



جامعة قطر  
QATAR UNIVERSITY

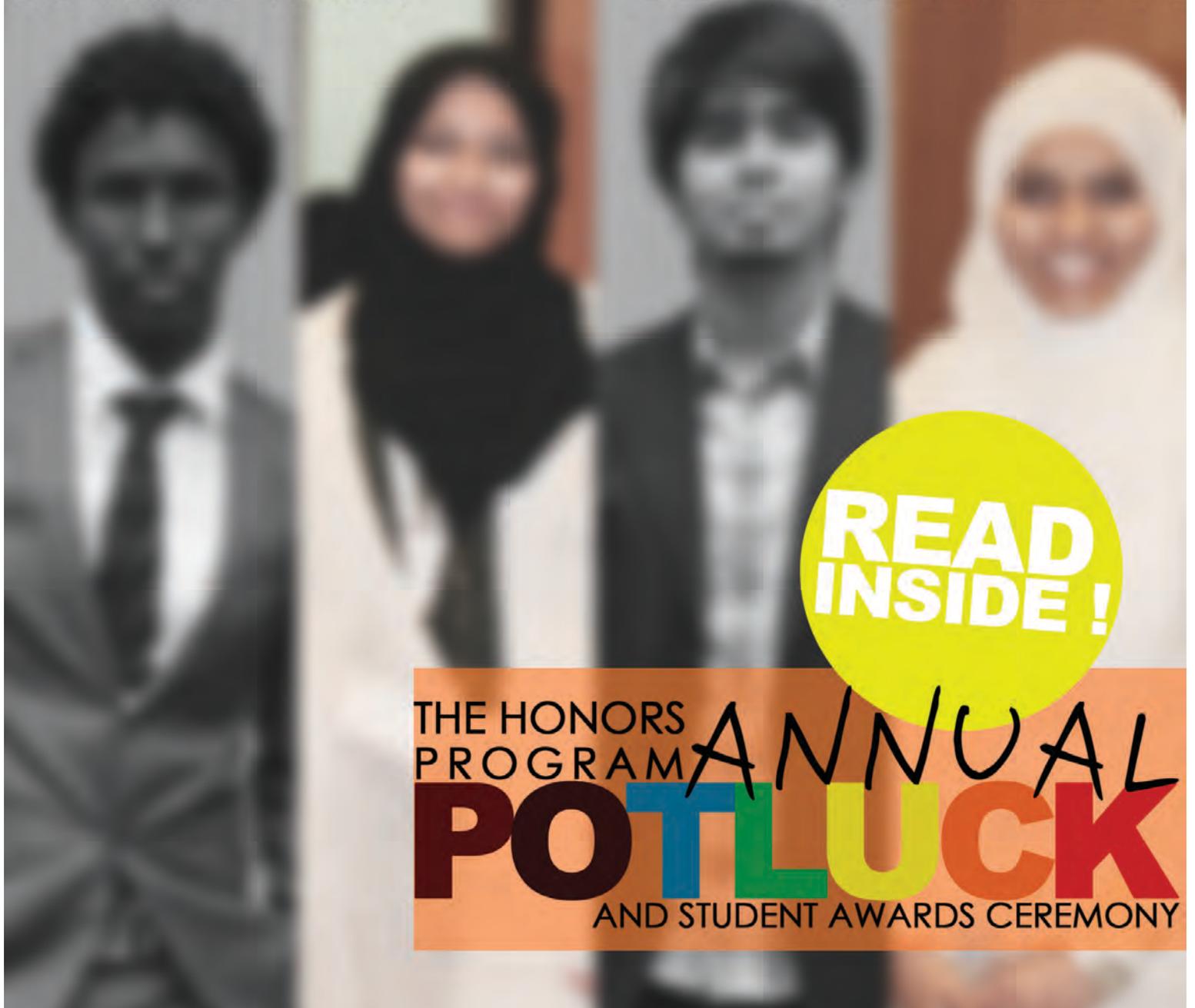
THE HONORS STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

# iHONORS

NEWSLETTER

Volume No. 1

SEPTEMBER 2011



**READ  
INSIDE!**

THE HONORS PROGRAM ANNUAL  
**POTLUCK**  
AND STUDENT AWARDS CEREMONY



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## NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter is published by the Honors Student Association and the Honors Program.

### **People who contributed:**

Omayma Al-Saei, Saman Iqbal, Anna Fatima Ahmed, Mohamed Osama, Jennah Abounahia, Abdulla Zia, Razan Adnan, Nada Fouad, Hayder Mazraqchi, Omnia Gadalla, and Eman Abdulmalik.

