

The Honors Program Newsletter

VOL. 18, ISSUE 5

FROM THE HONORS OFFICE, HORTON HALL 104

APRIL 2005

CALENDAR

April

18 - Honors Program Spring Banquet

6:00-7:30 p.m., Tuscarora Dining Room

Come to celebrate the end of another year in Honors and recognize the graduating seniors. See the article on this page.

19 - Honors Read, Heart of Darkness

6:30-7:30 p.m., CUB 315

Tyler Miller and Dr. Douglas Birsch will lead the discussion.

20 - Honors Student Organization (HSO) Meeting

9:30 p.m., CUB 217

May

7 - Shippensburg University Commencement

See Page 2 for a list of May 2005 Honors graduates.

June

23 - Welcome Luncheon for Incoming Freshmen and Their Families

11:45 a.m., Tuscarora Room

The luncheon will be hosted by Dr. Tony Ceddia, President of Shippensburg University, and Dr. Klein.

September

6- Fall General Honors Meeting and Reception

3:30 p.m., Tuscarora Dining Room

The Summer newsletter will be mailed during the week of August 1.

Freshmen Mentors Needed

LORA RUHL
HONORS SOPHOMORE

The Honors Program's Freshmen Orientation Committee is seeking friendly, helpful Honors students to assist incoming freshmen in the often difficult transition to college. The honors program has begun to receive acceptance letters from incoming freshman, and with all these mentees we need mentors. The mentor program is going to be slightly different from past years. For every three mentees we will have two mentors in hopes of building a group relationship rather than a one-on-one. Also, instead of a picnic this year we will be holding a scavenger hunt, which will be lots of fun.

The Orientation Committee also needs volunteers to come to the Honors Luncheon on June 23 in the Tuscarora Room. It will be an opportunity to greet the new freshmen. We also need volunteers for the Academic Day book discussions. If you are interested in helping out with any of these events please contact Lora Ruhl at lr5610@ship.edu. Help us welcome the new Honors Freshmen!

The Spring Banquet to Honor Graduating Seniors

The Honors Program is gearing up for the annual Spring Banquet, which celebrates Honors students' dedication to scholarship and service throughout the school year. The banquet will be held Monday, April 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Tuscarora Room.

Honors students and their guests will be treated to dinner and a brief program. The guest speaker will be Dr. Mary Stewart, professor of English. The program will also include recognition of the graduating seniors, remarks by a graduating senior, and presentation of student and faculty awards.

This year's dinner will include a fruit cup, house salad, sautéed chicken with wine and basil, twice-baked potatoes, a sautéed vegetable medley, and a chocolate ganache torte for dessert.

Don't miss this opportunity to catch up with some fellow Honors students and celebrate the achievements from this past year. Please return your response card or email Sharon Poe at sapoe@ship.edu. You don't want to miss what promises to be a great evening!



Seniors and administrators at the 2004 Honors Spring Banquet.

Rash Bash '05

Are you catching more than
Spring Fever?

What: Professor Kara Laskowski's Honors Basic Oral Communication's class presenting a spin-off of early century soapbox speeches

When: Tuesday, April 19 at 4:00 p.m.

Where: CUB side lawn

Why: Because mono, meningitis, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are a real threat to ALL students on campus. Come to find out how YOU can lower the astounding statistics.

Excitement in Education a Success

BY JESS KROUT
HONORS FRESHMAN

Middle school children from inner-city Harrisburg traveled to Shippensburg University on Saturday, April 2, to take part in Excitement in Education, coordinated by the Honors Program.

Excitement in Education, or EE, began in 1992 with the intent to show local students university life and to inspire them to continue their education after high school.

"Many of these students risk dropping out of school or being generally unsuccessful. The aim of EE is to motivate students to do well in school and start thinking about attending college," said Becky Kreider, co-chair of the EE committee.

Each middle school student attends three workshops taught by Shippensburg students.

"Almost everyone's favorite class was Step it Up," said Kallie Drenning, co-chair of the EE committee. "We had volunteers from Kappa Alpha Psi teach the kids dance moves. The kids like it because they are interacting with older students, plus they are doing something fun and new."

The middle school students saw the volunteers as positive role models, which is another purpose of EE. EE is a part of Gear-Up, which is a mentoring partnership between the university and the Harrisburg public school district.

"The students had a great time and learned a lot," said Kreider. "They were definitely motivated to keep working hard in school and came to idolize some of the EE staff, even asking for autographs."

Drenning and Kreider both noted that there were a lot of students who had attended last year that came back this year because of how much they enjoyed the program.

The volunteers enjoyed the program as well, especially seeing the students' reactions. While Kreider points out that it is a long day for the volunteers, she said, "The students really are a great group of kids and can be quite entertaining."

HONORS PROGRAM OFFICE

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Farewell and Congratulations 2005 Honors Graduates!

