Honors Program Reunion
October 7, 2011
A former director of the BYU Honors Program, Thomas F. Rogers is professor emeritus of Russian language and literature at Brigham Young University. He has extensively traveled in Russia, Eastern Europe, India, China and the Middle East, where he has intensively studied nearly a dozen languages. He and his wife, Merriam, were called as missionaries in 1993 to Russia, where Rogers presided over the Russia St. Petersburg Mission for three years. After his retirement they taught English at Peking University and were then called on a mission to the Sweden Stockholm Temple, where Brother Rogers served as a sealer and coordinated the visits of members from the Church's eight Russian missions. Since 2007 he has served as an itinerant Russian speaking patriarch to countries assigned to the Church's Europe East Area.

Author of approximately thirty plays, many on Mormon subjects, he studied at the Yale School of Drama and holds degrees from the University of Utah, Yale, and Georgetown. He has also studied theater in Poland and Russia at Moscow State University and taught at Howard University in Washington, D.C., and at the University of Utah. In 1998 he received the Mormon Festival of the Arts Distinguished Service Award for his contribution to LDS theater and dramaturgy, being cited as "undoubtedly the father of modern Mormon drama." In 2002 he received a Lifetime Service Award from the Association of Mormon Letters.

Tom and Merriam are the parents of seven children and are currently anticipating the birth of their thirty-eighth grandchild. They reside in Bountiful, Utah, where, as a member of Bountiful's co-op Lamplight Art Gallery, Rogers intensively pursues portrait and landscape painting in the pastel medium.
HONORS PROGRAM REUNION
OCTOBER 7, 2011

Tailgate BBQ, 5:30 p.m. (West Lawn, Maeser Building)

Welcome .......................................................... Rory Scanlon
Honors Program Director & Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education

Invocation .......................................................... Donald K. Jarvis

Lecture

Introduction of Speaker................................. Sterling Van Wagenen

Lecturer ........................................................... Thomas F. Rogers

“HEARTS OF THE CHILDREN...HEARTS OF THE FATHERS”:
THE SENSE OF TRANSCENDENT FAMILY TIES
Director of the Honors Program 1974-1977
Germanic and Slavic Professor Emeritus

Benediction .......................................................... David K. Hart

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"In my years in the Soviet Union and my time here in America, I have rarely read anything that approaches the core ideas--the leitmotifs--of our recent fiction with this much sympathy and understanding....[This work] will greatly expand knowledge of many key (but less than well known) Russian writers, and it introduces a powerful tool of understanding and appraisal to their works."

--A. Bogdanov, All-Union Institute of World Literature, Ph.D. Moscow University, editor of the Complete Works of Andreyev.
“HEARTS OF THE CHILDREN . . . HEARTS OF THE FATHERS”: THE SENSE OF TRANSCENDENT FAMILY TIES IN SELECTED FILMS:

**SANSHO DEIU (Sansho the Bailiff), 1954 (Japanese), director—Kenji Mizoguchi:** After his father’s and sister’s deaths during a devastating medieval civil war, a Samurai’s son finds his mother, who was made a concubine and blinded, and vows to follow his father’s noble example. The camera’s final pan of landscape, water and sky suggests the family’s reunion beyond this life.

**ORDET (The Word), 1955 (Danish), director—Carl Dreyer:** During a wake and encouraged by her seemingly demented uncle—who preaches the resurrection as though he were Christ—a young girl’s faith miraculously brings her mother who has died giving birth, back to life. This event unites their family in a shared religious commitment.

**APU SANSAR (The World of Apu—from The Apu Triology), 1959 (Indian–Bengali), director—Satayajit Ray:** After his wife’s death giving birth to their son, a young grief stricken husband renounces the child and becomes a wandering beggar until years later he reencounters the boy and responds to the child’s innocent appeal.

**ANDREY RUBLYOV, 1966 (Russian), director—Andrey Tarkovsky:** During the Mongol occupation of Russia (1240–1480), the son of a deceased bell maker, pretending to know the secret of his father’s craft, commandeers the casting and raising of a bell for the royal cathedral in Vladimir. Its ringing augurs his people’s eventual liberation from their oppressors and inspires the monk Rublyov to resume his own illustrious artistic vocation.

**STALKER, 1980 (Russian), director—Andrey Tarkovsky:** The crippled daughter of a mystical guide acquires the extrasensory powers of her despairing father.

