Students Represent SU at Regional Honors Conference

Seniors Miranda Aaron, Sarah Montanari, and Holly Plank along with Honors Director, Dr. Kim Klein, represented the Shippensburg University Honors Program at the annual conference of the Northeast Regional Honors Council, the regional professional organization for Honors Programs and Colleges. The conference was held from April 4-7, 2013 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The students were invited to present about their experiences completing their Honors capstone projects at two different types of presentations, Aaron, a senior Early Childhood Education major, and Plank, a senior Earth and Space Science Secondary Education major, presented their individual capstone projects completed through the Honors Program’s service learning initiative in the Dominican Republic, Reach Out, at a roundtable discussion. Montanari, a senior English Secondary Education major, presented her paper, “You’re Doing It Wrong: William Faulkner’s Happy Existentialism,” at a well-attended panel discussion on literature.

“I have presented at a number of conferences throughout my time as an undergraduate, but it was truly a defining moment to have the opportunity to present my independent research project with a group of Honors students,” Montanari said. “The actual paper presentation was similar to other conferences but the conversation with the audience and other panel members was much more sophisticated and enjoyable than conversations that I have had at any other conference.” “The discussion that unfolded during the question and answer section after Sarah’s presentation was quite enlightening,” Plank agreed. “It was incredible to discuss and rethink my approach to my research with such a curious and interested group of scholars,” Montanari said.

“Presenting my own research was an interesting and valuable experience,” Aaron added. “I got to revisit my work and the impact that I have had a chance to make through it. I was able to share the incredible things that Reach Out does with other students and universities in hopes that each day a new person will be inspired to look critically at the world and see how they can use their personal skills to make it a better place.”

Along with the incredible opportunities that come along with presenting at the Northeast Regional Honors Conference, Aaron, Montanari, and Plank also had the chance to explore Philadelphia during their free time. Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and the Betsy Ross house were among the historic sites they visited.

The location of the conference inspired its theme, “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness: Foundations, Tensions, Mediations.” “There are many ways to get involved with the greater Honors community. Attending a national or regional conference is an incredible learning experience, and I strongly encourage all Honors students to get involved,” Plank said. “You will not regret it.”

Cherry Blossoms and Shakespeare in Washington, D.C.

On Saturday, April 6 Honors students traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the play Coriolanus and to see the cherry blossoms. While early spring weather was unusually cold this year, the warm weather arrived just in time for the trip. Two Honors students who attended the trip share about their experiences in Washington, D.C. below.

Students in Dr. Horner’s and Dr. Senecal’s “Britain from Rome to the Romantics” Honors seminar made the trip to watch a production of Coriolanus, a Shakespearean play, at the Shakespeare Theatre. Coriolanus is a play about the lack of democracy in politics, telling the story of Caius Martius Coriolanus, the leader and finest warrior of Rome. There is an evident discord between his intentions and the people he is meant to be protecting. The fierceness and determination of his mother is also distinguished against Coriolanus’s attitude of following the court’s orders.

The play was very long—nearly three hours with just one fifteen minute intermission—but it was riveting nonetheless. The mother was an audience favorite, though each actor gave an impressive and believable performance. On stage, the set design was rather simplistic—a wall surrounded the perimeter of the stage, indicating the inside of the castle or an outside gathering place. Additional chairs and structures moved in and out. The music was very effective as aside from the backing orchestra, some actors incorporated percussion playing into the scenes.

While Coriolanus was the focus of the D.C. trip, the weather was an added bonus. With time to walk around before and after the play, many students enjoyed the day off-campus to relax in the sun, visit museums, and see the cherry blossoms begin to bloom.

As a student who did not go to the play, it was nice to just enjoy the warm weather and explore D.C. There are an abundance of museums and monuments to see in the city. Even with the extra three hours we could only get to a very small portion of everything there is to do there. We started our day just walking around before visiting the Museum of the American Indian. This museum is dedicated to the Native American tribes still in existence in North America, and their lives today along with their history and traditional customs and beliefs.

Later we visited the Air and Space Museum. It was cool to see all of the old planes, spacecraft, and equipment. It was a fun learning experience to be around the historical artifacts and see the timeline of air and space travel. Also, during the day we visited the Capitol and the White House. We then stopped at a garden that was filled with cherry trees. The cherry blossoms were very pretty, and it was a good sign that spring was here after a long winter.

