Honors of the Caribbean

By Tori Walls & Sara Landis, Honors Seniors

When we were asked to write this article, we agreed on one thing: Reach Out changed our lives, and we couldn’t imagine where we’d be without it. The group has given us amazing opportunities in our professional and personal lives that we will carry with us after we toss our graduation caps in the air in May. Reach Out has two major components: our preparation and fundraising at Ship and our teaching and service in the Dominican Republic.

During the fall semester Reach Out holds weekly meetings to prepare for the trip which occurs in January. Our committees work hard to fundraise, plan cultural events, and develop curriculum that will be shared with the teachers at our partner school in the Dominican Republic. Each year two Honors seniors research and write manuals on different disciplines that were identified as areas of need for the school. This year Tori wrote her manual on Scientific Inquiry Through the Five Senses, and Sara focused on Teaching English as a Second Language. One of our responsibilities as writers of the manuals is to plan a professional development workshop that we will conduct with the teachers while abroad. This allows us to learn from their teaching experience while sharing our own passion for education and research.

The first few days in the Dominican Republic are a whirlwind; our team organizes school supplies and works together to prepare for teaching in the Pathways of Learning School. Our group spends one day conducting workshops with the teachers to share the supplies we have collected, present the manuals, and begin building working relationships with the teachers in the school. The next two days our members work in teams of two to teach the manual content to students ranging from grades pre-kindergarten to sixth. Teaching in a native Spanish-speaking classroom is such a unique experience with both challenges and rewards.

On the trip, there are a variety of activities. Obviously, we work in the school with the students and the teachers to present the materials we had planned in the fall, but Reach Out is so much more. Each year, we take students on field trips to places like the zoo, the botanical gardens, a children’s science museum, and the aquarium. It’s amazing to see the students’ faces light up as they see new things they have only dreamed of experiencing, like a lion lounging in the sun or the vast ocean surrounding their island home. As a team, we also take “cultural field trips” almost every afternoon after working in the school. Places like art museums, natural caves, the boardwalk, baseball games, and local shopping centers allow us to see the heart of the island and more than the sandy white beaches of travel brochures. We often visit a Haitian community, called a batey, to understand aspects of race relations in the country. We also visit historical sites to gain a deeper appreciation for Dominican culture and history.

Reach Out has afforded us the opportunity to teach in unique situations and develop curricula that will impress any future employer. We also learned a lot about ourselves and how to relate to others, including those in the group and those we meet while abroad. It is always a challenge to come into another person’s classroom and share your ideas, but we are lucky the Pathways of Learning school wants to learn from us as much as we want to learn from them. Reach Out has given us a strong network of friends who love and support us and want us to succeed, and we couldn’t be more thankful.

Photos by Sara Landis, Tori Walls and Steph Erdice
When in Rome
By Alana Bielarski, Honors Junior

I spent the fall semester studying in Rome, Italy. I was helped along by the Honors Study Abroad Scholarship, which anyone who plans on studying abroad should apply for. Trust me, when you spend an entire semester unemployed in another country, you need to save every penny.

I can quite easily say that studying abroad was the greatest experience ever. I attended the American University of Rome (AUR), one of several American schools in Rome, so I didn’t have to be fluent in another language to attend. I still took an Italian course, however, which does count as a Category B language credit. I even had the chance to take a Shakespeare class that fulfilled credits for my English major. Two other classes, Art and Archaeology, allowed me to explore the city and study the centuries of art and archaeology of Rome. My archaeology class even counted as an Honors Seminar!

Classes were only four days a week, which allowed for travelling on the weekends. I wanted to travel within Italy, although I went to Athens for a few days over my fall break. I spent Thanksgiving in Naples with a friend who came to visit me, and traveled to Venice on another November weekend.

Through International Study Abroad, the program I went through to go to AUR, there were guided tours and excursions every month, as well as guided walking tours around the city every few weeks. We spent one weekend in October on the beautiful Amalfi Coast, climbing Mount Vesuvius, boating around the island of Capri, and touring Pompeii.

Ancient history nerd that I am, there was nothing more fulfilling than visiting the ruins of Rome and Pompeii. It’s incredible to stand in the same place as people did 2,000 years ago. Rome, the Eternal City, is an incredible juxtaposition of nearly every time period from the Ancient Republic until modern times.

A Tour of Italy

Come out to celebrate the success of our graduating seniors and the accomplishments of your fellow classmates at the Spring Banquet on Tuesday, April 26!
Honors Read: *The Fifth Wave*

By Audrey McGarrell, Honors Junior

On February 9 Honors Read met to discuss Rick Yancey’s award-winning young adult novel, *The Fifth Wave*. Alana Bielarski, one of the Honors Read co-chairs, opened the discussion by showing the trailer of the newly released movie based on the book. The group then discussed their opinions on casting choices and whether the movie appeared to follow the plot of the book. One student mentioned that seeing a realistic portrayal of the mass-destruction described in the book (for example, huge tsunamis and a worldwide blackout) was much more powerful than simply reading the book.

