

# The Honors Chronicle

Volume 22, Issue 1

<http://webspaceship.edu/honors>

Summer 2008

## Geek Week Goes



By Ally Morgan, Honors junior

Are you proud to be a geek? Get ready to show your spirit! During the week of September 7th, the Honors Program will be celebrating its annual "Geek Week!" Geek Week is a time to show the campus your Honors Program spirit while having a great time with your classmates.

Honors juniors Katie Marshall and Jennifer Coccagna are coordinating this year's Geek Week, and they have planned events featuring a Hollywood theme. According to Marshall and Coccagna, Geek Week will kick off with an opening event based on a movie premiere night. Dress up in your best Hollywood attire and enjoy a fun movie night with friends!

During the rest of the week they have planned theme dress-up days based on popular television shows. With a variety of

themes, there will be something for everybody. The theme days will include a clash day based on "What Not to Wear," a Shippensburg apparel/Honors T-shirt day called "True Life: I Got to Shippensburg University," and a Sports Day dubbed "ESPN Sports Center."

Juniors Grace Burkholder and Mark Mes-sick are particularly looking forward to this week. "Geek Week will be very exciting. It's a good way to help people in the Honors Program come together while doing something fun!" Grace commented.

"I'm so excited for Geek Week!" said Mark "I have my suspenders, pocket protector, and high socks chosen and sitting out..."

The week will end with a game of Jeopardy. Class teams will compete for prizes. Featuring a surprise guest host, Jeopardy will be a great end to a wonderful week.

## Welcome Class of 2012!

### From the HSO President

By Amy Harmon, Honors senior



First, I would like to welcome the incoming freshmen to the Honors Program and Shippensburg University! I am looking forward to meeting and working with you in the very near future.

The Honors Program offers great academic opportunities, and you will be learning more about them soon. The Honors Student Organization (HSO) is the student-led, student-run extension of the Honors Program. It provides great opportunities for involvement and leadership in a variety of areas with the focus on scholarship, leadership, and service.

Incoming freshmen are an important source for new ideas and enthusiasm which are an integral part of the HSO. An important forum to discuss

ideas and find ways to get involved with the HSO is to attend our monthly meetings. Shortly before coming to campus, the master calendar will be available on the Honors Program website, [webspaceship.edu/honors](http://webspaceship.edu/honors). It will give further details on HSO meetings, orientation events, service projects, and more.

I strongly encourage you to get actively involved in the HSO. The HSO benefits the Honors Program, the university, the community, but above all the students. Active students in the HSO form lasting relationships and share many wonderful experiences. There is more to being an Honors student than just academics, and I hope you take the opportunity to get involved with the HSO and take advantage of all the Honors Program has to offer.

If you have any questions about the Honors Program, the HSO, or Shippensburg University, please feel free to contact me at [ah9172@ship.edu](mailto:ah9172@ship.edu). See you in August!

Amy Harmon

## Calendar

### August

**23 - Freshmen Orientation Ice Cream Social**

3:00-5:00 p.m., Henderson Gymnasium

**24 - Freshmen Orientation Picnic**

5:00-9:00 p.m., Seavers Pavilion

**26 - Freshmen Orientation Session and Dinner: HSO**

5:30-6:15 p.m., CUB 219-221

### September

**2 - Fall Reception and General Meeting**

3:30 p.m., CUB Multi-Purpose Room  
All Honors students must attend.

**7-11 - Geek Week!**

See article at left.

**9 - Freshmen Orientation Session and Dinner: "Home Sweet Home"**

5:30-6:15 p.m., SPH 224

**11 - Honors Election Debate Series: The Economy**

7:00-8:00 p.m., Old Main Chapel

**16 - Freshmen Orientation Session and Dinner: Honors Curriculum I**

5:30-6:15 p.m., SPH 224

**18 - Honors Election Debate Series: Foreign Policy**

7:00-8:00 p.m., Old Main Chapel

**23 - Freshmen Orientation Session and Dinner: Honors Curriculum II**

5:30-6:15 p.m., CUB 219-221

**25 - Honors Election Debate Series: The Environment**

7:00-8:00 p.m., Old Main Chapel

**30 - Freshmen Orientation Session and Dinner: Study Abroad**

5:30-6:15 p.m., CUB 226 B & C

# My Life as a Madrileña!

**Far Left: Junior Wendy Tanner visited the Paris landmark, the Eiffel Tower.**

**Left: Wendy sits in front of the Templo de Debod in Madrid, Spain.**

**Below: A view of Madrid's Palacio Royal and Cathedral at night.**



*By Wendy Tanner, Honors junior*

As I have less than a month remaining here in Madrid, Spain, I realize how much studying abroad can change you. It is an experience unlike any other. As much as you can write to your family and friends about your experiences and show your photos, you cannot completely begin to describe the sights, the sounds, the smells and the feelings. You are only allowing them a small glimpse of your accomplishments.

