A New Home for Honors: Construction of Honors Residence Hall to Begin in Spring

By Angela Darosh, Honors senior and Chelsea Meier, Honors sophomore

President William Ruud recently announced that Shippensburg University Student Services, Inc. (SUSSI) and Campus Apartments have agreed to begin the first of a three-phase construction project that will replace all current university residence halls. The project’s first phase is set to commence in spring 2011. Though the project will provide improved living conditions for more than 900 students, it also has unique implications for Shippensburg University Honors students.

Honors Colloquium Students Plan Service Project

By Lindsay Berkstresser, Honors senior

Six students, Lindsay Berkstresser, Sabrina Doolley, Samantha Dougherty, Joey Sauthoff, Kara Slowick and Sara Shin, from the Honors Colloquium, Viruses and History, under the leadership of Dr. Burg and Dr. Elliott, are implementing a semester-long service learning project in partnership with the AIDS Community Alliance.

With the goal of raising awareness around campus and throughout the Shippensburg community, the Honors Colloquium service project students are working industriously to educate their peers at Shippensburg University about HIV/AIDS prevention. The six students designed informational posters and created web groups that discuss topics relevant to today’s college students.

On November 8, 2010, the service project group hosted a guest speaker and movie night followed by a question-and-answer session. The information session was designed to provide a comfortable environment for students to ask questions.

The session also promoted awareness of the fact that HIV/AIDS continues to pervade college campuses. Guest Speaker, Mrs. Susan Mull, delivered an eye-opening message about her experiences with HIV to the students in attendance. Mrs. Mull has attended international conferences on HIV/AIDS and has participated in forums on women living with HIV in Philadelphia.

Calendar

December

1 - Honors Read: The Book Thief
6:30 p.m., Shippen Hall 230
The discussion will be led by Elisabeth Davis and Dr. Mark Sachleben.

2 - End of the Semester Movie Night
7:00 p.m., Seavers Lounge
The Recreation Committee is showing the movie, Ratatouille. Dinner will be provided.

2 – Card Making Service Opportunity
3:30-5:30 p.m., Location TBA
Honors students will make cards for terminally ill children. If you are interested in helping, please contact Miranda Aaron at ma6545@ship.edu.

5 - Zumbathon!
2:00-4:00 p.m., Ship Rec Center
The Reach Out students are hosting a Zumbathon to support their literacy and leadership project in the Dominican Republic. The participation fee is $5.00 for students and $10.00 for non-students.

7 - HSO Service Project
5:00-7:00 p.m., King’s Kettle, Shippensburg Students will volunteer at the local food pantry.

January

10 - Deadline for Applying for the 2011 PASSHE Summer Honors Program in Bermuda
Applications are due by 11:45 a.m. to Sharon Poe, Horton Hall 201. Please note that you may submit your application electronically.

27 - Honors Spring Reception and General Meeting
3:45 p.m., Tuscarora Room, Reisner Hall
All Honors students are required to attend.
The Honors Chronicle

Housing, cont’d

pleasure to work with fellow Honors students to help design an Honors residence hall where future students can live and learn in a communal and familial-like setting,” says Honors sophomore, Chelsea Meier. “We also hope to promote more interaction between faculty and students in the new facility.”

In total, the three-phase construction project will take approximately five years to complete. The expectation is that the new residence halls will provide all students with living-learning environments that will greatly enrich their college experience. Most certainly, Shippensburg Honors students will reap numerous rewards with such an academically enriching environment in our future home.

The opening of the Honors residence hall will also allow the Honors Program to meet national standards for Honors Colleges and make the transition from program to college in fall 2012.

The Honors Program would like to thank President William Ruud and everyone who has made this project possible.

HONORABLE ALUM: JAMIE McNULTY

2010 Graduate Utilizes Honors Program Experiences in France

By Krista Bussewitz, Honors sophomore

As the semester draws to a close, students across campus are overwhelmed by the inevitable deluge of work: term papers, projects, and the dreaded final exams. It is difficult, sometimes, to find perspective about what all the hard work is for.

