

The Honors Program Newsletter

VOL. 18, ISSUE 3

FROM THE HONORS OFFICE, HORTON HALL 104

NOVEMBER 2004

CALENDAR

For updates, go to our Web site, <http://www.ship.edu/~honors>, and click on "Calendar."

December

4 — **Excitement in Education**

18 — **Fall Commencement**

If you graduate in December, please contact Dr. Klein at kmklei@ship.edu to arrange an exit interview and to pick up your Honors cord.

17 — **Semester Break Begins**

January

13 — **Spring Honors General Meeting**

3:30 p.m., DHC 051

All Honors Program members are expected to attend.

19 — **Deadline for SSHE Summer Program Applications**

Applications are due by 11:45 a.m. to Sharon Poe in the Honors Office, Horton Hall 104.

February

3 — **Pizza with a Prof: Dr. Marcie L. Baer-Lehman, Biology Department**

5 - 5:45 p.m., Place TBA

The February newsletter will be mailed during the week of Feb. 22. Call x1604 or stop by the Honors Office if you do not receive it.

An "Uncommon Conversation" with James Carville

BY JEANNIE FLITNER, HONORS FRESHMAN

On Wednesday, October 27, Honors students participated in an "Uncommon Conversation" with Democratic political consultant James Carville. Nearly forty students attended the session in the CUB Multi-Purpose Room, which lasted almost an hour. The self-described "political junkie" gave students an opportunity to ask questions, mostly about the Presidential Election. Immediately Carville put students to ease by pulling up a chair and sitting in a circle with them. He asked each student to tell him about themselves before they asked him questions. The session provided students with not only a great opportunity to ask questions, but to listen and learn from a very distinguished individual. Honors students will have the opportunity to participate in several "Uncommon Conversations" with campus visitors in spring 2005. Look for more information on the Honors Web site in early January.

Honors Bridges Currents and Cultures in New Orleans

BY ERIN HARMON, HONORS JUNIOR

On November 10th, Dr. Klein, Stephanie Rush, Anna Carlen, Dana Leese, and I left for the National Collegiate Honors Conference, held in New Orleans. The theme of the conference was "Bridging Currents and Cultures," which provided the five of us with ideas on how to expand our community service projects, help incoming freshmen, and make connections with alumni.

Dana and I attended numerous sessions on freshman orientation and mentor/mentee programs. These sessions provided valuable insights regarding what kinds of programs work at other schools, as well as what is not successful. Stephanie and Anna attended sessions on alumni participation and marketing honors. The sessions were all very informative and will help us to further develop the Honors Program here at Ship.

Stephanie, Anna, and I also served as presenters of a session on bridging the gap between the community and Honors students. We presented our Excitement in Education program to about 40 other honors faculty and students from across the country, providing the details of our university, Honors Program, Excitement in Education, and how other universities can implement similar programs. Dr. Klein also presented a paper, "Building Partnerships with Other Programs on Campus."

While in New Orleans, we were also able to explore the city. There was a gala, held at Mardi Gras World, where we were able to eat and dance among parade floats actually used in Mardi Gras parades. Time was also built into the schedule to walk around the French Quarter, the old part of the city, and explore the markets and architecture. While the conference proved to be very informative, the city of New Orleans was also a lot of fun.

Honors officers Stephanie Rush, Anna Carlen, Erin Harmon, and Dana Leese are pictured at the NCHC Conference Gala at Mardi Gras World.



NE-NCHC Conference Call for Papers

Honors students and faculty will meet for the annual conference of the North-East National Collegiate Honors Council on April 7-10, 2005 in Pine Barrens, New Jersey. The conference theme is "Landscapes of Change." Students are invited to submit proposals on the following themes for paper presentations--The Corporate Garden; The Devil's Garden; Controlling the Landscape; and Natural Landscapes. The deadline for proposals is December 15, 2004. If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please contact Dr. Klein and visit the conference Web site, <http://itweb.salisbury.edu/~rkengland/NEHonsConf.htm>.

