spends most of his time.
- Favorite ice cream flavor:** Vanilla with butterscotch sauce (which he plans on enjoying later tonight).
- Favorite season on campus:** Spring at UD is marvelous. Fall is OK, but not as spectacular.
- Greatest thing his students have taught him:** Patience
- Favorite words to live by:** Work hard and have fun.