The Honors Chronicle

Volume 21, Issue 3

http://webspace.ship.edu/honors

November 2007

Calendar

December

1 - Honors Alumni Advisory **Council Meeting** 12:00-2:30 p.m.

1 - Inaugural Honors Symposium

Tuscarora Room, 3:00-4:30 p.m. Honors students will present their research and service-learning projects at the first annual Honors Symposium.

5 - HSO Meeting CUB 217, 8:00 p.m.

15 - Commencement

Congratulations to our December graduates: Nicholas Anspach, Ashley Cayless, Amanda Forest, Jessica Krout, Margaret Kirkpatrick, Alexander Wynne.

January

7 - Deadline for Submitting **Applications for 2008 SSHE** Summer Program in China

Applications are due by 11:45 a.m. to Sharon Poe in the Honors office, HH 104.

14 - Regular Class Schedule Begins

Meeting and Reception

NCHC 'challenges environments' at Denver conference

Above right: Nicole Thierwechter presents on Geek Week.

Right: Honors students Amy Harmon, Michelle Baker, Joe Livingston, Ryan Blackman, and Nicole Thierwechter accompany Dr. Kim Klein, Honors Program Director, at the mile-high city.



By Nicole Thierwechter, Honors senior

This year, Michelle Baker, Ryan Blackman, Amy Harmon, Nicole Thierwechter, and Joe Livingston traveled to the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Conference in Denver, Colorado. After arriving in Denver, we started to acclimate ourselves to our surroundings and the elevation (a mile above sea level). Being at the conference gave us a great opportunity to exchange ideas with other honors students from around the nation. Each of us attended several sessions in the hopes of gaining some valuable information to help move our honors program forward. Topics of the sessions included methods of breaking down barriers between the honors program and the campus at large, partners in the parks (more information to follow), living-learning communities, evening and social programming, and obtaining honors space. We also attended a poster session to learn about the research interests of fellow honors students. At the same time we were able to share some

of our programs, such as Geek Week and our Kiss-a-Pig fundraiser, with students and advisors from other universities. Both were wellreceived and some audience members indicated that they would like to implement some of our programs at their own universities.

In addition to the busy schedule of the Honors conference, we were able to experience some of Denver's sites, including Coors Field and the Capitol building. We were able to eat local food on our first night in the city; the five of us and Dr. Klein had dinner in a local restaurant that had antlers as a chandelier and some characteristically spicy food on the menu. On the last night, all of the Honors students and advisors came together to partake in a delicious, fancy dinner given by the NCHC. We were also able

See NCHC

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22 - Honors Spring General

CUB Multi-Purpose Room, 3:30 p.m.

Inaugural Honors Symposium scheduled December 1

Honors Colloquium students plan to present their research.

The Honors Program will host its first Honors Symposium on Saturday, December 1, from 3:00-4:30 p.m. in the Tuscarora Room. The Symposium is a new formal forum where students who complete the University Honors Program curriculum projects.

Students enrolled in the Honors Colloquium, the capstone course for the University Honors Program, will present their research on a LEED- ate research projects. This year's program will certified Honors living/learning center. Colloquium feature research presentations by Ashley Cayless students will also discuss their alternative fall break and Jessica Krout. will present the results of their Honors capstone to Wallops Island, Virginia, where they studied the legacy of environmental activist Rachel Carson.

The symposium will also include presentations by students who completed individual undergradu-

Honors students, alumni, parents, and SU administrators and faculty are invited to attend.

SideNotes By Stacie Wight

Voting

VOICE All Americans are given the gift of voice. With our voice, we must

stand up together and articulate how we want our country run. We share our thoughts and opinions with our friends, now it is time to share them with the rest of the country.



OPINION Take your

values and opinions to the polls. It is your job as a U.S. citizen to vote on major political issues. Now is not the time to stay close-mouthed on hotbutton topics.

TAXES How do you want your tax money put to use in the United States? Do you want more tax money spent on education or medical research? Take a stand and voice your thoughts. It is your money; help decide how to use it.

IMMIGRANTS Immigrants have made the decision to become voters and support United States. whereas most natural-born Americans have had this gift since birth. Do not take advan-



tage of your freedoms, but instead be inspired by all those who have worked hard for their rights to vote.