## NEWSLETTER ONLINE

[www.qu.edu.qa/honors\\_program](http://www.qu.edu.qa/honors_program)

# from the DIRECTOR

Greetings from the QU Honors Program

It is my pleasure to inaugurate the first edition of our Honors Program newsletter—the ihonors.

We launched the Honors Program in fall 2009 with four female students. Today, our student population has increased to 90 students with a 2:1 female to male ratio. The majority of our students come from the college of Engineering, college of Business and Economics, Arts and Sciences, and the College of Pharmacy. Our students are a true representation of excellence, dedication, and diligence.

The past two years have been exciting and eventful for the Honors Program. In this newsletter, we have made every effort to capture those moments that deal with our students and activities. I certainly hope you would enjoy reading through this edition.

To learn more about our program, please visit our website at [http://www.qu.edu.qa/honors\\_program/](http://www.qu.edu.qa/honors_program/) . You may also visit us on Facebook.

I would like to thank members of the Honors Students Association for authoring and publishing this outstanding newsletter.

Sincerely,

Ahmed H. Ibrahim  
Professor and Director



# HONORS NEWS

## THE HONORS PROGRAM ANNUAL POTLUCK AND STUDENT AWARDS CEREMONY

by: Hayder Mazraqchi

The first Annual Potluck event took place on **Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011** proving to be a successful occasion that will definitely be repeated years to come. The Potluck was launched with the help of the Qatar University's Honors Program students, under the supervision of Dr. Ahmed H. Ibrahim. This first of its kind event took place exclusively for Honors Program students, enabling them to learn more about different cultures and enjoy traditional dishes from a total of 15 different countries that the students belong to. However, the true highlight of the evening was the honoring of four male and female students that have excelled in the fields of academics and service with special awards.

Potluck took off with keynote addresses from Dr. Ahmed H. Ibrahim and few other special guests. Saman Arif, the acting president of the Honors Program Student Association (HPSA), who expressed her gratitude towards Qatar University and the Honors Program. The main guest speaker was Fatima Ali, an alumina from Qatar University who was previously awarded with The Best Academic Performance of the Year Award. She now works as a teaching assistant (TA) in the Department of International Affairs. In her speech, Fatima emphasized the great fortune of the students to have an incredible community such as the Honors Program at Qatar University. After enjoying the wonderful dishes prepared by the students themselves, the evening reached its highpoint when the awards for the best

students were given out. The four winners became the proud owners of brand new iPad 2. For the Excellence in Academic Performance category, the winners were Saman Arif from the female students, and Esmael Alizadeh from the male ones. As for the Best Student Service, the awardees were Ammar Al-Ismail and Eman Al-Shammari. Volunteers for the potluck event did not go home empty handed either, since they received a certificate of appreciation and a new 500GB LG external hard-drive.



# meet the **HONORS** Students



Name: Abdullah Zia

Major: Electrical Engineering

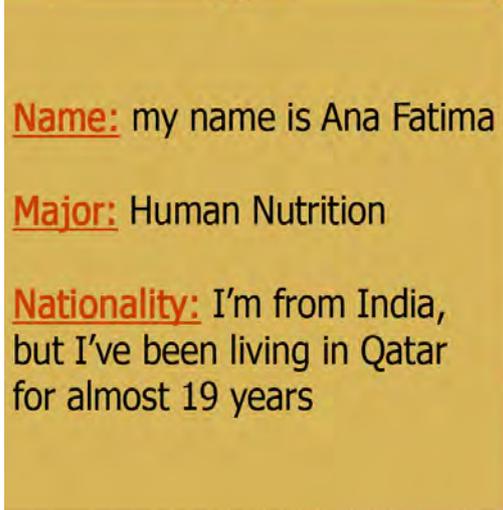
Nationality: Pakistani



Name: Eman Abdulmalik

Major: my major is Statistics with Business minor

Nationality: I am from Ethiopia



Name: my name is Ana Fatima

Major: Human Nutrition

Nationality: I'm from India, but I've been living in Qatar for almost 19 years



Name: Esmaeil Alizadeh

Major: Electrical Engineering

Nationality: Iranian



My name is:

**Eman Al-Shammari**

I am Qatari.

I am 18 years old.

My major is Social Work.