By Amanda Sanger, Honors Sophomore

By Lindsay Rosen, Honors Junior
Honors Students Study in Spain
By Amanda Schwarz, Honors Sophomore

If you ask any student what they would really like to do during their years in college, one common answer would be to study abroad. Seeing a new culture, learning a new language, and exploring a new place all seem like a lot of fun, right? Well, some way or another, the bill must be paid and that can be daunting, especially for students who will most likely be paying off loans for the foreseeable future. For Lindy Gemmell and Shelby Coghill, however, a gift from the Honors Program in the form of a scholarship helped make their dreams come true.

Both Lindy and Shelby received a scholarship through the Honors Program that helped them fund their study abroad experience to Spain. Lindy is taking three classes in Spanish that will complete her Spanish minor in Malaga, Spain; Shelby is taking classes to complete her Spanish minor in Salamanca, Spain. Receiving the scholarship, according to Shelby, has really helped her ease the burden of paying for such an amazing experience. Each year, the Honors Program offers scholarships for honors students studying abroad valued up to $400. The application process is simple and the reward can be great.

Applying for the scholarship has really paid off for Lindy and Shelby. Lindy’s program offers excursions to different parts of Spain. She was able to see a live bullfight and a flamenco show. Lindy says, “seeing a flamenco show was just one of many cultural experiences [she has] enjoyed while on these trips.” Shelby is living with a host family and traveling around the country seeing sites that she learned about all her life. One of the most interesting experiences she had was renting bicycles in Barcelona. She was able to travel around Barcelona, the Color City, seeing sites such as Sagrada Familia, Parc Güell and La Pedrera.

While both Shelby and Lindy are off on their own unique experiences in Spain, both recommend travelling and studying abroad to everyone. They also recommend taking advantage of the money the Honors Program has to offer students because it takes some of the burden off of you for paying for the entire experience. More information about scholarships can be found on the Honors website and in weekly updates. Lindy sums up her experience quite nicely by saying this: “Studying abroad has definitely been one of the best decisions I have made in my college career, and I strongly recommend anyone who has the chance, to go. You won’t regret it!”

Ship Me to Korea: Steve Bussey Studies Abroad
By Jen Spangler, Honors Sophomore

Steve Bussey, a Shippensburg University junior, has spent the past twelve weeks abroad in South Korea. Steve is a Software Engineering major and Math minor. After seeing a poster advertising Ship's study abroad program, he knew he wanted to try it at some point in his college career. When it came time to determine where he would be traveling, Steve decided that he would definitely be visiting an Asian country because he wanted to go outside of the box of “typical” study abroad or travel experiences. The collectivist society of the Asian countries was of interest to him and helped to form his decision. Shippensburg’s study abroad partnership with Soonchunhyang University sealed the deal and made the trip possible.

Shippensburg’s exchange program meant that Steve’s semester abroad would not cost more than he would pay for a regular semester at Shippensburg, plus he does not have to pay technology fees at Soonchunhyang. He is able to complete 15 credits while abroad. He receives scholarships at Shippensburg that are dependent upon him being a full-time student so the program allows him to keep the scholarships while he is studying abroad.

Steve is taking many classes while in Korea that will help him become more familiar with the culture and language of the country he is visiting. His classes include Korean Speaking, Korean Writing, Korean History, Calligraphy, and a Cultural Internship Discussion course.

On any given day, he wakes up, grabs breakfast from a shop near his new campus, and attends class for an hour or two. Most days of the week, he has a “language exchange,” which is a one-hour time slot in the day where he can interact with two Korean students. They go out to eat, play games, or just sit and talk so they can spend time learning about each other’s cultures. On days that he doesn’t have any classes, Steve has three language exchanges. On weekends he is able to visit surrounding cities and shop or explore the country.

One of the biggest differences Steve has noticed between his academic career in South Korea from the one at Shippensburg is that he has much less work required of him. He states that he could have more than 20 hours of work a week at Ship, but his classes in Korea are much easier and less stressful. Another difference he has noticed is the friendliness in his fellow students and the community. “Everyone who meets me here will say ‘hi’ and know my name from that point forward,” he said. He has a hard time keeping up with the names of everyone he meets, but they seem to always remember him.