Internship Opportunities for Honors Students in Washington, D.C. and Harrisburg

BY JESSICA KROUT, HONORS FRESHMAN

Dr. Kim Fox, of the Political Science Department, senior Anna Carlen and junior Dana Leese met with Honors freshmen on October 26 as part of the "Freshmen Orientation Session and Dinner series." While the freshmen enjoyed pizza, soda and cookies, Dr. Fox, Carlen and Leese discussed internship opportunities in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C.

Dr. Fox, has coordinated SU students' participation in the Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) for the past five years. With THIS, one or two students from Shippensburg University work at a state government agency for an entire semester. Students are interviewed and must hand in applications and resumes just like a regular job would require. In addition, one must be a junior or senior with a minimum 3.0 grade point average, with a letter of recommendation from the faculty and writing sample. The main focus of the internship is to get students from state schools working for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Carlen and Leese discussed their experiences with internships this past summer with the Washington Center. The Washington Center offers a wide variety of public and private internship opportunities. Carlen interned at a D.C. advertising agency, and Leese interned at the Treasury Department. In this program, students receive nine credits from Shippensburg for the internship itself and three credits for a night class one must take while in the program. A student can attend fall, spring, or summer semesters, but Carlen and Leese recommend the summer before one's junior year.

"You get to meet with senators and all sorts of important people," Leese said. This experience, combined with the city life and "getting to experience the real world while still in college," are all reasons why Carlen and Leese would recommend the Washington Center.

Dr. Kim Klein, director of the Honors Program, stressed that getting involved in an internship is crucial for many careers. Carlen, because she is currently a senior, agreed that most jobs today look for two to five years of experience. Even teachers are encouraged to intern in the particular field they are interested in teaching or with the Department of Education. Therefore, internships are essential to almost any career path.

THE HONORABLE MENTION

Thanks to Shannon Connor, Tracy Halstead and Ashlee Johnson for representing the Honors Program at the Admissions Open Houses in October and November.

The Honors students who participated in the Rails to Trails cleanup on November 6 included Jenn Bly, Stacey Budzyn, Anna Carlen, Ashley Cayless, Emily Cisney, James Dibble, Jen Matthias, and Audrey Weeks.

Congratulations to the five Honors students awarded Undergraduate Research Grants. The students and their project titles are: Rebecca Grimme, *Investigations into DNA Oligonucleotide Coverage on Magnetic Core/Gold Shell Nanoparticles*; Mark Lehman, *The Evolution of the Roman Legion*; Ben Illig, *Z-Fourier Transform of Witten's 4-Vortex*; Ben Sauerwine, *Computation Methods and Strong Field Theory*; and Stephanie Ficiak, *Gender Differences in Feedback Seeking*.

Honors students help cleanup the community

BY ANNA CARLEN, HONORS SENIOR

Honors students just aren't hitting the books this semester, but taking time out to help improve their community. In conjunction with the Volunteers' Club, Honors students spent time on Saturday, November 6th, cleaning the trail that runs in front of campus. As usual, students found bottles, cans and food wrappers as they cleaned the trail. However, the more interesting items this year were tires, Kerry signs, and even a car bumper!

The trail at Shippensburg is 11 miles long and stretches until Newville. The trail used to be a stretch of railroad tracks but has since been converted for walking, jogging, or biking.

For more information on Rails to Trails or future clean up dates, visit their website at <http://www.cvrctc.org/>.

For more information on the Volunteers' Club and their activities please contact the club at volunteersclub@yahoo.com.



Some of the Honors students who helped with Rails to Trails cleanup are pictured to the right.

HONORS PROGRAM OFFICE

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Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Fri. 8 - 11:45 a.m.
<http://www.ship.edu~honors>

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Honors Freshmen Enjoy Art and Harbor in Baltimore

BY JESSICA KROUT, HONORS FRESHMAN
The Slate

Mosaics, sculptures, reliquaries, and stained glass windows are just a few of the art masterpieces that World History I Honors freshmen set their eyes on at The Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, Maryland. The freshmen ventured to the museum on Friday, Oct. 22, under the leadership of their professors, Dr. Christine Senecal and Dr. Steven Burg. Freshman Amanda Jacoby enjoyed the experience and said, "The thing I enjoyed most about the museum was the wide variety of collections of the art pieces. My favorite piece was the 'Passion of Christ'-- it was so incredible and the detail was so intricate and elaborate."