# HONORS NEWS

## HONORS RETREAT WINTER

by: **Ana Fatima Imtiaz Ahmed**

The Honors Program had its first ever Annual Retreat on **25<sup>th</sup> September in the Fall 2010 semester**. The Retreat was held at the Qatar University male administration hall, and was attended by Professor Sheikha Al-Misnad, the president of Qatar University, Dr. Ahmed H. Ibrahim, the director of the Honors program, our visiting professor for the Honors freshman seminar, Dr. Sara Hager, and other Heads of Departments and staff representatives.

The event started off with verses from the Holy Qur'aan, and then a welcome note by Miss Saman Arif Iqbal, the President of the Honors Program. This was followed by a few words by Dr. Ahmed and Professor Sheikha Al-Misnad, who spoke about the Honors Program and addressed our new batch of Honors Students. Later on, the students introduced themselves to each other by stating their names and the major that they were studying.

In the end, Mr. Sulaiman Al Haidar gave a thank you note to all the heads of department, staff members, and the students for attending the event. This was followed by refreshments and snacks, where the students got an opportunity to interact with other students and also with the staff members. The students also received some giveaways including Honors Program pens and note pads. The Retreat was compered by Miss. Reem Awwad and was indeed a very enriching experience for the newly admitted Honors Students.



**Name:** Anas Tahir Jamil

**Major:** Electrical Engineering

**Nationality:** Pakistani



**Name:** my name is Nada Fouad

**Major:** Mass Communication - Broadcast

**Nationality:** I am proud to be an Egyptian. Even though, I was born here in Qatar, I lived most of my life in Egypt.

**Name:** I am Mohamed Shaheem

**Major:** International Affairs

**Nationality:** I am originally from India, living with my family in Qatar.



**Name:** Maimoona Rahman

**Major:** majoring in English and minoring in International Affairs.

**Nationality:** Bangladeshi

**Name:** Fahd Alasad

**Major:** Civil Engineering,

**Nationality:** I am from Sudan



# meet the HONORS students

# BEYOND CAMPUS

activities...



## A JOURNEY INTO THE WORLD OF THE OTTOMANS

Students of the Honors Program had the opportunity to visit the Museum of Islamic Art on **Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010** and attend a special exhibition about the Ottoman Empire named, "A Journey into the World of the Ottomans". The exhibition was arranged by the Orientalist Museum of Qatar on the occasion of Doha being the Cultural

Capital of the Middle East for 2010. The exhibition was held in the temporary gallery of the Museum of Islamic Art and was conceptualized and developed by Olga Nefedova, who is currently teaching the Honors Freshman Seminar. Dr. Olga told us that a major part of the exhibition artworks came from the Orientalist Museum's own collection as well as from the Rijksmuseum, and some private collections.

Moreover, the artworks selected illustrated the history of the development of the Orientalist art movement from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, which throughout the years shaped the image of the Ottoman world in Europe, covering different genres of Orientalist art. The variety of the artworks demonstrates the appreciation of differences and similarities in the European vision of the Ottoman world.

# CREATIVEWORKS



# Interview with Dr. Olga Nefedova



## 1. Please tell us something about your career prior to teaching in the Honors Program?

I am an art historian specializing in the Orientalist art movement. I have worked for several years with private and government collections in the Middle East and the Gulf countries, lectured on various subjects and have written articles for several international magazines on different aspects of the Orientalist art movement. My recent projects include a book *A Journey into the*

*World of the Ottomans* (1<sup>st</sup> edition Skira, 2009, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Skira 2010) on eighteenth-century Orientalist art in Europe and the study of the life and art of Jean-Baptiste Vanmour (1671-1737), as well as a contribution to the book *The Shafik Gabr Collection* (1<sup>st</sup> edition ACR, 2009, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition ACR, 2011). Currently I am a Collections Director of the Orientalist Museum in Doha.

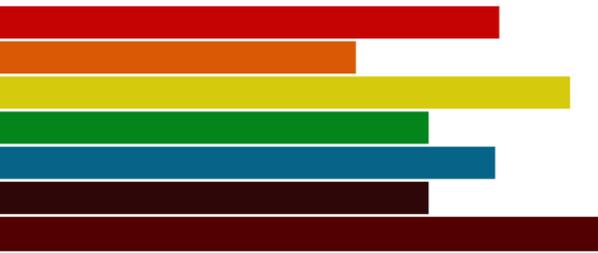
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## 2. How did you hear about the Honors program?

I met Honors Program Director Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim, who told me about this program, its goals and objectives. The program is indeed very important for students, challenging and stimulating and I gladly accepted his invitation to teach a course on Orientalism.

