



September 2016 News for Alumni and Friends

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



The start of an academic year marks a season rich with possibilities. New opportunities, in the form of courses, clubs, friendships, and more have already greeted our incoming first-year students. Members of the Commonwealth Honors College class of 2020, some 600 strong, come to us from 23 states and 9 countries, bringing with them the diverse perspectives that make our community such an engaging learning environment.

Among the new opportunities for all of our students is the honors seminar, "Ideas That Change the World," which now includes texts from W.E.B. Du Bois. Using the [W.E.B. Du Bois Center](#) at our campus library, students will visit archives and learn how to work with source documents as part of scholarly research. The college is also developing a new junior year course to be offered next semester.

Even with these new academic opportunities on the horizon, support structure for students - from advising to co-curricular programs - remains firmly in place. The [writing coach](#) has returned to assist students one on one, popular Pizza & Prof nights will continue to introduce students to professors' research, and Wednesday Workshops will keep our students connected to opportunities and resources across campus. Commonwealth Honors College continues to partner with the Springfield Museums on the [Seuss Project](#) to offer internships, practica, and independent studies for the new Seuss Museum that is currently under construction.

All of us at Commonwealth Honors College are excited to explore the possibilities that lie before us and our students this year. Stay connected through our [website](#) and social [media](#) to join us on our journey.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Haley Schilling '17 is the first UMass Amherst student to be awarded a prestigious Beinecke Scholarship. The scholarship supports highly motivated college juniors pursuing graduate study in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Schilling is a philosophy and mathematics majors and member of Commonwealth Honors College. [Read more...](#)

COLLEGE NEWS



Dean E. Robinson, associate professor of political science at UMass Amherst has been named the Terrence Murray Commonwealth Honors College Professor. The Murray Professorship supports distinguished faculty in developing innovative courses and programs for students in Commonwealth Honors College. With the professorship, Robinson will enrich the capstone seminar "Health and Health Care Inequality in the United States" that he offers for honors seniors. [Read more...](#)



Commonwealth Honors College and the Middlebury Institute for International Studies at Monterey ([MIIS](#)) recently signed a scholarship agreement. Any CHC graduate, past or present, who is accepted by MIIS will receive a \$14,000 merit scholarship. MIIS is a graduate school of Middlebury College and is based in Monterey, CA. MIIS offers 17 master's degrees in language, business, development, education, and policy. Graduates are pragmatic idealists who work to solve complex issues in today's globalized world. Contact Rebecca Owen '12 for more [information](#).

ALUMNI IN ACTION



Henry Turner '00 turned his love of education into a career in teaching, inspired partly by the diversity of the learning environment at UMass Amherst. After serving for four years as principal of Bedford High School, he was selected in June to lead Newton North High School. Turner also serves on the Commonwealth Honors College Alumni Advisory Board. [Click here to view video.](#)

SUPPORT HONORS

When we come together as a community of alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff, it is amazing what we can accomplish. Gifts to Commonwealth Honors College are used for scholarships that support an economically diverse student body, for underwriting honors research theses and projects that are a key component of the honors curriculum, and for program offerings that inspire students by connecting them to faculty, visiting lecturers and campus resources.

The generosity of alumni and friends like you means that we can continue to provide these enriching opportunities for our students. Make your [gift](#) today!

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