One thing that really surprised Steve about the culture he is now immersed in was how strong of a role hierarchies still play. “Older Koreans can basically tell younger Koreans what to do, and they have to do it,” he states. He says that this can be good thing so that they know what they are doing and have guidelines to follow, but this can also be a bad thing, as older students often make younger students do dangerous things, like drink too much. He was not surprised about the tension between North and South Korea but was a little shocked by the way that many South Koreans completely dismiss North Korea’s threats. He adds that while it is unsettling to be in Korea during the present tensions, it also “adds to the adventure a bit.”
Senior Spotlight: Isabel Scott
By Megan Fick, Honors Junior

Honors Senior Isabel Scott has developed an impressive resume during her four years at Shippensburg University. All of her hard work will cumulate this summer as she begins her career as a Financial Analyst at Lockheed Martin in Manassas, Virginia. Isabel will work in the Early Career Development Program, which is a rotational fast-track management program that will allow her to rotate through different programs in hopes of finding her long-term career position. Isabel is also hoping to pursue a master's degree through the University of Maryland at their Washington, D.C. campus in the near future.

Isabel's mom, who is also a financial analyst, inspired Isabel to become a financial analyst herself. Isabel said that she never had any interest in pursuing another field and always knew she wanted to be a business major someday. Isabel became interested in Shippensburg University when she received a significant scholarship to attend during her senior year of high school. As a freshman Isabel played basketball and joined the Honors Program. Later, she was elected Student Senate treasurer and president of the Financial Management Association. Isabel is also a member of Alpha Kappa Psi, the Honors Business Fraternity on campus, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. In her free time Isabel enjoys working out, baking, shopping, and playing the violin and piano.

In addition to her on-campus activities, Isabel has also held two internships with Volvo during her time at Ship. Originally, Isabel served as a Materials Intern. Currently, Isabel serves as the Operations Finance Intern. Prior to these two internships, Isabel also held an internship with the Pennsylvania State Employees Financial Management Association. Isabel is also a member of Alpha Kappa Psi, the Honors Business Fraternity on campus, and

Senior Spotlight: Katie Wiechelt
By Katie Benedict, Honors Sophomore

Mary Katherine Wiechelt, Katie, is from Mechanicsburg, PA and will be graduating from Shippensburg University in a few short weeks. After graduation Katie will be attending veterinary school at the University of Pennsylvania. She transferred to Shippensburg after one semester at George Mason University. Her brother and sister also attended Shippensburg and “it felt more like home.” George Mason University is located just outside of D.C. and has an average of over 30,000 students. Katie had been invited to join the Honors Program during her senior year of high school so when she transferred to Shippensburg University one of the first things she did was make sure she could participate in the Honors Program. The Honors Program was a significant factor in her decision to come to Shippensburg University. Katie knew that veterinary school applications were competitive and she would need every edge she could gain.

Katie knew that she wanted to be a veterinarian since she was very young. When she took a biology course in high school, she felt a click and knew she was meant to become a veterinarian. Since then, Katie has felt the steady pressure of that veterinary school application looming. She did her first shadowing in 11th grade and since then has logged in over 500 hours of various observations and internships working with small and large animals, among many other modes of preparation.

In the Honors Program, Katie has been able to make close friends that share her interests and work ethic which can be hard to find on a college campus. She also has enjoyed the interdisciplinary classes she has had to take as they give her a break to have some discussion-based classes rather than mostly lab and lecture. The Honors Program also spurred her to volunteer at the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter. This connection has been a good resource for her future because along with hundreds of hours of shadowing and interning, she has strengthened her application for vet school.

Katie chose the University of Pennsylvania for myriad reasons. She attended the Summer Veterinary Explorations Through Science (VETS), which gave her a taste of the classes and the faculty there. She really enjoyed the classes and learned that they would often bring in guest speakers from different disciplines that are working in the field. Additionally, when she completed an internship at ZooAmerica, a fellow worker attended the University of Pennsylvania and had a positive experience. The University of Pennsylvania also helps with Katie's plans after school. While at the University of Pennsylvania, she will join the Army to receive scholarships and commit to three years of service after school. She hopes to work with the Army dogs but is open to anything vet-related. Veterinary jobs in the Army aside from working with their dogs include working with the dolphins they train to detect bombs, going into devastated countries to help with their farm animals – namely cattle, and working with the show horses.