NOVEMBER The presidential election is around the corner. Step up, and start researching the presidential candidates today so that you know who you want to support next November.

GREAT We live in a great country with many freedoms that our soldiers have fought long and hard for. Who are we to turn around and dispose of these freedoms by not voting? Stand up today, and prepare yourself for the 2008 Presidential Election.

Service committee runs and reads, picks up trash and tabs

By Megan Veazey, Honors sophomore

The service committee picked up trash, read to elementary school students, ran relays, and collected soda tabs within one semester.

The first service project, the Rails to Trails clean-up on October 20, went fantastically. Everyone had a good time cleaning up the trail that extends next to Adams Drive and eating pizza together afterwards.

On November 9, the committee traveled to Nancy Grayson Elementary School to read to students. It was a great opportunity for all education majors to get into the Shippensburg Area All Honors students are invited School District.

the Honors Program car-pooled mester's events.

to the second annual Dash for Drew event in Greencastle. The money raised benefited the Drew Michael Taylor Foundation, established to provide educational and recreational opportunities for children.

Finally, the Honors Program picked up some tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. From November 12-14, Honors students oversaw a table in the CUB, where anyone could drop off soda can tabs.

Just as a reminder to everyone, every Honors student must attain four of their participation points from a service-related activity. to join the service committee, On November 10, members of and help to brainstorm next se-



Speak Out!



By Kara Bushman, Honors sophomore

"I think the construction has made the air quality on campus very poor."



Dennis Shindle Sophomore

"It's disruptive, especially near Dauphin, and the students are displaced from where they would normally be."



Diana Schneider Sophomore

What do you think about the construction impact, environmental or otherwise, on campus?

"I think they need to do better planning on campus, so that they don't tear stuff down needlessly, such as the trees that were in front of Grove Hall."



Dr. Barbara Denison Sociology Professor

"Construction and remodeling is really necessary on campus. If we make clear improvements that are environmentally friendly, it's worth



Amy Harmon Junior

"Why have so many projects going at one time? The campus looks like a huge mess."



Kayse Vernon Sophomore

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Undergraduate Research, Study Abroad, and Internship Opportunities



Photo courtesy of JohnPaul Bennett

By JohnPaul Bennett, Honors sophomore

This was my first time on a plane, in a taxi, and on a subway. My first cell phone, apartment, taste of dog, octopus, duck, yak, and a cow tongue. My first time climbing the Great Wall, seeing the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace and Tiananmen Square.

Most importantly, this was my first trip to the Land of the Rising Sun, China. I have spent the last two months in Beijing, and I have experienced many firsts. I am

studying Mandarin and taking three other classes that focus on business, culture and religion at Central University for Nationalities, and I will be studying in Shanghai next semester.

I had made so many assumptions before going on the trip that I was completely surprised by what I saw when I arrived. The China I thought I would see had been gone for more than 10 years, and my eyes now saw a city modernized in every aspect of economy, culture,

and social structure. Also, it helped when I saw McDonalds, KFC, TGI Fridays, Wal-Mart, and Hooters. By immersing myself into China's vast culture, I have learned a great deal about ethnic minority issues and issues that influence the economy.

I learned to further understand this culture when I lived with farmers and nomads for two weeks in the remote provinces of Oinghai and Gansu. My adventures ranged from horseback riding in the grasslands of Oinghai, a motorcycle ride through a valley, liberating yaks, drinking baijiao with monks, climbing the walls of an 11th century Mongolian castle, tossing rocks into the Yellow River, and numerous hikes around the plateau (one in particular to Treasure Mountain). Having the opportunity to meet villagers who had never met foreigners before and seeing their expressions was priceless. I returned to Beijing with a new level of appreciation and understanding of the Tibetan culture.

For those who may be wondering about the food, it is absolutely delicious. I honestly thought that I would lose weight on this trip but just the opposite has occurred. The hospitality and amount of food they serve has been excessive. There hasn't been a meal where I am not asked if I would like more food or told to keep eating.

However, when I get tired of eating traditional Chinese food, I walk over to McDonalds and order a double-heesy (a.k.a. a double cheeseburger).

The feeling of being a minority in a distant land has been new to me and I have felt the opinions of others towards my race and nationality. Also, the price for food and drinks is ridiculous. Adult beverages are 20 cents, 80 cents for a bottle of water, and 10 dollars for a full course meal that could feed 10 adults.

