



The Newsletter of The Wood Honors College
at Shippensburg University
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Building Bridges in Beantown at 2018 NCHC Conference

By Rachael Rudis, Honors Junior

The trek to the 2018 National Collegiate Honors Council Conference began at precisely 4:15 a.m. when my alarm clock beeped loudly. I hadn't been on an airplane since middle school, and I had always wanted to visit Boston. After a short, tense standoff with the TSA (For those of you travelling, make sure the name on your license matches the name on your ticket!) and a plane ride of just over an hour, we touched down in Boston and made our way to the hotel, a twenty-five-story Sheraton situated in the heart of the city.

It didn't take long to adjust to the fast-paced city life. The hotel was attached to the Prudential Center, the fancy name for a large mall, so Rachel Smith, Reece Dolbin, Luke Hershey, and I spent some time shopping and eating copious amounts of ice cream from a Ben and Jerry's stand on the very first night. (Pro tip from an ice cream connoisseur: Boston has a lot of exquisite ice cream. Never say no to Ben and Jerry's or Italian gelato.) Boston's food scene was a thrilling grab bag, and we took advantage of the wide variety of cuisine at every meal. From authentic empanadas to New England's famous clam chowder to warm chocolate-chip cookies at midnight, you can find anything you have a craving for in Beantown at almost any time.

Boston's food really reflected the city itself: diverse and multi-faceted. We spent an afternoon sightseeing, touring historic sites like the exact location of the Boston Massacre and Paul Revere's house. We ate lunch at Quincy Market and saw New England's largest Catholic cathedral. (We snuck in a side entrance and got confronted by a roaming priest.) As a history major, sightseeing was one of my favorite parts of the trip. Boston is such a historic city, and I was excited to get the chance to see so many colonial-era sites. I fell in love with the city, its bustling, happy atmosphere and its, contrary to popular perception, friendly residents. I even chatted with a British redcoat in full eighteenth-century attire! Boston had so much to offer, and we tried to experience as much of it as we could in our four days there. I would've liked to have stayed another week or two.

The conference, of course, was the focus of the trip. Each of us learned a lot from the sessions that



Photo Courtesy of NCHC

Luke delivers his award-winning story at the 2018 NCHC Story Slam Contest in Boston, Massachusetts.

we attended. Presentation topics ranged from Honors newsletters to first-year seminars to recruiting among Appalachian schools. Rachel and Reece presented their research during poster sessions, a time for Honors students to share their research with peers and faculty. Rachel's research, "Body of Evidence: The Physical Body as the Source of Truth for Crossdressing Saints in Medieval Europe," took first place in the Arts and Humanities Division. Her poster was the first ever from Shippensburg University's Honors College to win at a poster session! On Friday night, Luke told a story about the mishaps he encountered while teaching an acting class for Ship Trip at the first annual NCHC Story Slam, during which a select group of Honors students and faculty from across the nation shared their tales about being in Honors. Luke won the Audience Choice Award after an amazing performance that had everyone in the crowd laughing. On Saturday morning, Dr. Klein and I shared information about Ship Trip with other Honors Programs.

The conference was, overall, a wonderful time. We got to explore the city, connect with Honors students, and showcase some of the best features of the Wood Honors College. I appreciated getting the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone by exploring a new city, trying new foods, and meeting people from around the country. Now that I've been to Boston once, I can't wait to go back. It seems I've caught the travel bug, and I look forward to the next chance I get to explore a new place with great friends.

Netflix and 'Chile'

By Reece Dolbin, Honors Senior



Photo Courtesy of Reece Dolbin

Dolbin spends the last semester of his senior year in Santiago, Chile, touring the beautiful landscapes and interning for the acclaimed NGO, Ashoka. After graduation, Dolbin hopes to continue traveling the world and further explore his region of study.

With graduation right around the corner, I decided to make the most of my last semester at Ship, by not spending it in Ship. Don't get me wrong, Ship is great, but it's not a massive metropolitan capital nestled between the soaring Andes mountains, capped with permanent blankets of snow and the rugged coastline of the South Pacific Ocean. Only Santiago, Chile possessed that and so much more.

As a double major in History and International Studies with a minor in Spanish and a concentration in Latin America, a semester in Santiago represented the perfect opportunity for me to gain firsthand experience in my region of study, practice my Spanish, pursue a professional internship, and of course, explore the country. This was not my first study abroad, as I had previously spent a semester in Buenos Aires, Argentina and almost two weeks in the Dominican Republic with Reach Out, but I approached Chile with distinct goals in mind, goals that would bring an appropriate close to my undergraduate career and also propel me into the post-graduate world.