Everyone has a unique experience while studying abroad. This leaves a permanent impression. One of my biggest challenges occurred within my first few weeks of arriving in Spain; I had to learn how to live in a city, regardless of what country it was in. I grew up in a small town in Pennsylvania, and let's be honest, Shippensburg, PA is not a booming metropolis either.

Having previously visited Madrid I already knew I liked the city, but visiting a city is not the same as living there. Living here in Spain has only increased my love for the city. In terms of transportation, the metro system is so easy to use. Although it may be crowded during certain times of the day, there is not the hassle of sitting in traffic in a car. Buses run all day and the night bus is easily accessible as well once the metro us closed for the night.

The city itself is beautiful. The 320-acre Retiro Park is always a bustling spot in the city.



There are fountains and outdoor cafes and even a small lake where, for 45 minutes, you can rent a small rowboat and simply relax on the water. My roommates and I enjoyed packing a picnic and relaxing in the park for a few hours. I also enjoyed reading in the Plaza del Oriente. This plaza is situated directly in front of the Palacio Real, or Royal Palace. Yes, a palace. Often times I looked up from my book to gaze at it. I always thought how incredible it was that I could sit in front of a palace!

My favorite place to visit in the city is the Temple de Debod, an ancient Egyptian temple which was reconstructed in Madrid. It is very peaceful to simply lie in the grass and read for a few hours. And although the city is incredible during the day, it is absolutely magical at night. When the lights go on, the city changes. Everything is bathed in an aura of light. When the Temple de Debod is illuminated it is absolutely amazing.

One of the greatest experiences of studying abroad is the people. It has been a chance to make new friends and strengthen my ability to interact with others. I have learned how to live with complete strangers. I share a small apartment with four other girls where no one has their own room. None of us had met before. The only thing bringing us together was our desire to study and learn in a different country. We quickly became best friends!

Living in a foreign country means going on

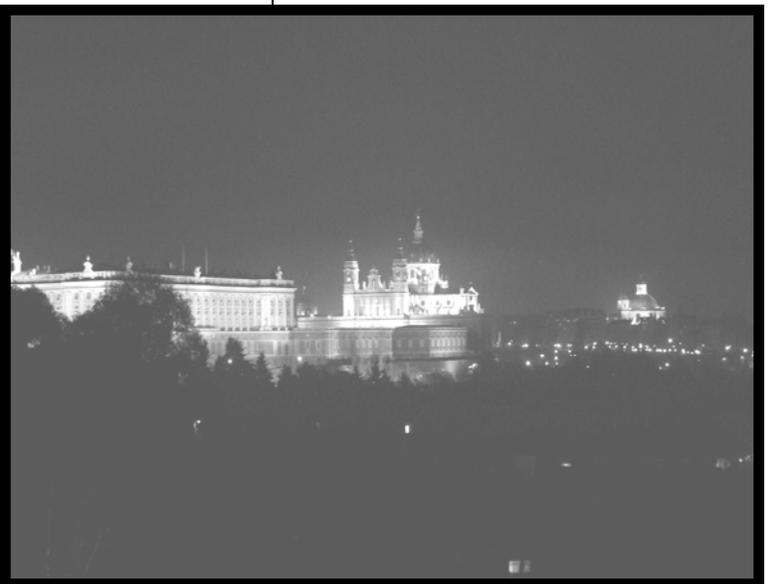
adventures and taking chances. Since arriving in Spain I have visited Paris, Germany, Amsterdam, Portugal and other cities in Spain. I will say, by living here, we have all become experts at finding cheap airplane tickets online. It is such a great feeling to travel to all of these different countries.

Each place is unique and offers a multitude of sights. Each trip was an adventure, an experience.

I enjoyed having nothing but a map to guide me and a camera to capture it all. Every place I went made an impression on me in some way. To see Paris from the Eiffel Tower at night was breathtaking. To walk in the very house where Anne Frank and her family hid was humbling. I felt that each trip made me feel even more independent and confident as well.

This whole experience has made me a more independent and confident person. You learn just as much about yourself as you do about others. It is an unforgettable experience that leaves you yearning for more. And although every city is full of more souvenirs to buy than necessary, I believe the best gift to yourself, and everyone else who was not with you, is the photos you take and the words you write.

*Photos courtesy of Wendy Tanner*



# Coming Soon...

## Freshmen Orientation Events Begin in August

By Amy Harmon and Emily Sattler, Honors seniors

The Honors Orientation Committee has been busy planning activities for Honors Freshmen Orientation. Mentors and mentees have already been assigned. If you, as an incoming freshman signed up for a mentor, you should be hearing from your mentor soon. If you would like a mentor and did not sign up, please contact Emily Sattler at [es2393@ship.edu](mailto:es2393@ship.edu).

