Though my peers and I began to research the men now buried in Chambersburg’s Mount Vernon and Locust Grove cemeteries in order to meet the requirements of a course, shortly into our research, we found ourselves moved by a different force. We had written many papers before, and even a few biographies, but this assignment was quite different. We had not been asked to pen that which had not been written before: we were to be the first ones to chronicle the lives of our subjects. Rather than having been asked to create another essay which relatively few individuals, such as a professor and perhaps a few peers, would read, we had been called to bring forth a work of importance to the communities of South-Central Pennsylvania, a work which would both educate and inspire. These goals became our motives. We sought not to impress our professor with an obsequiously erudite tome, but to share with the world the lives of men of importance, so that readers might glean a new understanding of the roles played by men who had once walked the same streets in which they now stride. Though we would certainly compose a work of scholarship, professionally crafted and painstakingly researched, we sought to provide the public with a work accessible by non-historians.
Karper and fellow students “pen that which has not been written before...”

As a group, my co-authors and I started our research with a visit to the Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg. With the help of Linda Reis, an archivist, we were able to examine the muster rolls on which is written the information concerning the dates and places of enlistment of our subjects. Despite the expert care with which these documents are housed, time had, understandably, fragmented them in such a way that they needed to be pieced together. The once-bold ink with which they were first inscribed had dulled to a nearly illegible degree of faintness. Notwithstanding these difficulties, we left Harrisburg with invaluable data.

Following that sojourn, we boarded the Metro and made our way to the National Archives in Washington, DC to examine the pension files of our subjects. There we witnessed the inherent disparities in the historical record. While the files on some veterans are several inches thick, the entire records of others can be read in minutes. Even small files, however, were of the utmost importance to us as researchers, and we were able to study documents such as pension requests, War Department records, medical records, and personal affidavits. With these files in hand, we departed from the world of textbooks and term papers, and focused on rebuilding a shattered past. We sought to understand our subjects as individuals, so that we could narrate not just their lives and experiences, but their role as elements of a movement. In order to accomplish the latter, we spent days in libraries and weeks sifting through secondary literature.

As I mentioned earlier, when penning a biography, one must always consider the historical framework within which one’s subject fits. As a result of the inherent diversity of our subjects, my co-authors and I were able to explore a variety of topics related to the experiences of African-American Civil War soldiers and veterans.

Topics explored within our work include: the formation of the United States Colored Troops, African Americans in the Navy, Civil War era military technology and tactics, 19th Century medicine, racism and inequalities within the Union Army, the process of obtaining a veteran’s pension, and in-depth examinations of specific regiments and battles. The process of editing and formatting individual works into a book was itself composed of several individual stages. Our biographies first went through at least five edits, and the formation of an eclectic book involved the writing of an overall introduction, chapter introductions, and an epilogue, as well as the compilation of a single bibliography and an index. After months of researching, writing and editing, our work culminated in the creation of Dum Spiro, Spero: The Experiences of Franklin County, Pennsylvania’s African-American Civil War Soldiers. For months after the semester had officially ended, I read and reread our newly minted book, preparing and formatting it for professional publication.

Though our work on the men now interred in Chambersburg’s Mount Vernon and Lebanon cemeteries is complete, there are many men whose stories remain with them, men whose accomplishments merit narratives of their own; there is much history that has yet to be written. As the years pass, these stories sink deeper and deeper into the abyss of forgotten history. It is into this abyss which historians descend, hoping to save elements of the past from permanent obscurity. As chroniclers of the lives of men long-dead, we seek to unearth the many lessons which such men can teach to us. Yet, in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, many abandon the pursuit of the past and leave behind the lives of men such as those who are detailed in our book. As for me, dum spiro, spero (Latin: while I breathe I hope).
Honorable Alum: Jon Moats utilizes Honors experience at Volvo

By Rachel Statler
Honors Junior

Jon Moats graduated from the Ship- pensburg University Honors Program in 2010 with a degree in Finance. He was a founding member of the Reach Out Pro- gram and has translated that experience to his current job as a Technology Con- troller at Volvo.

