Dear freshmen: Many of you are getting ready to embark on a new journey in your lives: college.

Your fellow Honors students welcome you with an orientation program designed to help you begin your college career on the right foot.

For starters, you should have already heard from your mentor. Your mentor is an Honors sophomore, junior, or senior who is willing to answer any questions you may have and give you helpful hints before you arrive on campus. (If you need advice on roommates, see “SideNotes,” Page 2).

The orientation committee has long been awaiting your arrival and have made posters to welcome those who will be living on campus (be sure to look on the door of your dorm room when you move in!).

Two possible topics that might be debated are abortion and the recent pay raise granted to state employees.

The U.S. senatorial debate examines positions of candidates Rick Santorum (R) and Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D), with possible topics including the proper relationship between the legislative and congressional branches, judicial activism, abortion, and national security versus civil rights.

The student participants will represent the respective candidates’ positions during the debates. For the debate issues, the debaters will defend the candidate’s position if it differs from their own view, or the other, the debate’s goal is to inform the audience about the varying sides of highly contentious issues, where the candidates stand, and that
**SU recognizes students’ research**

By Amanda Johnson, Honors junior

Walking into the Anthony F. Ceddia Union Building Multi-Purpose Room was like walking back in time to a science fair in elementary school, except this science fair was much more than growing mold on bread or which household objects make the best insulators.

The Shippensburg University Student Research Program Recognition Day was held on April 6, and many honors students were present. Most students were being recognized for the research they did with the help of grant money provided by the university.

Jenn Bly, Emily Cisney, Amanda Johnson, and Tyler Miller were part of the Honors Service-Learning Seminar, where the students collected approximately 2,000 textbooks from professors and students to send to Maseno University in Kenya, as well as Delgado Community College in New Orleans.

Caitlin Burger did a project called “Design, Fabrication, and Characterization of Organic Light Emitting Diodes (OLEDs)”. OLEDs are an improvement on LCD screens. They are a flexible film, and most of Burger’s project involved trying to emit light. “It’s another application of nanotechnology,” Burger said.

Stephanie Ficiak’s project was called “Predictors of College Academic Achievement”, where she studied characteristics of a good college student. Her idea had been researched before, but on a more individual basis. Ficiak’s project combined several factors to make inferences on a more general level. She used surveys to gather her information.

Ficiak did another project called “Personality, Music, and Problem Solving Ability” with Shannon Baum. They researched how personality affects musical preference and how different kinds of music affect cognitive performance. They found that extraverts preferred stimulating music (using Metallica) and performed cognitive tasks better when listening to it, while introverts preferred calming music (using Mozart) and performed better while listening to it.

Derek Wolfe, a double major in Computer Science and Chemistry, did a project involving both of his majors, called “The Development of a Front-end GUI for Molecular Modeling Software on Single CPU and Clustered Macintosh Systems”.

He developed chemistry software called GAMESS that is used for calculating theoretical chemistry. For example, if something is too dangerous to try in the lab, you could try it with the GAMESS program.

Psychology major Denise Yarwood’s research project was titled, “Homesickness and Cultural Adaptation: A Phenomenological Investigation”. She got the idea for her project, because she moved from England to the United States 12 years ago and experienced homesickness herself.

Other honors students who participated in the Recognition Day include Ronald Hopkins, Beth Kusko, Michael Manis, Beth Skiles, Katie Mayo, Erin Harmon, and Ashley Cayless.

**Opinions & News**

**SideNotes**

By Stacie Wight

“Living College Style”

Roommates are the most commonly discussed topics between Honors mentors and mentees. They are also the biggest source of stress and anxiety for incoming freshmen.

Everyone’s worst roommate nightmare consists of being “matched” with someone so completely opposite of himself or herself. The “preppy” jock student dreads the gothic individual, and vice versa. This nightmare was one of my own, and became my reality.

I made a few mistakes with my roommate freshman year, and this is where I use my terrible life experience to help you better your future living conditions. (I am sure all of your Honors mentors have stories and advice, too—I encourage you to seek them out and talk to them…They have been assigned for a reason!)

Everyone comes to college with certain goals. Some come with the purpose of making great friends, others to achieve impossible grades and awards, and even more who come just to “treat it up.” I came with the goal to have a great experience to help you better your future living conditions. (I am sure all of your Honors mentors have stories and advice, too—I encourage you to seek them out and talk to them…They have been assigned for a reason!)

Regardless of your personal collegiate goals and those of your roommate, respect is key. Respect your roommates’ study hours or roommate about these rules if he or she breaks them, or if you have a problem. Just remember, go into your new living situation with an open mind, a spine, and a positive attitude.