To help gain some perspective, I interviewed Jamie McNulty, a Shippensburg University alumnus who graduated in spring 2010. She credits her experience in the Honors Program for broadening the scope of her education, saying “the skills learned from the Honors Program reached beyond a traditional curriculum and it is that ‘thinking outside the box’ mentality that has pushed me to achieve my goals post-graduation.” This pursuit of her goals has appeared to indeed serve Jamie well, as she was selected by the Cultural Services Division of the French Embassy for a prestigious French-language teaching assistantship in the city of Arras, in northern France.

Jamie credits her desire to teach in France to a study abroad experience that she had in 2008. She studied in Grenoble, which is located in the French Alps. “It was gorgeous,” she said of the location. For her studies, she was enrolled in a local university where she studied French language and culture. Though she described the class work as “intense,” she found that “the learning experience of being surrounded by the real culture and language was one that couldn’t compare to standard classroom learning. It also greatly increased my global perspective.”

However, not all the time Jamie spent in France was spent in the classroom. She took advantage of being able to travel across Europe to cities as diverse as Grenoble, Nice, Monaco, and London. She also went skiing twice in the Alps. But perhaps one of the best parts of her study abroad experience was the friendships she made.

Jamie said that her favorite memories were from the evenings spent cooking dinner together and talking with other students. The students lived together in a central dorm, which facilitated communication among them, despite their varied backgrounds and fields of study. Jamie noted that “I was very lucky to have such diverse cultural interaction and to meet people not just from France, but other countries all around the world.”

For all of these reasons—from the places to the people, to the classrooms and the culture—Jamie highly recommends studying abroad to any major for as long as possible. In fact, she said that she wishes that she could have studied in France longer, and stayed there the full year.

At the conclusion of our interview, I asked Jamie if she had any advice for current Honors students. She counseled, “I would tell them to take advantage of every opportunity they have as a student, as those experiences are invaluable to your overall education at university and are not to be passed up.”

Jamie plans to find a position teaching French to Anglophones in France or the United States, putting all those hard years of studying to good use.
Pizza with a Prof: Dr. Corrine Bertram & Dr. Ashley Seibert

By Angela Darosh, Honors senior

This past month, Honors students were, once again, able to take a break from their busy academic schedules and enjoy a pizza dinner hosted by Shippensburg University professors. On Wednesday, November 10, Pizza with a Prof was hosted by Dr. Corrine Bertram and Dr. Ashley Seibert, professors in the Psychology Department. The event took place in Franklin Science Center, home of the Psychology Department.

One of the best aspects of Pizza with a Prof is the fact that students and professors are able to have relaxed conversations on a variety of topics. The conversation at this particular Pizza with a Prof revolved predominantly around study abroad experiences. Students discussed their past experiences as well as future plans for studying abroad. Honors students who had not yet studied abroad expressed significant interest in doing so, however, the notion was that financial limitations occur when attempting to study abroad. It is important to note that students can apply for up to $400 through the Honors Program to help cover travel expenses when studying abroad. Additionally, students can earn up to six Honors credits! Both professors offered up their thoughts, agreeing that students should take any opportunity available to study abroad.

Dr. Bertram and Dr. Seibert also discussed their psychological research experiences and interests. One of Dr. Bertram’s current focuses is on self-defense and rape avoidance behaviors among women and girls. Some of her other research interests include examining the scope of justice in feminist and women’s organizations, feminist social psychology, and youth participatory educational projects.

Dr. Seibert, on the other hand, is interested in parent-child attachment during middle childhood. More specifically, she is interested in how parent-child attachment affects children in terms of emotional development and relationships.

“I am not a psychology major, but I found it interesting to hear about the professors’ personal research projects,” said Holly Plank, Honors sophomore. “It is great that professors are able to enrich students’ undergraduate research experience by involving them in their own projects.”

Overall, the November Pizza with a Prof was another successful Honors event! If you have suggestions for professors whom you would like to invite to host a Pizza with a Prof, please contact Dr. Klein. Information about the spring semester Pizza with a Prof sessions will be posted on the Honors website soon!

Speak Out!

By Carley Heck and Rachel Slotkin, Honors freshmen

Eating a wonderful breakfast of eggs Benedict.