After graduation, Moats quickly began work at Volvo where his list of responsi- bilities include managing local technol- ogy finance budgeting and forecasting, closing, reporting, and analysis activities. He also works closely with the Global Technology Finance Management Team and VP Finance, Global Technology Or- ganization. Moats manages the line organ- ization follow up which covers all on site customers’ needs. He is also responsible for the site technology machine inventory accounting as well as capital expenditure reporting, analysis, budgeting, and fore- casting. After only two months on the job, Moats was given the opportunity to travel to company headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. This spring he traveled to Es- kilstuna, Sweden and will also be taking a trip to Konz, Germany for a Technol- ogy Face-to-Face meeting with the entire global team this fall.

Although the past year could be viewed as a dizzying experience, Moats believes that his involvement in the Honors Pro- gram, specifically Reach Out, has given him the experience he needs to succeed. His greatest lesson was in project manage- ment. “Reach Out was a crash course in project management. We had a clearly defined goal. We had no idea where we were going to raise the money, where we were going to get the resources, and how we were going to make it sustainable, but that’s exactly what we did,” Moats said.

The group started with a mission state- ment and from there built the program from the ground up.

Moats’ role in this program’s birth was being a key member of the Strategy Team. This group was tasked with the oversight and implementation of the program along with ensuring its sustainability. Moats considers it to be a privilege to be a found- ing member of the group. He has watched the Program grow not only in number but in quality and depth as well. “I had no idea that our little planted seed of helping edu- cate children in the Dominican Republic would sprout up into what it is today.” He counts it as second only to his graduation as his most memorable moment in the Honors Program.

Moats urges current Honors students to not only take grades seriously but also to participate. “Get out of the dorm room, get off the x-box, and go get involved. Don’t be so quick to delete those e-mails listing activities around campus com- ing up. They will pay you back tenfold I guarantee it!”

For example, Moats is currently inter- viewing for a position on his team and gives this advice: “If you have a 3.8 and cannot handle questions about your expe- rience and involvement in an interview, I am going to hire the 3.0 who can every single time.”

Recently, Volvo has invested 35 mil- lion dollars into the VCE Shippensburg facility and has plans to invest 100 mil- lion more in the next five years. Moats believes that opportunity in the company is growing and exciting. “I considered it a privilege when I was hired and still consider it a privilege to work for such an outstanding company as Volvo,” he said.

Moats plans to get his MBA and several related certificates in the upcoming years. As excited as Moats is about his work and his future, he will not soon forget his experience at Shippensburg and how it helped him get where he is today. “I bring up the Honors Program in conversation as often as I can,” Moats said. He believes its existence and future are important to Shippensburg University and he hopes “many students to come get as much out of it as I did.”

The Reach Out group in front of the Volvo Construction Equipment dealer in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in January 2010.

Honors Program New Student Orientation kicks off August 5-6

By Addy Virtus
Honors Senior

The Honors Orientation Committee held the second orientation weekend for the newly accepted freshmen. Incoming freshmen came to campus on the weekend of August 5th and 6th. Orientation week- end allows freshmen to get to know one another and learn what is expected of them as Honors students. There were many ac- tivities planned for the freshmen including informational sessions, a scavenger hunt, a wellness session, mock classes, dinner and a thought-provoking movie discus- sion, and a family luncheon.

The informational sessions help students to know the requirements of the Honors Program and give tips on ways to suc- cessfully meet those requirements. The scavenger hunt initiated student learning about the different committees in the HSO as well as the location of buildings around campus and their purposes. The Orienta- tion Committee chairs also hope that the scavenger hunt helped to facilitate conver- sation between the incoming freshmen, al- lowing them to get to know people before they return in the fall.