It doesn’t matter who you were in high school, or who you want to become in college—there is no reason you can’t have a great relationship (or at least a civil one) with your roommate.

**DEBATE (cont’d)**

voting in the mid-term election is highly important.

Teams will consist of 2-3 debaters, depending on the number of student volunteers. If you are interested in participating in the debate series, please e-mail either Dr. Kim Klein at kmklei@ship.edu, or Dr. Alison Dagnes at addagn@ship.edu. Please indicate if you would like to participate in either the gubernatorial or senatorial debate and which side you would like to represent. Participation demands extensive prep work, but is a rewarding and entertaining experience.

The debates will occur September 12 and 28 at 7 p.m. in Old Main Chapel. All students, professors, and community members are welcome to attend.

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Bly studies, travels across the Atlantic

When I lived on the southern coast of Spain...

By Jenn Bly, Honors senior

How many people can start a story with the phrase, When I lived on the southern coast of Spain...? I’m guessing not many, but study abroad offered me this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The spring semester of 2006 I studied Spanish Language and Culture in Málaga, Spain with International Studies Abroad (ISA). Without a doubt, those were the best four months of my life.

My classes were taught completely in Spanish, consisting of international students from all over the world. At one point when I had a large paper due, I thought, “Wow, what did I get myself into?” But after a painstakingly slow process, I finished the paper and submitted it. I surprised myself at how well I did and realized how much I had grown.

I have to admit that I made mistakes, some resulting in embarrassing situations, but that was to be expected. Once you say something stupid and get corrected, you never forget it again! But don’t be fooled, study abroad is about more than just hitting the books. Every minute of every day is a learning experience. Ordering churros con chocolate in a café, visiting world renowned historical sites, chatting with new friends on the beach, and shouting ¡Ole! at bullfights made my stay much more enriching. Interacting with natives, both older and younger, is the best way to learn practical language skills, to have true cultural experiences, and to make friendships that last for a lifetime.

While abroad, I had the opportunity to visit famous Spanish cities like Barcelona, Granada, Sevilla, Madrid, and Toledo. When I saw the windmills on the countryside, I felt just like Don Quijote in the search for adventure, and, during spring break, while I was riding camels in the deserts of Morocco, I felt like I had stepped into the pages of a National Geographic magazine.

But that isn’t to say Spanish culture isn’t unique and thriving, too. From fried delicacies sizzling in olive oil to sun bathing on the Mediterranean beaches, Spain is steeped in rich tradition. The dos besitos (two kiss greetings) and mid-afternoon siestas are customs that I miss already. Málaga boasts of its two favorite natives, Picasso and Antonio Banderas and huge celebrations such as Semana Santa (Holy Week) with processions filtering through the streets 24 hours a day.

Living outside the United States not only allowed me to interact in a new culture, but also opened my eyes to how much American culture has washed overseas. President Bush was on the news just about every day, and Madonna spiced up the nightlife. Many foreigners know more about our country than the average American citizen would know.

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Thanks to the Honors Program scholarship, guidance from the study abroad advisor, and help from ISA, all transitions flowed smoothly.

Conclusion? Don’t miss an opportunity to step outside your bubble. Take the initiative to study abroad, and if I may, I just might recommend southern Spain. ¡Viva España!

Liverpool, England: More than just history and rain

By Martin Rodriguez, Honors senior

What to say about England, a country known for its rich history and dreary weather.

What makes my experience unique is that I attended Edge Hill, near Liverpool in Northern England, and quite a ways from the London metro area that is considered to be stereotypical England.

This study abroad experience has been great as I have been able to see castles, old country manors, and yes, even the occasional football (soccer) game.

Going through Liverpool, you can experience Beatlemania, while still finding many sites of the historic seaport town, which in many ways actually has ties to the United States as many immigrants sailed from there. Part of this is seen in the Liverpool Maritime Museum and many other attractions in the city.

Overall, England has been a blast, Liverpool especially, and has shown me that England is much more than rain and London.
(Left to right): Dr. Kim Klein, seniors Ashley Reppert, Rebecca Kreider, Ronald Hopkins, Elizabeth Skiles, Mallory Feggstad, Tyler Miller, Melissa Alwine, Erin Harmon, Kallie Drenning, Karen Jensenius, Caitlin Burger, James Laughlin, Interim Provost Rick Ruth, and Interim Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Dr. Kim Long gather at the Honors Program’s Spring Banquet on April 25. The banquet recognized the seniors and their contributions to the program.

The Spirit of Honors Award is presented to Honors students who demonstrate outstanding scholarship, leadership, and service as members of the Honors Program. This year, the award was presented to graduating seniors Rebecca Kreider, Tyler Miller, and Erin Harmon. Congratulations!