Noret Flood
Honors sophomore

I found a great pile of crunchy leaves today and stepped in them. The sound is just so satisfying and indicative of fall in Shippensburg!

Abby Montler
Honors junior

Thinking of all the fun I will have with my family over Thanksgiving break.

Sarah Maize
Honors freshman

My daughter’s laugh.

Dr. Christine Senecal
Honors professor

The set building for Act V’s productions of Rumors and The Adding Machine is way ahead of schedule!

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Three Honors Students Travel to Gulf Coast for Service
By Janae Delmaestro, Shannon Lee, and Lindsay Rosen, Honors freshmen

The Gulf Coast is home to numerous people and species of animals. In 2005 Hurricane Katrina destroyed and disrupted many homes and natural habitats in the area. Even today, the Gulf Coast needs as much aid as possible in order to restore it to its condition before the hurricane. The three of us were given the opportunity to go on a service trip to Mississippi. Along with a group of approximately fifty students from Shippensburg University, we traveled to help inhabitants of the gulf, while enhancing our own understanding of the disaster and its effects.

The trip took place over fall break this past October. Each day there were two types of service activity opportunities, humanitarian or environmental. The environmental group went to an art museum located on the waterfront. They got rid of weeds that had built up near the front of the museum, mulched, and landscaped for hours. On the same day, they participated in a trail clean-up to cut back unruly branches. Additionally, they mulched the trail to reinforce the paths. The environmental group also had the opportunity to get rid of gingko trees (an invasive species in Mississippi) by using saws and hedge clippers.

The humanitarian group helped out at a community children’s fair for an afternoon. This enabled students to interact with local kids and families, hearing how recent events have personally affected their lives, both positively and negatively. It was such a joy to see these kids, their lives full of unfortunate events, having the time of their lives with a game as simple as kick ball. It made us realize that we do take so many things for granted; we are never satisfied, always wanting more.

Another activity the humanitarian group had the opportunity to participate in was helping to rebuild a man’s home that was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. We helped with spackling, putting down flooring, and other construction tasks. While we did this the owner of the home came and we heard some of his story. He said he had lived with his mother before the storm. She had died because of a slow response and low quality of help she received. He also had to sleep in his bathtub for months and has since had to buy a new apartment. It was hard to hear his story and see that his house is still far from rebuilt.

Overall, the Gulf Coast trip was another great way for Honors students to be involved in service and have an impact on the environment.

Service, cont’d

The Honors Colloquium service project students are currently collecting donations for individuals in South Central Pennsylvania living with AIDS. On December 1, 2010, an AIDS walk will be held on campus to raise funds for local AIDS victims. By participating in the walk, Honors Program students can earn four service participation points.

If you would like to participate in the walk or make a donation, please contact Lindsay Berkstresser, lb8240@ship.edu. We are accepting monetary donations along with canned goods, clothing, and other items to help AIDS victims. Your contribution is greatly appreciated. Be on the lookout for more information about how to become involved with our service-learning project!
Honors Students Present at National Honors Conference in Kansas City

By Holly Plank, Honors sophomore

Juniors Abby Montler and Kady Taylor traveled to Kansas City, Missouri from October 20-24 to attend the 45th annual National Collegiate Honors Council Conference along with Honors Director, Dr. Kim Klein. The students were invited to present about their global service-learning project, Reach Out: Enhancing Education in the Dominican Republic. The title of their presentation was, “Channeling a Rising Current in Higher Education: Initiating and Sustaining Global Service-Learning Projects” which complemented the conference’s theme of “Rhythms and Currents.”

Reach Out: Enhancing Education in the Dominican Republic is a project of the Honors Student Organization initially created by the Fall 2010 Honors Colloquium class. Montler and Taylor participated in the class, designing a curriculum to teach English to underprivileged children in five child development centers in the Dominican Republic. They are a key component in the essential aspect of sustaining the program.

This year, they are co-chairs of the Reach Out committee and plan to travel again to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in January 2011. The goal of the sustainability aspect of the program is to continue to create additional curricular elements each year and travel to the Dominican Republic as an alternative winter break.