The wellness session sparked conversa- tion for students about health issues faced by current college students. The session also provided tips on how to stay healthy. College can be stressful, so talking to ac- tual college students about how to manage stress and nutrition is beneficial to incoming freshmen. In the mock classes, students had the opportunity to see what a typical college Honors class is like. An- other class is taught by Dr. Dagnes from the political science department. She discussed civic engagement and why it is important for college students to be ac- tive members of society. Dr. Klein led a session on the Honors curriculum and re- sources that the Honors Program offers to meet their personal and professional goals. Information about studying abroad was also presented at this session. The movie was Easy A, one that is thought-provok- ing and was chosen by one of the Honors professors. The weekend concluded with a luncheon for students and their parents.

Orientation weekend allows students to get to know one another better, as well as get acquainted with several Honors pro- fessors and the Shippensburg University campus. The Orientation Committee is looking forward to another successful year working with incoming freshmen and upperclassmen mentors in the Mentor- Mentee program.
"I would be friends with Rory Gilmore from Gilmore Girls because I admire her intelligence and her confidence."
- Megan Fick
Honors Junior

'I would choose Carol Kennicott, from Sinclair Lewis’s Main Street, because we are both dreamers and would probably get into some interesting adventures together."
- Sarah Montanari
Honors Junior

"I would be friends with Evan Taylor from the movie August Rush because he has awesome music ability and he could teach me a ton of new things on the guitar!"
- Hannah Brant
Honors Sophomore

"If I could be friends with one fictional character (so many I would choose), it would be Jo March from the Little Women. Jo says what she means and means what she says! She is independent, vivacious, giving, and filled with a lust for life as well as for writing. Jo places her love for her sisters and family first and is frustrated that she could not fight along her father during the Civil War while he was serving as a chaplain. She is able to love on her own terms and choose the man that she wants, not one whom she may have been expected to love. She is truly an independent and liberal female whose character is based on the author, Louisa May Alcott. It would have been awesome to spend time with Jo and share in her actions, thoughts, and adventures as an extraordinary woman during this period in history."
- Dr. Cheryl Zaccagnini
Honors Professor

A great way to get involved and build your leadership skills, contribute to the community, and achieve more scholastically than you may have ever imagined you could! All students who are in the Honors Program are automatically a part of the HSO. There are a variety of ways one can get involved in the HSO. Some Honors students’ favorite HSO activities are Pizza with a Prof, Uncommon Conversation, recreational activities, Honors Read discussions, Ship Trip, and many more. Many Honors students also choose to study abroad and the Honors Program even selects two students each year to go on a PASSHE Summer Abroad expedition. In recent years, students have traveled to Egypt and Bermuda. There are a multitude of opportunities that the HSO provides, and as freshmen, the sooner you get involved, the more opportunities you will have.

Furthermore, I would like to share with you some advice that I have found useful. Get to know each other. Not only are your fellow Honors students your classmates and roommates -- they can become your best friends! Always check your e-mail. Professors send e-mails often, and sometimes cancel class through e-mail! You don’t want to be that person who shows up to class because you didn’t check your inbox. Always go to class. Attending class is important, and may be reflected in your grades. Get involved. Be a part of something, make a difference. Make your college years worthwhile! Last but not least, take risks. There is a famous, cliché phrase which perfectly summarizes my thoughts: “You’ll never know until you try.” So go for it!

I encourage you all to become familiar with the Honors website: www.ship.edu/honors. Look at our calendar of events and plan to join us at some of them! Also, if you have not done so already, feel free to send “Honors Program-Shippensburg” a “friend request” on Facebook! It’s a wonderful way to stay updated with what the HSO has going on.

If you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming year, please contact me at cm4994@ship.edu. Also, become friends with Honors Program-Shippensburg on Facebook to stay updated throughout the summer! I look forward to meeting each and every one of you. I hope that HSO can help make this year one of the best of your life by far! See you all soon!