## 3. What were your expectations about the students and the program before you joined it?

I expected to meet young bright minds, ready to learn and explore, and my high expectations were fully met!



## 4. What do you think about the level of students in the Honors program and the coursework being taught in the courses?

I was really impressed with the students' enthusiasm, knowledge and their insatiable desire for knowledge.

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## 5. How was your overall experience with the Honors program? Would you like to continue teaching in the program?

I sincerely enjoyed teaching the course. It was challenging, but rewarding. I hope that all the students will continue and develop their interest in fine art in generally and Orientalism in particular. I would indeed like to continue teaching the program.



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# The Honors Program

“A Community of Excellence and Distinction”

# BEYOND CAMPUS

activities...

# OPERA NIGHT AT THE ITALIAN EMBASSY



Qatar University's honors program students were guests at an Opera Night and dinner hosted by Ambassador of Italy HE Andrea Ferrari and his wife at their residence on **Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010**.

The event included a lecture on the historical and cultural origins of opera.

QU president Prof. Shaikha Al-Misnad, Honors Program Director Dr. Ahmed

Ibrahim, and Visiting Professor of the Honors Program Dr. Sara Hager also attended the event.

Opera Night was part of a project initiated by Dr. Hager to engage students in the exploration of the rich culture of different societies that encompasses the visual arts, music, literature, and cuisine.

- Tribune News Network.

# MEET the HONORS Students

Name: Asmaa ALMohannadi  
Major: Architecture  
Nationality: Qatari

Name: Jennah Abounahia  
Major: Social Work  
Nationality: half Palestinian and half American

Name: Aysha Ali Al-Solaitti  
Major: Business  
Nationality: Qatari

Name: Omayma Al-Saei  
Major: Biomedical Sciences  
Nationality: Qatari

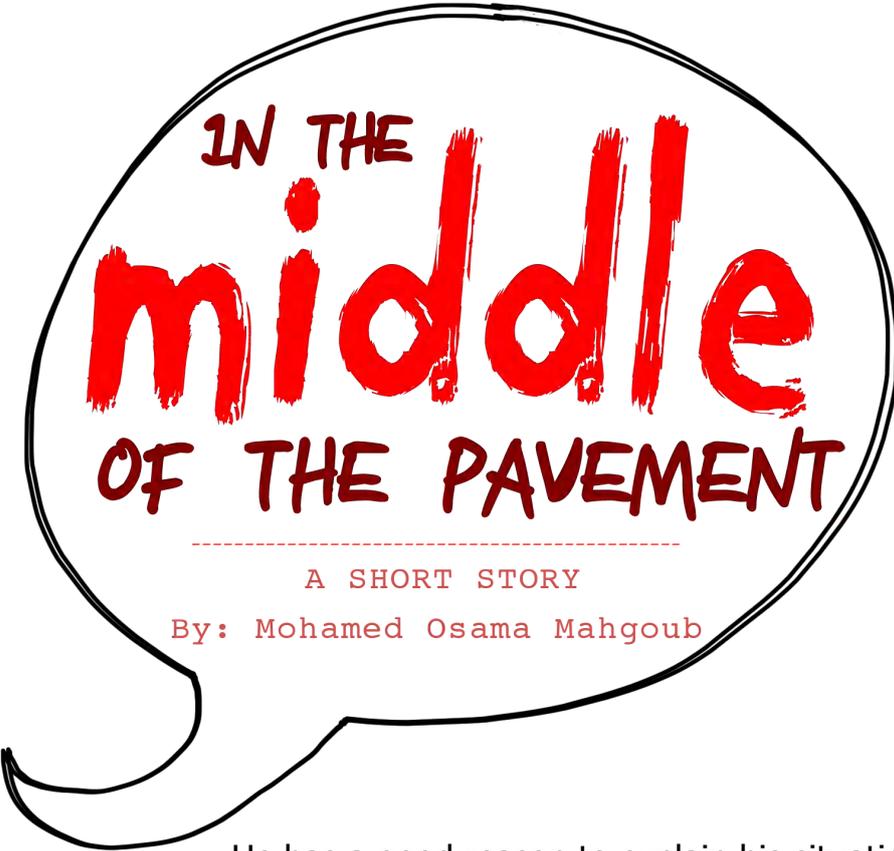
Name: Heba Al-khaznadar  
Major: pharmacy  
Nationality: Syrian

Name: Omnia gadalla  
Major: Pharmacy  
Nationality: Egyptian.