This year, the Reach Out committee has been diligently working to create a curriculum that focuses on literacy in Spanish, and the group has decided to focus on one child development center in Santo Domingo, the Path of Learning School. The ultimate goal of the organization at this point is to fund the construction of a new school that will greatly enhance the students’ learning environment.

Reach Out committee members have been meeting once a week throughout the fall semester to discuss the developing curriculum, goals of the program, fund-raising, teaching techniques, and even learning basic Spanish in order to better communicate with the children and teachers in the Dominican Republic.

The National Honors Conference provided a forum in which Montler and Taylor were able to reflect on their experiences, share ideas with others, and receive feedback on their work. “Presenting about the Reach Out program offered a fantastic opportunity to share the many challenges that arise when trying to initiate an international service learning project,” Taylor said. “It was very rewarding to be offered the chance to share all of the hard work Abby and I, along with our other classmates, put into the project.”

“I was very excited to share the Reach Out Program with others because I am so passionate about it,” Montler said. “We received lots of positive feedback from faculty and students at other universities. Some universities are interested in beginning similar programs, and it was rewarding to be able to give them tips on how to do it.”

Montler and Taylor also had the chance to experience a number of other presentations throughout the conference. Taylor attended one presentation in particular about the implementation of an ecology program for middle school students written solely by the teacher. “She created her own books, lessons, and technological components for her students and enabled them to learn about their hometown and explore their ‘outdoor classroom,’” Taylor said.

She also spoke with the creator of Partners in the Parks, a week-long series of educational programs for Honors students held in our national parks.

“The conference was an easy outlet to exchange ideas, but it is very important to continue to do this so that we don’t have to reinvent the wheel every time we begin a new endeavor,” Montler said. “Helpful advice is always available, you just have to look for it.”

Along with the fantastic opportunities that come with paper versions of the magazine, the Honors Chronicle is available online. Electronic versions are published weekly during the semester on the Honors Program Office website. The magazine is visible under the heading "News."
The Honors Program is on Facebook and YouTube!
Find us at the following sites: www.facebook.com/shiphonors and www.youtube.com/shiphonors.

THE HONORABLE MENTION

Congratulations to the 13 Honors students who received grants to support their undergraduate research and creative projects: Oumou Belemou, Angela Darosh, Elisabeth Davis, Christopher Eby, Jennifer Hoover, Kristen Imboden, Lucas Kalathas, Scott Karper, Natasha Kaur, Joseph Sauthoff, Addalena Virtus, Sarah Wlazelek, and Sara Workman.

Thanks to all the students who volunteered at Kings Gap State Park on Saturday, November 6: Miranda Aaron, Angela Darosh, Janae Delmaestro, Doug Hamberger, and Chelsea Meier.

Thanks to Katie Kitner and Katie O’Flaherty for hosting the “Not Just a Destination” study abroad information session on Tuesday, November 16.

NCHC, cont’d

along with presenting at the National Honors Conference, Montler and Taylor also explored Kansas City during their free time. In the relatively short amount of time they were there, the students were able to experience a great deal of Kansas City culture.

“The conference was located in a district called ‘Power and Light’ and was full of restaurants and nightlife, so we were able to walk around and enjoy some local food,” Taylor said. “We were also able to visit the Country Club Plaza, where a lot of shopping is located. The architecture is Spanish-styled, from the occupation of Spain in the early 1800s. Finally, we were able to see the Midland Theatre, which is known for the gorgeous stained glass and chandeliers and we got to see Samantha Fish sing, one of the up and coming blues singers of Missouri.”

Montler, Taylor and other current Reach Out committee members will be holding another fundraiser to raise money for the building project. They will host a Zumbathon on December 5 in the Student Recreation Center from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If you wish to help the Reach Out committee with their endeavor, pre-register by November 29 to guarantee a spot. Registration will also be open at 1:00 pm the day of the event. Tickets are $5 for Shippensburg University students and $10 for non-students.

All proceeds will benefit the rebuilding of the Path of Learning School in the Dominican Republic and the creation of long-lasting lesson plans and teaching aids for the students at the school.

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