The group then turned its attention to the book itself. Some themes discussed included the use of a young, female main character and whether it seemed forced and out of place, or whether it was an important facet of the story. The students also analyzed the importance of the main character’s unique name—Cassiopeia—and expressed whether or not they believed it was an allusion to a Greek mythological character or simply an attempt at being quirky. Also discussed was the emotional effect that the book has on readers. Several topics in the novel that evoked strong emotions were the grisly descriptions of death, the loss of family members, and the amassment of a child army. The consensus appeared to be that, although *The Fifth Wave* is by no means unique in its genre, most students are anxious to read the sequel.

The next Honors Read book selection is *The Martian* by Andy Weir, which has also recently been made into a movie. The next discussion will be on Tuesday, March 22 at 3:30 p.m. in the Honors Seminar Room.

Dr. Sharon Harrow will host the first Spring 2016 Pizza with a Prof session on Thursday, March 17 at 3:30 p.m. in the Honors Seminar Room in President’s Hall! Come out to enjoy great food and delicious conversation!
Final Thoughts From The Editors

When John informed Jake and me that he was officially handing over the reins for editing the newsletter, I think it’s safe to say we were both a bit, well, terrified. As much practice as we had, there were going to be the inevitable days where we were essentially clueless. However, like any great teacher, John didn’t leave us out to dry. He still had a major part in the creation of this newsletter as I’m sure he will with all the newsletters until he graduates in May. I would like to take a moment to thank John for “showing us the ropes” as well as playing great music in the office and devising paper airplane raids. And, now I would like to ask all of you to join Jake and me on our adventure with .hnrs. We’re excited for the future!

Mackenzie Brouse

I hope that to you, the reader, this issue does not seem much different than the last issue of .hnrs. However, this marks the first issue that my partner, Mackenzie, and I have entered the metaphorical driver’s seat of this publication. Our fearless leader, John, declared that March is when our training wheels must be removed, and we must learn to pedal alone. Although we tipped over a few times along the way, I think we learned how to balance the weight of this newsletter. We hope that this is the first of many great newsletters to come!

Happy Reading,

Jake Gillespie
March 14: Application deadline to travel with Reach Out in January 2017. Submit application to Dr. Gretchen Pierce at gkpierce@ship.edu.

March 15: Freshmen Advising Meeting
3:30-4:15 p.m., DHC 204
All freshmen must attend in order to be approved to register for Honors classes for Fall 2016.

March 15: Application deadline to apply for a Portz Fellowship Scholarship.

March 16: Freshmen Advising Makeup Session
12:00-12:45 p.m., Honors Seminar Room, Presidents Hall

March 17: Pizza with a Prof:
Hosted by Dr. Sharon Harrow
3:30-4:15 p.m., Honors Seminar Room, Presidents Hall

March 17: Mentor/Mentee Scheduling/Study Night
9:15 p.m., Lehman Library

March 17: HSO Meeting
6:30 p.m., Presidents Hall MPR

March 17: Application deadline for Shippensburg University Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE). Applications are due by 4:00 p.m.

March 18: Global Dinner: Thailand
Hosted by Hannah Strauch
5:30 p.m., Location TBD

March 19: Annual Easter Egg Hunt
1:00-2:30 p.m., Student Rec Pavilion
Hosted by the HSO Activities Committee

March 22: Honors Registration for Fall 2016

March 22: Honors Read: *The Martian*
3:30-4:30 p.m., Honors Seminar Room, Presidents Hall

March 25: Application deadline for Honors summer orientation volunteers.

March 25: Application deadline for students who plan to study abroad in fall 2016.

March 28: Priority Registration for Fall 2016

April 3: Northeast Regional Honors Conference, Cambridge, MA

April 1: Application deadline for Honors independent capstone project grants for projects to be completed in Summer or Fall 2016. Submit applications to Cindy Poe at cmpoe@ship.edu.

April 1: Deadline for candidates for 2016-2017 HSO officers to submit their statements to HSO President Sarah Latch at sl4359@ship.edu.

April 1: Application deadline for HSO committee chair positions.

Week of April 4: Election of 2016-2017 HSO Officers

April 5: Major Scholarships Advising Workshop: Fulbright Program
3:30 p.m., Honors Seminar Room

April 7: HSO Meeting
6:30 p.m., Presidents Hall MPR