The Reflector
At the Pizza with a Prof on March 7, Dr. Blandine Mitaut of the Modern Languages Department unveiled her plans for what will certainly be a most enjoyable Honors seminar. Before coming to United States, Dr. Mitaut studied American and English Literature as a French citizen. She is hoping to use her own experience to make her Honors seminar, "Paris: The Global City," as much about Parisian culture and history as a living learning experience. Though her course is still being created, the course Dr. Mitaut is currently proposing would be for anyone within the Honors Program—no French speaking capabilities required although a little knowledge would be helpful abroad. Dr. Mitaut’s seminar will be offered in spring 2014. It will include a week-long study abroad component in France during spring break 2014.

During her session Dr. Mitaut explained the work the esteemed French Academy and its 40 members do to help protect the French language. She also spoke about how the French language has changed over time and how American words are entering the French language. After going through the outline of her proposed seminar, Dr. Mitaut fielded some questions and offered some interesting information regarding France. Being a lover of food, I asked about French cuisine and was happy to hear that one could enjoy a different wine or cheese every day of the year and still have many varieties left to sample. She explained that French cuisine often leaves people wanting with its very subtle flavoring after an amazing side note of how she cannot cook. Dr. Mitaut also said that if there were other food lovers in her seminar then they might take a look at the fast food industry and its destructive effects on the regional specialties of many areas across France. Given Dr. Mitaut's passion for comparing American and French literature her "Paris: The Global City" is a seminar that I will consider scheduling next year.

By Nick Hinton, Honors Freshman
Congratulations:

**Ethan Goldbach** was awarded the prestigious national Critical Languages Scholarship. The scholarship is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. Ethan will study the Korean language in South Korea during summer 2013.

**Maddie Moyer-Keehn** represented Shippensburg University at the Association of Writers and Writing Program in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Karli Wagner** was a member of the Shippensburg University team that earned first place in the 2013 Society for Human Resource Management Northeast Regional Case Competition at the University of Delaware.

**Bri Evans** won a $500 scholarship from the Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC) to participate in the Partners in the Parks experience at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park in Colorado in August 2013.

**Isabel Scott** won the APSCUF Outstanding Student Award for the College of Business and **Sarah Montanari** won the APSCUF Outstanding Student Award for the College of Arts and Sciences.

The following Honors Program students were recognized as the outstanding students in their departments in the APSCUF/SU Awards Program:

- **Chemistry:** Kelsey Mengle, Tierney Miller, and Heather Rensch
- **Economics:** Noret Flood
- **English:** Sarah Montanari
- **Geography/Earth Science:** Clayton Helm
- **Interdisciplinary Arts:** Eileen Rockwell
- **Political Science:** Owen Ecker

**Thank You:**

To Kelsey Mengle, Evan Ramist, Christopher Silvia, Amber Herbert, Alyssa Monaghan, and Kelly Monaghan for representing the Honors Program at the University Open Houses in March and April.

---

**Announcements**

---

**Reach Out Updates**

**Meetings:**
Reach Out would love to have you join us at our meetings to help collaborate and bring new ideas to the table! We meet every Thursday from 6:30-8 p.m. in Lehman Library 106.

**Event Series:**
Reach Out has a sub-committee that plans cultural awareness events every month. We would love to have new members join us to help plan these fun events! Past events have included a Dominican-themed dinner at Reisner and a Carnaval event. Fall meeting times will be announced in the summer issues of the Honors Chronicle. We hope to see you there!

**Dance the Night Away!**
Want a way to de-stress before finals? Join Reach Out on Friday, May 3 from 8-10 p.m. for our Disney/Superhero/Fantasy themed dance! Dress up as your favorite character and enjoy some great music!
It may seem cliche to say, can you believe another year of college has come and gone? It is amazing to think how quickly time has passed! We hope that the past year has been a year of new friendships and academic developments. For this issue of the *Chronicle*, we wanted to focus on celebrating Honors students’ accomplishments. We hope that these stories have inspired you to go above and beyond the regular constraints of education. Congratulations to all of the graduates and may your summer be safe and filled with fun and rewarding experiences!

-Hannah and Megan