A Word for the Class of 2015 from HSO President Chelsea Meier
¡Pura Vida! An Experience of a Lifetime Studying in Costa Rica

By Holly Plank
Honors Junior

Full immersion into a foreign culture is a nearly impossible feat these days with the easy connectivity of sources such as Facebook, e-mail, and Skype. Last semester, my challenge was just that as I lived and studied in San José, Costa Rica. As I lived with a rather affluent, international host family, my accessibility to these connections was, to my surprise, almost better than here at home. So, after spending one month adjusting to the culture, the language, and to the very different teaching styles of my Tico (a nickname for Costa Ricans) professors; a few friends and I decided to spend our second month completely immersed in the culture.

What does it mean to be completely immersed in a culture? For us, it meant eating only traditional dishes, spending time doing everyday activities with our host families, and speaking only Spanish except to our families in the States. Before Costa Rica, my only Spanish-speaking experience was high school level Spanish where there were unfortunately so many students that it was nearly impossible to practice speaking and to get “one-on-one” attention. I faced many challenges trying to communicate with locals, my classmates (who had not necessarily taken on the same challenge), and my host family. My best resources were my host grandparents who lived in the house behind us and did not know a word of English as well as my four-year-old host sister, Sophia Paz. Sophia is an only child, and she was (depending on her mood) thrilled to have a big sister to interact with when she was not at her bilingual preschool in the mornings.

Making a conscious effort to immerse myself fully in a very globalized culture was one of the most fulfilling experiences of my study abroad experience. I full-heartedly encourage everyone to find a way to spend time in another culture during your college experience. Spending time and immersing one’s self in another culture does not necessarily mean spending an entire year in an exotic place such as Tanzania or Laos. It could be spending time and immersing yourself in service work somewhere locally or in the States. Studying abroad was the best experience of my college career so far, but it is not for everyone.

While abroad, I spent a lot of my free time volunteering for an organization called Fundación Mujer (Foundation for Women). Through this local organization in San José, I was able to assist women in creating their own careers so that they could support themselves and their children on their own. The Foundation created an intensive neighborhood recycling program that provided the materials for the women at the Foundation to use in order to create useful, sustainable crafts such as bags, purses, waste bins, jewelry, and other crafts. Working at the foundation was a perfect mechanism to practice my Spanish, and it was a way to include service work in my experience. You do not have to travel to a foreign country to do service work or to immerse yourself in a culture other than your own. It is possible to accomplish the same goals right here in Central Pennsylvania with a little research and determination. I hope that everybody will take a chance to spend some time abroad. Anywhere from a couple of weeks to a year in a completely foreign environment can be life altering.

To say that my semester abroad in San José, Costa Rica was incredible or amazing would be quite the understatement. It was a life-changing, unforgettable experience that was vital in molding the person I am today. Living with a host family and interacting with students from around the world is an adventure in itself. My weekend excursion experiences ranged from a visit to a unique organic pineapple farm along the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border, excursions to Costa Rica’s neighbors Nicaragua and Panama, to zip lining upside-down over a volcanic lake. All of my adventures were exciting learning experiences, but I would have to say that my two weekend visits to Jorge’s organic pineapple farm were my favorites. Jorge’s farm does not operate in order to earn a profit. Instead Jorge and his family are using innovation and creativity to create a completely sustainable, organic farm. One of my best friends in Costa Rica, Melissa, knew Jorge from a business connection in the States. Through my friendship with her, I was able to go to Jorge’s farm two different weekends to see one of Costa Rica’s best examples of sustainable agriculture first-hand. I learned a valuable lesson from my friendship with Melissa. Take advantage of every opportunity you are given. At first, a weekend spent with this girl I had only known for a few weeks and a man I had never met sounded very intimidating. However, by jumping at the opportunity, I was rewarded with an experience of a lifetime and a friendship that I was not expecting.