Finally, the most enjoyable time I have is at the markets. Now I'm not one to get excited about shopping, but when you get to yell at the salesperson, it's well worth it. Numerous times I have been hit on the arm or in the chest by a salesperson for bargaining down to the Beijing price, which foreigners don't usually get.

I encourage everyone to study abroad if the opportunity comes along. This trip was made possible because of the guidance and helpfulness of Shippensburg, the Study Abroad office, and the Council on International Educational Exchange. If there are questions or anything I can help you with while I am here, please feel free to e-mail me at ib4140@ship.edu.

Greetings from abroad,

John Paul Bennett

Colloquium students travel to Wallops Island on Fall Break

By Julie Miller, Honors senior

This fall students from the Honors Colloquium class had the opportunity to participate in the first ever Alternative Fall Break trip to Wallops Island, Virginia. The purpose of this trip was to show students the first hand the effects of water pollution in the Chesapeake Bay. The Colloquium class has spent the semester focusing on Rachel Carson and her views on environmental issues.

To begin our adventure we stopped in Baltimore on Friday evening to visit the Inner Harbor and the aquarium. Upon touring the aquarium we continued our journey to the Marine Science Consortium on Wallops Island where we spent the remainder of the trip.

Wallops Island is located near Chincoteague Island, where on Saturday the Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center was holding a 100 year commemorative celebration of Rachel Carson's life. To help celebrate, we made arrangements to dis-

play a bulletin board to inform children about the life of Rachel Carson.

Saturday afternoon was spent kayaking from Chincoteague Memorial Park to learn about coastal exploration and environments. Once we landed on Assateague Island, we explored the beach finding numerous crabs, jellyfish, and other aquatic life.

Each evening we had the opportunity to hear speakers from around the region. The first speaker was from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and she spoke about the life of Rachel Carson. It was at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that Rachel Carson had begun her career and it was especially interesting to hear her speak about Rachel's effect on the environmental movement.

Sunday we took part in a coastal marsh cleanup at Tom's Cove where we picked up garbage from the marsh. We were shocked at the amount of garbage the group collected!



Photo courtesy of Emily Cisney

Honors students Joe Livingston, Jenn Bly, Scott Jones, Mustafa Khaliqi, and Emily Cisney gather on the beach during their stay at the Marine Science Consortium.

Among all the students we accumulated over 40 bags of garbage in just a few hours. The bulk of the garbage was hundreds of feet of netting, used by locals to keep their clam harvests under control.

See WALLOPS

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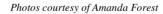


By Amanda Forest, Honors senior

Studying abroad. It's one of those options that college students are presented with as part of an orientation package, something that sticks in the back of your mind as a pretty cool idea, but not something you would ever think you would be able to do. As a freshman, you romanticize the idea and dream of living in a far-off country, but the idea usually fades quickly as you learn to focus on your new college life. I experienced similar thoughts as a freshman, but for me, the idea of living for an entire semester in a completely foreign place was so enchanting, I couldn't get the idea out of my head. Deciding where to go was easy, I wanted an English speaking country where things would be different, but not too different. I finally decided on Australia because of the seemingly remote location and the promise of warm weather. So, I saved up all of my free electives and the only way to know is to find out for yourself. waited until this, my final semester, Fall 2007, to embark on my journey.

After a disastrous and long series of flights, I finally arrived in Cairns, Queensland for my orientation. It was really more like vacation as I got the chance to experience snorkeling the Great Barrier Reef, feeding kangaroos, holding a koala, and dancing with Aboriginals all in a three-day span. Even though it was technically winter at the time, the temperature remained around a gorgeous 73 degrees, or about 23 Celsius, which is how the Aussies would report it. The vacation mindset extended as I flew down to Brisbane, Queensland where I was to attend the University of Queensland. I and my dozen other American companions from orientation arrived at our dorm, or college as the Aussies call it, and orientation, otherwise known as O-week began. O-week was really more of a series of parties than actual orientation activities and the vacation feel continued. Even when classes started, vacation mode was still in effect because of the warm weather and different accents I heard everywhere I went.

After a while, I settled into a routine and novel things that were once part of a cool, new culture began to become common and some even frustrating. Lack of peanut butter was one big problem for me since PB and J is my staple food. Little things like food preferences are something you would never notice until you live in a foreign place for an extended period of time.