The Honors Program congratulates the 29 Honors students graduating this spring. The Honors graduates and their majors are:

Roxanne Adam, Accounting
Brady Alleman, Computer Science
Robert Ardner, Computer Science
Matthew Bollinger, Biology
Stacey Budzyn, Biology
Anna Carlen, English
Jaclyn Cole, English
Margaret Dameron, History
Elizabeth Dideon, Social Work
Joseph Eberly, Management Information Systems
Stephanie Fell, Sociology
Amanda Griffis, English
Rebecca Grimme, Chemistry
Ryan Hess, Political Science
Amy Houser, Elementary Education
Shelley Marshall, Communications/Journalism
Jennifer Matthias, Elementary Education/Math
Amanda Perry, Elementary Education
Jessica Reich, Elementary Education/Reading
Allecia Rickard, Elementary Education
Krystal Ritchie, Accounting
Stephanie Rush, Communications/Journalism
Benjamin Sauerwine, Computer Science
Philip Schiavoni, Math
Sarah Sheaffer, Art
Dawn Stalter, Management
Gwen Umbreit, History/Citizen
Megan Werts, Elementary Education
Elijah Yearick, Geoenvironmental Studies

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

THE HONORABLE MENTION

"Excitement in Education," held on April 2, was a great success for students and staff participating. The Saturday faculty and staff in Shippen Hall included: **Michelle Baker, Ryan Blackman, Anna Carlen, Meg Dameron, Kallie Drenning, Joel Folkemberg, Becky Fowler, Erin Harmon, Ashlee Johnson, Becky Kreider, and Jenn Matthias.** Thanks to all who helped!

A special thanks goes to **Shannon Conner** and **Tracey Halstead** for helping at the Honors Program table at Open House on March 19.

Ryan Hess was the winner of the APSCUF/SU Dr. Robert Winter College of Arts and Sciences Student Award for Outstanding Scholarship and Service.

Elizabeth Dideon was the winner of the APSCUF/SU Dr. Sally McGrath College of Education and Human Services Student Award for Outstanding Scholarship and Service.

Congratulations to **Mark Lehman** who was honored at the regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference in Washington, D.C. in April for his research on the Roman army.

The Harrisburg Internship Semester: A Unique Experience

BY RYAN HESS
HONORS SENIOR

The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) is a unique opportunity offered by the State System of Higher Education. While earning a stipend of \$5,500 and 15 credits, students have the opportunity to work for a state agency and gain valuable insights into state government, as well as practical experience.

This semester, I have chosen to work for the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC), the state agency charged with preventing discrimination in the areas of employment, education, housing, and commercial property. Coming from York County, an area often divided by racial lines, working for this type of agency has been a life-long dream.

Specifically, I help to research and write predatory lending complaints. Predatory lending is an abusive and illegal mortgage practice whereby loan companies issues loans to minorities that are designed to fail. To many, this is one of the worst types of discrimination because it leaves victims bankrupt and homeless after the mortgage company forecloses on the doomed loan. I have also had the opportunity to study the diversity of police forces around the Commonwealth and make recommendation for increased minority recruitment. Finally, I researched hate crimes legislation and developed a new theoretical model for justifying crimes against some of our most vulnerable citizens.

While fighting for disempowered and silenced victims is personally rewarding, the internship offers significant opportunities for professional advancement. Each Tuesday evening, the interns, who come from each State System school, meet with a different leader

in state government and gain an in-depth knowledge of Harrisburg's inner-workings. In addition to this knowledge, students have a chance to expand their network of contacts, thereby easing the transition between academe and the job market.

While the program gives students wonderful personal opportunities and career experience, my work at the PHRC continues to be my main motivation for being in the program. No matter what a student's passion, THIS offers an opportunity to begin to fulfilling lifelong dreams while still in college, an opportunity many do not have until late in life.

Ryan Hess, second from right, is pictured below with other THIS participants.



Honors Students Enjoy Politics and Cherry Blossoms on Washington, D. C. Field Trip

BY TYLER MILLER
HONORS JUNIOR

Bob Hope once remarked, "I love to go to Washington—if only to be nearer my money." While this wasn't exactly what was on the minds of Professor Alison Dagnes and her Honors U.S. Government and Politics class as we traveled to D.C. on Wednesday, April 6, we undoubtedly enjoyed Washington as much as Mr. Hope would have. Our first activity, a capitol tour arranged through Senator Rick Santorum's office, was canceled unexpectedly because Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko was in town to deliver an address to Congress, and security had been tightened for the morning. Instead, we spent time at the Mall, viewing the Lincoln, Vietnam, Korean, World War II, FDR, and Jefferson Memorials. D.C.'s famous cherry blossoms were coming into bloom, making for a picturesque outing.

Following our stroll through the Mall, we toured Fox News' Washington bureau near the Capitol. The tour was delayed because of the building's ineffective sign-in process (and by "ineffective," I mean "totally disastrous failure"). We were shown around the bureau by a friend of Professor Dagnes'—one of the Fox producers—and got to see the newsroom, control room, green room, studios, etc. Afterward, we ate lunch at Union Station before returning to the bus for the drive home.

Granted, Washington isn't the same city it was before 9/11. There are many added security measures that continue to be enforced—as evidenced during our visit by black hawk helicopters running constant surveillance over the Mall. But the city still retains its charm; still possesses a stately elegance displayed in the

monuments and buildings, the statues and memorials, the trees and fountains, the walkways and waterfronts. Washington captures something of days of old; and for a moment, time slows down just a bit when one is there.



Honors students are pictured during their tour at Fox News.

Monday, April 18

**The Honors Program
Spring Banquet**

**Tuscarora Dining Room
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

SUMMER ADDRESS CHANGES: If you will be a returning student next year and your summer address is not your permanent address, please contact the Honors Office in Horton Hall 104, at 477-1604, or e-mail us at sapoe@ship.edu to report the change. The summer issue of the newsletter will have important information on mentoring, the mandatory fall Honors meeting, and other news and events. Thanks, and have a great summer!

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