Name: Aya Tlemat  
Major: Pharmacy  
Nationality: German

Name: Rand El-Sharafa  
Major: chemical Engineering  
Nationality: Palestinian

Name: Semsia Al-Ali Mustafa  
Major: International Affairs  
Nationality: from Bosnia and Herzegovina



IN THE  
**middle**  
OF THE PAVEMENT

A SHORT STORY

By: Mohamed Osama Mahgoub

He was standing still as if time does not apply to him. Everyone else was moving, why not, it is the Souq and everyone is searching for goods to complete his happiness by physical goods – spirituality alone cannot give you full happiness! Clothes, perfumes and adornments are all necessary to reach happiness. Nevertheless, Hamed was still standing, but please do not mind him, do not be surprised by his weird stance – standing in the middle of the pavement.

He has a good reason to explain his situation, his friend Ismael died yesterday at this exact location. Less than 24 hours ago, he and Ismael were a part of the moving crowd. He wanted to buy new clothes for his daughter, while Ismael was eager to buy a new perfume for his wife. The perfumery was on the other side of the street, so Ismael had to leave Hamed. They walked in different paths, but the moment Ismael crossed the street a minivan hit him. The minivan was not fast enough to kill a human being, the hit was not that powerful, but our earthly rules do not always apply to fate, he died instantly. Hamed was still standing in the exact location, he asked himself, "Why am I standing, is it to remember Ismael or to understand the fact that he is not coming back?" He extended his solitude in the middle of the street even more in an attempt to understand himself. Finally, he came to a different conclusion about the whole incident. "One, and only one, event made me stop thinking about perfumes and clothes and start thinking about coffins and graveyards. I cannot bring you back Ismael, but from this moment onward I shall spend my life in a way that when my time comes I will not say, "I did not finish my job in this world".

# BEYOND CAMPUS

activities...

The Honors Program arranged a trip for its students to the Doha Tribeca Film Festival held in the month of **October 2010**. The movie that students were taken to was called 'The Certified Copy'. Certified Copy (French: Copie Conforme) is a 2010 film by an Iranian writer and director Abbas Kiarostami, starring Juliette Binoche and the British opera singer William Shimell, in his first film role. The film is set in Tuscany, and focuses on a British writer and a French antiques dealer, whose relationship undergoes an odd transformation over the course of a day. The students had a great time enjoying the movie and learned quite a bit about Italian culture and art. This movie helped the Honors students acquire a better understanding of the course material being taught in the Freshman Seminar. Overall, the trip was a great learning experience that combined learning with

# DTFF DOHA TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL 2010

# Interviews with the HONORS students

## A Talk with ANNA

Anna, tell us about yourself.

My name is Anna, from India. I have been living in Qatar almost for 20 years. I'm a sophomore majoring in nutrition.



Moving to your major, is nutrition something that you always wanted to study?

Nutrition is very interesting for me, it is something I like. I always had few options but nutrition is something related to me and something I love doing.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Well, after doing my undergraduate degree I would like to go for the masters, and I will start working.

As a student in the Honor Program, tell us how you got to know about the program and your general experience.

I got to know about the Honor Program from my friend, Saman. And I was really curious about it, so I went on the website and saw the video and then I decided: why not. When I joined it last semester, we had the Freshman Seminar course with Dr. Sara, which was very interesting, I learned a lot, and it was something new. It improved our analyzing abilities.

# A Talk with ABDULLA



Introduce yourself in a couple of sentences.

My name is Abdullah. I am 19 years old. My major is Electrical Engineering.

Why did you major in electrical engineering?

I choose Electrical because I believe it has a lot of scope in the future. And everything around you has electricity in it. It's a really beneficial major. I like people who deal with electricity. You can say that at some point I was inspired by one of them. My father has a friend who studied Electrical Engineering who is a really nice guy. You can say he's my inspiration.

How did you learn about the Honors Program?

When I started college, I was sent an e-mail by Dr. Ahmed. I think they chose me depending on my high school grades.

What do you expect from the Honors Program? Why did you enroll in it in the first place?

Because it's a unique thing. Not everyone gets to be part of it. And it should open more opportunities for me in the future.

What are your hobbies? What do you do besides studying?

I like watching movies. I am a horror movie fanatic. And I am into photography but I am very on the amateur side. And I am kind of into religious books and studies.

for more  
information

Contact  
Us



The Honors Program offices are currently located at:

The Women's Library, Room 304/305  
and in the Men's Building, Room 103/104

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