Classes at uni (which is the Australian slang for college or university) are dramatically different from classes at Ship. One large lecture per week lasting two hours and often containing several hundred students is the norm. Each class usually also has what is called a Tutorial and is a much smaller group from the lecture that more closely resembles classes at Ship, but only held once a week. As a result, time spent in class is usually minimal and I actually had both Wednesdays and Fridays off. Assignments are also fewer and farther between. For each of my classes I had three assignments, one small, one larger usually a paper, and a final exam. The grading scale is also dramatically different as an 85% is the equivalent of our A. Because I had saved my free electives, I was able to take courses such as Australian Pop Culture and Australian Political Science that allowed me to learn more about Australian life. On campus, students tend to dress up much more for class. It was strange because at Ship, the hooded sweatshirt and jeans is practically the school uniform while at UQ, fashionable outfits in European style, girls in skirts and guys in designer t-shirts, were much more common and I actually felt like I stuck out when I would wear a hoodie to class.

It is very hard to describe to family and friends at home what you're experiencing when you live abroad. Because you're living in a different place, no matter how closely it may resemble home, it is noticeably different and learning to adapt to a totally different culture is an experience that I feel would be very beneficial for all students to have. Your ability to relate to different people and tolerance for different ideas and lifestyles is greatly increased by being a stranger in a new place. It is difficult to adjust to, but well worth the effort in the end. Studying abroad is definitely an experience I would recommend and one that I will certainly use and cherish for the rest of my life. As I said before, it is impossible to describe the amazing experiences, fun memories, and knowledge you will accumulate by living life for several months in a different country, so

NCHC Cont'd

to share an Italian dinner experience at a nearby restaurant with students from Lock Haven during the weekend. Though we were very much in the city, the Rockies were visible on the horizon. For some of us, it was a first trip to Denver; it proved to be a lovely city with even lovelier natural surroundings. We all left wishing for a few more days in Denver. However, we were happy for the ideas we shared and received, the chance to experience Denver, and the extra hour of sleep that Daylight Saving Time granted us on Sunday when we had to travel home. We would like to thank Dr. Klein and the Honors Program for this opportunity. Next year's conference will take place in San Antonio, Texas. If you have ideas for a presentation, please contact Dr. Klein for further information.

Undergrads receive grants for research

The institute for Public Service at Shippensburg University has announced the recipients of this year's undergraduate research grants. Congratulations to the following Honors students who earned undergraduate research grants for the 2007-08 academic year:

- Matthew Baile "Determination of source Waters and Flowpaths to Limestone springs in Cumberland County, PA with Flourescent Dye
- Stacy Crum "The Dual Roles of y-Glutamyl Transpeptidase in the Cellular reponse to Reactive oxygen Species
- Margaret Kirkpatrick "Online Archive of Gustav Dore Illustrations for Samuel Taylor Coleridge's 'Rime of the Ancyent Marinere'"
- Jessica Krout "Reader Comprehension and Design Preferences Among College-Age Newspaper Readers"
- Nicole Tucker "Medieval Launching Devices: An Interdisciplinary Approach through Physics and History"
- Beth Zucconi "Biochemical basis for Disassembly of Tight Junction Proteins in Diabetic Retinopathy"

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Partners in the Parks emphasizes beauty of nature

By Joe Livingston, Honors junior

There are over 300 National Parks located throughout the United States. Some are national monuments like our nearby Gettysburg. Others are wilderness areas like Isle Royale, an island in Lake Superior. They are all beautiful areas of our nation whether that beauty is historic or wilderness. Despite their splendor, American visitors to our national parks have declined over the years. The program, Partners in the Parks, was first dreamed up as a way to counteract this declining attendance and to take advantage of the learning resources available from a national park.

Southern Utah University volunteered to host a trail run in May 2007. They took twenty-two honors students from around the nation on a week long excursion into Bryce Canyon National Park. Students learned early that they weren't ordinary visitors to the park. They worked hand in hand with rangers on research projects and were allowed into sections currently closed off to the public. Students also attended workshops on fire management, archeology, and endangered species taught by the park's rangers right alongside seasonal interpretive rangers being trained. In addition, students got to experience the back country and learn some valuable outdoor skills.