You will meet this mentor during your first weekend on campus (Saturday, August 23 through Sunday August 24) with our scheduled activities. These include an ice cream social in Henderson Gym on Saturday afternoon from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., and a picnic Sunday evening from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. The picnic will include dinner and lots of fun team-building activities and games.

As the semester goes on, we will have College Life sessions around various topics. Our first mandatory session is about Home Sweet Home (roommates/commuter issues), and then you can choose from one out of the other three sessions. We look forward to seeing everyone in August!



## Let "The Game" begin!

By Valerie Koontz, Honors senior

My experience in the Honors "Making and Playing the Game" seminar, which was offered in spring 2008, was great! Dr. Mike Long brought us all sorts of puzzles to solve and games to play. Our job was often to figure out how the math worked throughout each puzzle or game. This was a lot of fun for a math major like myself. However, I know that even the non-math majors really enjoyed this class. We worked on things together and had so much fun!

I think the best part of the class was the West Virginia trip. We prepared throughout the whole semester for this trip. We each had a trick and a puzzle to present to students, that were designed to teach math concepts, at the middle-schools. We did our "math magic show" about seven or eight times during the few days we were at the school and each time we got better. It was so great to see the faces of the students after many of the tricks when they could not figure how we did it! I could tell how much they enjoyed this break in their school day, but I think we enjoyed it as much as they did. I know I definitely did.

Anytime I get to be in the classroom working with students is enjoyable for me. It was so beneficial to me and to the others to be able to work with the students and see their appreciation for simple math tricks and puzzles. I hope to be able to take many of these experiences and use them in my own classroom! It was also great being able to work on projects together and really bond with the other people in this class. We had so much fun together and learned so much from each other. I know I will never forget the snowstorm in the middle of April, the game of SNAPS, or the "Click, Boom" game we played for hours in the cabin.

Dr. Long is one of the best professors I have ever had. He made the class fun and challenging. It was rewarding to see him win the award for best professor. He deserved it. I learned so much and had a great time throughout this class. I would highly recommend this class to everyone!

### HONORS PROGRAM OFFICE

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### HONORS STUDENT ORGANIZATION (HSO)

#### Officers, 2008-2009

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### THE HONORS CHRONICLE

#### Editor, 2008-2009

**Editors:** Ally Morgan [am6890@ship.edu](mailto:am6890@ship.edu)

Please submit story ideas to Ally at [am6890@ship.edu](mailto:am6890@ship.edu).

Above: Students from "The Game" Seminar outside of a school in West Virginia.

Below: Valerie Koontz demonstrates a math puzzle to students.



Photos courtesy of Valerie Koontz

## Seniors recognized with Spirit of Honors Award

By Ally Morgan, Honors junior

The Spirit of Honors award is presented annually to the Honors students who best exemplify the program's commitment to scholarship, leadership, and service. At the 2008 Honors Spring Banquet, seniors Elizabeth Kusko, Michelle Baker, and Jennifer Bly were recognized with this honor. Honors Program director Dr. Kim Klein created the Spirit of Honors award in 2006 to recognize Honors students' achievements and their contributions to the Honors Program.

In addition to excelling academically, the 2008 recipients were innovative leaders in the Honors Student Organization. Elizabeth Kusko co-founded Geek Week in 2006. Along with Michelle Baker, she also founded the HSO fundraising committee and organized its signature events, including Date-A-Palooza. Baker served as HSO treasurer and vice-president. Among her many contributions, Jennifer

Bly chaired the Service Committee and coordinated Honors Read. The recipients showed that they had the real "Spirit of Honors" in other ways. They were always first to volunteer to help anyone, and they always strived to make a difference in the Honors Program.

"It was such an honor!" Kusko exclaimed. "To be a member of such a growing, distinctive, and special organization was enough for me. This was the icing on the cake. To me, this award symbolizes the coordinated effort of my class to create a bond of community between the Honors students, initiate a few rather successful recreation and fundraising events, and to distinguish ourselves as an admirable and respected organization of Shippensburg students."

All three recipients won fellowships to pursue graduate studies this fall: Bly will study at the University of Maryland, Baker plans to earn her Ph.D. in Mathematics at the University of Pittsburgh, and Kusko will study for a Ph.D. in Political Science at Miami University of Ohio.

***"To be a member of such a growing, distinctive, and special organization was enough for me."***



Where do the Democratic and Republican candidates stand on some of the main issues? Come find out! Watch students from the Honors Election 2008 Seminar debate key election issues. Register to vote, get educated on the issues, and become an informed voter!

**Old Main Chapel**  
**7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

<b>September 11</b>	<b>The Economy</b>
<b>September 18</b>	<b>Foreign Policy</b>
<b>September 25</b>	<b>The Environment</b>
<b>October 2</b>	<b>Social Issues</b>

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