The "Passion of Christ" depicted scenes of Christ's life with Christ hanging on the crucifix at the top center. The altarpiece was the focus of an entire wall of the museum in the middle of the Medieval World Collection. Freshman Danielle Geller agreed. "I really enjoyed all the Byzantine art; everything was so intricate and beautiful." Geller and Jacoby also agree that the artwork in the museum tied in closely to the material being discussed in class. "It gave us a better understanding of the technology and craftsmanship of the different time periods," Jacoby said.

Freshman Matt Stern recalled a particular piece of art from a time period that was studied earlier in his class. "I even saw a piece of Egyptian art from the age of Akhenaten, a pharaoh we read an entire book about," Stern said.

While the museum seemed to be liked by the majority of students, many agreed that the two hours spent there were far too short. "I think we should have spent a lot more time at the actual museum. I felt extremely rushed, and I would have enjoyed more time to just browse around," Geller said.

After perusing the artwork, students climbed back on the bus and rode to the Inner Harbor, only about three minutes away from the museum. There, the freshmen ate lunch and visited various exhibits of the harbor, including the Baltimore National Aquarium, Barnes and Noble, and the Maryland Science Center. Geller recommends the field trip for future classes, as she believes she would enjoy going back herself. "I think that it was very educational and fun at the same time, and I think future classes would like it a lot, too. It's an awesome experience."



Honors freshmen enjoy the sights of the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland.

Experiencing Austrian life 2004

BY CAITLIN TORRENS, HONORS JUNIOR

"That's a great PO, baby!" This is one of the many Dr. Benhart quotes that became popular during my trip to Austria. This past July I was able to take an environmental geography course with Dr. Benhart, who among other things is a geography professor at Shippensburg University. The course was a twenty-two day trip to Austria full of fantastic POs or picture opportunities.

Dr. Benhart and his son, Dr. Benhart Jr., took twenty-two students to Austria with them. Our group included a six- and an eight-year-old (Dr. Benhart's grandchildren) all the way up to another Ship professor, Dr. McCall. Most of the students in our class were undergraduate or graduate students, however. We quickly got to know one another well because this course was a course on the go. Thirteen field trips were included in the course. This allowed me to see parts of Germany and different areas in Austria, instead of sitting inside a classroom.

We lived in Grodig, which is about thirty minutes away from Salzburg, Austria. These two areas became my home for July. I also got to visit many small towns in Austria. Our class went to the Werfen Ice Caves and saw gigantic ice formations. Other places we stopped at in Austria included Innsbruck, the Grossglockner (High Alps), and my favorite Liechtensteinklamm. Liechtensteinklamm is a gorge cut out by a river with a gorgeous waterfall at the end of the hike. In Germany, Munich, Eagle's Nest, and Dachau concentration camp were some of the major spots at which we stopped. Every place we went to was amazing, beautiful, and different from America.

Austria is an environmentally friendly country. It is important in their culture to protect and preserve green space. Mountains are kept clear of development and therefore are full of trees. Major highways are bordered by trees. To help preserve the environment many Austrians walk, bike, or take public transportation. One of the most interesting differences is that many Austrians don't have refrigerators. Instead they buy fresh foods every week at an open market. It was great being able to buy freshly picked foods.

I learned so much about myself and others during my experience abroad. This year I am riding my bike around everywhere. I recommend to everyone to go abroad if they have the chance. It really is the experience of a lifetime. Learning opportunities about life are boundless when you go abroad.



Students in Dr. Benhart's Environmental Geography course in Austria 2004 are pictured above.

**Thursday, January 13, 2005
Honors Spring
General Meeting
3:30 p.m., DHC 051**

Begin the semester right by seeing all of your Honors classmates and learning about the many Uncommon Conversations, Pizza with A Prof, community service projects, and other opportunities available this spring. All Honors Program members are expected to attend.

HONORS READ: Books for Spring Honors Read discussions— *The Intuitionist*, *The Heart of Darkness*, and *The Virgin Suicides*—are available in the Honors Office. Pick one up to read over the break!

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