The most important part of any experience abroad is the people you are with and the people you meet along the way. For me, my host family was one of the most exciting parts of my experience. I had a rather unique host family compared to some of my American peers who were also living with host families in the same neighborhood. My host mother, Marisel, grew up in the house right behind our house, so she was very familiar with the area. Her parents, Cecilia and Herbert, are very traditional Ticos (a nickname for Costa Ricans that stems from there tendency to add ita or ito at the ends of words) in the sense that they do not speak any English and the follow very traditional customs. My host mother, however, broke the mold by studying abroad in New Jersey, England, and South Africa during her years as an International Business major. She met my host dad, Greg, in New Jersey. He is an American who has travelled to 42 different countries as a part of his duties in the United States Air Force. He is retired now and is now focusing on his career as a professional golfer. Sophia Paz turned four during my second week, and I got to experience my first Costa Rican-style birthday party. I enjoyed my experience with my host family because I got to learn a lot about what it means to be a part of an international family. On the other hand, the time I spent with my host grandparents was crucial in understanding what it means to be a normal family living in Costa Rica. It was a life-changing, unforgettable experience that was vital in molding the person I am today. Living with a host family and interacting with students from around the world is an adventure in itself. My weekend excursion experiences ranged from a visit to a unique organic pineapple farm along the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border, excursions to Costa Rica’s neighbors Nicaragua and Panama, to zip lining upside-down over a volcanic lake. All of my adventures were exciting learning experiences, but I would have to say that my two weekend visits to Jorge’s organic pineapple farm were my favorites. Jorge’s farm does not operate in order to earn a profit. Instead Jorge and his family are using innovation and creativity to create a completely sustainable, organic farm. One of my best friends in Costa Rica, Melissa, knew Jorge from a business connection in the States. Through my friendship with her, I was able to go to Jorge’s farm two different weekends to see one of Costa Rica’s best examples of sustainable agriculture first-hand. I learned a valuable lesson from my friendship with Melissa. Take advantage of every opportunity you are given. At first, a weekend spent with this girl I had only known for a few weeks and a man I had never met sounded very intimidating. However, by jumping at the opportunity, I was rewarded with an experience of a lifetime and a friendship that I was not expecting.

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This spring I had the opportunity to present my Honors Capstone research project at the COM.Geo conference in Washington, D.C. COM.Geo is an international conference on computing for geospatial research and applications, and happens to be exactly the same field I was doing my research on. Thanks to an Honors Capstone project grant and lots of work on my project, I was able to attend. It was great to present my work to other researchers in the field. I also found the presentations about the latest research and future direction of the field of geospatial computing to be fascinating, and I look forward to doing more work in this exciting field in the future.

The research I presented at COM.Geo started in a discussion with a friend about how his GPS took him to the middle of a field instead of to the place he was actually trying to get to. I had experienced this problem myself, and I wondered why we couldn’t use aerial photographs to ensure that, when we put an address into our GPS devices, it took us to locations where buildings are actually located. As I researched the methods of finding coordinates for addresses (called geocoding), I found that a similar method to the one I had thought of had already been proposed, but their method lacked a way to determine address locations when there were multiple buildings at an address. My research focused on testing the accuracy of different ways to group buildings together in order to see if they were accurate enough to use the aerial photographs to improve our geocoding.

My goal is to eventually use my findings in a geocoding system that is more accurate than what is currently used. Once my research was finally complete and the busy semester over, I was ready for the trip to Washington on May 23. The conference was held at George Washington University conference center, so I got my first experience with an urban campus (much different from Shippensburg). For the first two days I attended talks on subjects like how the FCC created its new broadband map website, 3D building generation and display, and the latest software tools for geospatial computing. I also went to workshops on developing applications on Microsoft’s new Windows Phone 7 platform and an emerging area of computer science called the “internet of things.” There were also keynotes on the future of geographical computing with a lot of emphasis on what we can do with mobile devices and location-based services on them. One of the most interesting talks I went to was about how we can use the locations of thousands of mobile devices over time to see how masses of people move through areas and what we can do with that information. On Wednesday, I gave my own 10-minute “tech-talk,” which went well. My poster had also been on display throughout the conference, and it sparked some good discussions with people who stopped by to look at it. To close out the conference there was a banquet on board a cruise boat on the Potomac River.