This year the program is being expanded with the cooperation of the National Park Service and other universities willing to host these events. Along with the addition of more parks, the program is being expanded to city and urban living allowing rural students a chance to experience the city along with the national parks and national seashore located in New York City. Seven programs are already planned for spring 2008 and plans are in place to further ex-

WALLOPS Cont'd

After all the hard work in the marsh, the remainder of the afternoon was spent at the beach on Assateague Island.

Sunday evening we listened to the head of the Marine Science Consortium (where we were staying) on their goals and plans for the facility. They have an alliance with several of the Universities in the region and are hoping to continue to expand their program. The facility is in the process of planning major renovations to continue to attract student groups.

Our first look at the effects of pollution in the water came on Monday. Due to many different factors, pollution being one, oyster fishing in the Chesapeake Bay has reached an all time low. This is having many negative effects on the region's economy because of it's reliance on this industry. To help produce these reports, we were able to help in the oyster census. Also, being that it was the first day of oyster season, we were able to join some fisherman and watch them catch oysters

To wrap up the trip home on Tuesday, we stopped at a farm in St. Thomas (Chambersburg) who was awarded for Best Management Practices for farm runoff. We saw how the manure and runoff from the cows is controlled and does not damage the water that eventually runs into the Chesapeake Bay. It was shocking to see the potential damage just one farm could cause, luckily we saw the good way to control runoff, however many farms throughout Pennsylvania and other states do not follow these practices.

Overall the trip reinforced how much of an impact we can have on the environment. The farms in Pennsylvania have an effect on the water in the Chesapeake Bay and that impact has a direct result on the economy of that area. The trip has brought a challenge to us, how can we bring change to the University to help prevent destruction to our environment?

pand the program in years to come. The Partners in the Parks program is a truly remarkable initiative, incorporating service-learning, outdoor skills, and real research in an outdoor classroom setting.



Schedule for 2008:

- 1. Acadia (August 9-15)
- 2. Fire Island to Ellis Island (May 18-24)
- 3. Mammoth Cave (May 18-24)
- 4. Big Thicket (Spring Break, Mar. 10-15)
- 5. Bryce Canyon (May 26-31)
- 6. Zion (May 26-31)
- 7. Grand Canyon-Parashant (May 12-17)

More information on these programs and Partners in the Parks can be found at http://www.partnersintheparks.org/.

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THE HONORS CHRONICLE

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Honors educates Harrisburg students

By Valerie Koontz, Honors junior

Excitement in Education is a great experience for both the middle school students who come and the honors students who volunteer. The last one on Saturday, November 17, was no exception. Throughout the day, the 7th grade students took three classes. These "college classes" allowed them to get a feel for college academic life. The students also went on campus tours escorted by the Honors students. However, their favorite part of the day came when they got to eat in Reisner Dining Hall. When asked at the end of the day what they enjoyed the most, many students responded that they liked the food! This experience is very important as these middle school students start thinking about college.

Reminder: Spring General Meeting

January 22, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.



Place to be determined All Honors students must attend.



THE HONORABLE MENTION

Thanks to all of the students who represented the Honors Program at the University Open House on October 20: **Jason Unrath, Kayse Vernon,** and **Sara Wiazelek.**

Jason Hornberger and **Dr. Rob Neidigh** led the most recent Honors Read book discussion on *Money Ball*.

Thanks to all of the students who helped with Rails to Trails: Jesica Barben, Jenn Bly, Lisa Brehm, Grace Burkholder, Emily Cisney, Elana DiPietro, Brett Hollendonner, Mustafa Khaliqi, Kaitlin Klinger, Neil lennon, Serenity Macaluso, Lindsay Poehlman, Emily Sattler, and Megan Veazey.

Thanks to the students who helped to make Excitement in Education a great success: Michelle Baker, Jessica Barben, Grace Burkholder, James Capetola, Matthew Corson, Kate DiNolfi, Kelly Dirks, Samantha Dougherty, Eva Freeh, Kristen Imboden, Emily Jung, Valerie Koontz, Emily Kremmel, Margaret Merlie, Julie Miller, Sarah Mousetis, Michele Muenker, Emily Sattler, Christina Shirk, Angela Shultz, Kara Slowick, Shaun Thompson, Jason Unrath, Audrey Weeks, and Sara Wlazelek.