**ORFET (Sacrifice), 1986 (Swedish), director—Andrey Tarkovsky:** A man vows to renounce his possessions and becomes mute to save the world. Following his advice, his young, speechless son continues to water a dead tree, which may or may not be in bud. The boy also begins to speak again. As in Mizoguchi’s film, the camera scans both water and sky, suggesting an eternal connection.

**PLACES IN THE HEART, 1989 (American), director—Robert Benton:** In a small Texas community a deceased sheriff and his lynched assassin
matter-of-factly join the sheriff’s family and various townspeople, both the charitable and the unscrupulous, at a communion service.

**SECRETS AND LIES, 1996 (British), director—Mike Leigh:** A black professional woman seeks out her birth mother, a lower class white woman who was unaware of her. They and the woman’s family are eventually reconciled.

**CHILDREN OF MEN, 2006 (British), director—Alfonso Cuarón:** Amid horrific civil strife, the human race has remained sterile for twenty or so years until a young black woman gives birth and others give their lives to assist her and her child to safety.

**RIDING ALONE FOR THOUSANDS OF MILES, 2007 (Chinese—Mandarin), director—Zhang Yimou:** Attempting to be reconciled with his dying son, an elderly Japanese father travels to China to film a now imprisoned Peking Opera star. Not knowing each other’s languages, he locates and befriends the singer’s young boy. Though he returns too late to his now deceased son’s bedside, the old man’s wordless encounter with a little Chinese boy—an unforeseen bonding between surrogate father and son—will unforgettable continue for both despite their future physical separation.

**AND IN THE WORKS OF 20TH-CENTURY RUSSIAN WRITERS:**

Yevgeny Zamyatin, **WE**

Isaak Babel, **RED ARMY**

Yury Olesha, **ENVY**

Boris Pilnyak, **THE NAKED YEAR, “DAMP MOTHER EARTH,” IVAN—MOSCOW, MACHINES AND WOLVES, MAHAGONY, THE VOLGA FALLS TO THE CASPIAN SEA**

Andrey Platonov, “THE EPIFAN LOCKS,” **CHEVENGUR, THE FOUNDATION PIT, DZHAN**

Mikhail Bulgakov, **THE MASTER AND MARGARITA**

Boris Pasternak, **DOCTOR ZHIVAGO**

Valentin Rasputin, **LIVE AND REMEMBER, FAREWELL TO MATYORA**

**Did you know?...**

Approximately 100 students will graduate with Honors this year!

The Cambridge Study Abroad program is funded by the Honors Program and generous contributions from alumni and friends. In the summer of 2011, thirty-five students studied at Cambridge; many of these students did research on an Honors thesis topic.

The Honors Program sponsors Late Summer Honors which provides the opportunity for 170 students to attend a one-credit hour course prior to fall semester in a small classroom of fourteen students for an optimum learning experience. Donated funds can help defer costs for students attending this unique educational opportunity.

Visit our website at [http://honors.byu.edu](http://honors.byu.edu) (Alumni tab) for spotlights on Honors alumni. Send us your updated information to be included in a future spotlight.

Read about Honors students and alumni doing amazing things in the *Insight* magazine available online at [insight.byu.edu](http://insight.byu.edu)

Donations to the Honors Program may be sent to P.O. Box 410477, Salt Lake City, UT 84141-0477 or by calling 1-800-525-8074.
In the future you will be able to access current thesis research topics on the Honors Program thesis tab and volunteer to mentor a student with his or her Honors thesis or assist them in career and graduate school opportunities.

Honors students are currently doing thesis research on some of the following topics:

• Relative Finder Facebook Application: Generating Genuine Interest in Genealogy
• On Writing “The Extremities,” a Feature-Length Satirical Screenplay
• Close Spaces: A Glimpse of Family Relations Within Small Orphanages
• That Time in the Circus – Matilda Richter as the First Human Cannonball: Sensation, Women, and the Lower Class of Late Victorian Britain
• Exploring the LDS Deaf Community
• Putting Strategy into the Balanced Scorecard
• Do Legislators Respond Fairly to Female and Hispanic Constituents?
• A Transatlantic Literary History of Anne Bradstreet’s Poetry
• Religion’s Non-Linear and Contextual Impact on Educational Outcomes
• Benjamin Thompson and the Loyalist Diaspora
• The Grid: Editing for Utah County
• Out of Obscurity: How Joseph Smith’s Public Relations Efforts Reveal His Role as a Prophet
• The Effect of Firms’ Major Strategy Change in Profitability and Stock Price
• A Characterization of the EMIS Hybrid Vehicle System