All in all, attending COM.Geo was a major highlight of my time at Shippensburg. It allowed me to interact with researchers from all over the world and exposed me for the first time to some of the concepts that are shaping the advancement of geographic computing technology. While most of the attendees were American, I had some interesting conversations with researchers from Germany, Japan, and Greece. I also have an extended abstract being published in the conference proceedings, which will be available from the ACM (an important publisher in the computer science field). Attending a conference is a great experience and resume builder, and I would encourage any Honors students who are interested to attend one if you are able -- especially if you can get a grant to help pay for the costs of participating.

Congratulations to Angela Darosh and Kristen Imboden who were awarded the 2011 Spirit of Honors Award. The Spirit of Honors Award is presented annually at the Honors Spring Banquet to the students who have exemplified the Honors Program’s commitment to promoting scholarship, leadership, and service.

Congratulations to Miranda Aaron and Addy Virtus who represented the Shippensburg University Honors Program at the 2011 PASSHE Summer Honors Program in Bermuda. Miranda and Addy will make a presentation on their experience at the Honors Fall General Meeting.

Congratulations to Miranda Aaron, Jordan Dewalt, Jennifer Gonzalez, Jeff Herman, Jennifer Johnson, Samantha Mincarelli, Abby Montler, Holly Plank, Stephanie Savarese, Patrick Shay, Rachel Statler, and Kady Taylor who were selected to participate in the Honors Program’s Reach Out project in the Dominican Republic in 2011-2012. The project’s faculty mentors for 2011-2012 are Dr. Gretchen Pierce and Dr. Rob Lesman.

Thank you to Orientation Committee co-chairs Addy Virtus and Karli Wagner and all students who assisted with the Honors Freshmen Orientation on August 5-6: Jennifer Hoover, Chelsea Meier, Scott Karper, Jordan Dewalt, Ryan Schweikert, Steve Masel, Lindsay Rosen, Megan Fick, Brianna Evans, Ethan Goldbach, Nathan Barr, and Luke Strawser.
Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Editor’s Corner! I would like to welcome you all to a new year at Shippensburg University. I am very excited for many of the upcoming Honors Program events and activities that are planned for this semester, and I hope you are too. The Honors Chronicle is a great tool to stay updated on these upcoming events as well as to share your own experiences and opinions. I hope to have more student involvement and interactive features in the upcoming year as well.

I have spent time this summer redesigning the layout of the Honors Chronicle, and I hope that you like it so far. Look for new changes in upcoming issues as well. Check out the online PDF version for links to important websites, a photo gallery from my semester in Costa Rica, as well as a few new animations. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or story ideas. I hope to use your innovative ideas to continue to improve the Chronicle one issue at a time. I hope that everyone has an exciting end of the summer and beginning of the fall semester. Thank you,

Holly Plank
-Editor

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Thank You, Honors Mentors

The Mentor/Mentee Program is a valuable source of academic assistance and social support for new Honors students. The following upperclassmen are dedicating their time as mentors to our incoming Honors students:

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Honors Program
Shippensburg University
1871 Old Main Drive
Shippensburg, PA 17257

THE HONORABLE MENTION

Congratulations to members of the Honors Program who were recognized at the Shippensburg University Campus Life Awards Program on Wednesday, April 21:

Kevin McCrabb, Honors senior and founder of People Involved Equally, a campus organization dedicated to working with the disabled, received the Shippensburg Community Service and Engagement Award.

JohnPaul Bennett was nominated for the Raider Legacy Award, which recognizes the university’s outstanding graduating senior.

Dr. Kim Klein was nominated for the Outstanding Faculty/Staff Advisor Award.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to the campus at the Honors Program’s Fall General Meeting and Reception!

Reminder: All Honors students are required to attend the fall and spring general meetings.

Tuesday, September 6
3:30 P.M.
Tuscarora Room
Reisner Hall

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