While I enjoyed classes, explored the city of Santiago, and had the opportunity to travel the length of Chile from the Arctic tundra of Patagonia in the south to the world's driest desert, the Atacama in the north, the most rewarding and influential experience of the semester proved to be my internship. This internship was with Ashoka, an international non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to fostering and supporting social entrepreneurship throughout the world. In essence, Ashoka's mission is to identify and recognize individuals who are instituting systemic change and improving the lives of others with innovative solutions that tackle issues related to poverty, gender inequality, hunger, and much more. Once these fellows are identified and

properly vetted, they are inducted into the organization as fellows, a commendation that affords them access to a massive network of other social entrepreneurs and financial stipends, which allow them to fully pursue their projects. I had the unique opportunity to work directly under Ashoka's director for Chile, a position that gave me firsthand experience in non-profits and the management of complex organizations. I had always thought that my future career lay in the area of foreign policy, working at a think-tank or government research institution; however, Ashoka's pioneering work in the area of social entrepreneurship prompted me to consider alternate paths.

On a daily basis, I would try to beat the rush-hour traffic on the metro as I made my way downtown to the Ashoka office, located in a large building that housed a multitude of other international and humanitarian organizations. My regular tasks included independent research on Ashoka fellows in Spanish, the drafting of reports on said fellows, the collection of information on affiliated organizations, communication with the fellowship network, and the categorization of fellows based on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, an endeavor that culminated in a 40-page publication.

At this moment, as I reflect upon my experience in Chile, the only regret I possess is that I did not have enough time working at Ashoka. I would encourage anyone who is considering study abroad to pursue it, and for those that have already studied abroad, go one step further and intern abroad. While it was, at times, stressful to manage the responsibilities of work, a social life, classes, and travel, all whilst in a foreign country and culture, the experience has proved invaluable to me as I consider future careers and transition into life after graduation.

Navigating the Alaskan Wilderness: Life as a Forest Service Botany Intern

By Olivia Turner, Honors Senior

Photo Courtesy of Olivia Turner

Olivia Turner basks in the majesty of the Alaskan wilderness as she hunts for rare roundleaf orchids, one of her many internship duties.

One of my jobs this past summer as the Forest Service's Botany Intern was to survey rare plants within the Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska. Rare plants are important to track because they are often the most sensitive to climate change and other disturbances. They also influence the overall biodiversity measurement of the forest. "Rare Plant Days" were some of my favorite during the internship. They included waking up early to pack lots of water, lunch, a radio, and raingear. The Tongass isn't called a temperate rainforest for nothing! After gathering the appropriate supplies, I would stuff my feet in hiking boots and head out with a map in my hand.

Navigating the Alaskan wilderness on dirt roads was fun and often hazardous—those stories are for another time. My favorite part of the day would begin when I hopped out of the truck and tramped into the forest, on the hunt. I would notice all the plants: rod-straight red cedars (a good scratch and sniff tree), five-foot tall ferns, huge wild blueberries (I took every excuse to stop and shove as many fresh berries in my mouth as possible), and of course, the old-growth hemlocks with trunks wider than I am tall. Finding these old hemlocks was

my goal. They shaded out most other plants and allowed tiny fields of spongy moss to cover the forest floor. It was in this soft habitat that the rare roundleaf orchid grew. These plants were very elusive and not always present in perfect-looking habitats. Some days would pass without a glimpse of one in the mossy understory.

Sometimes I'd get lucky! I'd do a double take or absentmindedly try to remember the name of some random plant while gazing at the ground when BAM! My eyes would incidentally stumble across one or two orchids popping up. What followed never got old. First, I would let loose a screech of "Oh my lands, I think I found one!" Then, I'd examine the plant to make sure it wasn't a false alarm and mark its location with the GPS. I would then scour the surrounding area looking for more, exploring and GPS-ing away. On the best "Rare Plant Days," I found a widespread community of orchids, while good days meant stumbling across one or two of them. Either way, once I had inspected every possible nook and cranny, I'd hike on, walking on cloud nine, filled with the excitement that comes from finding and identifying rare Alaskan plants.

Senior Spotlight

By Nick Rummel and Lisa Watson
Honors Seniors



Photo Courtesy of Nick Rummel

As an Honors student, Rummel is involved with the Fundraising Committee and works at the Information Desk in the CUB.

The Wood Honors College has provided me with many opportunities and experiences throughout my time at Ship. Some of these opportunities have been outside of the classroom, but the most impactful experiences for me have happened inside the classroom. There is one class that I would recommend to every Honors student because it challenged me to the core: Dr. Shane's science and religion seminar. Having mixed emotions about science and religion,

I enrolled in this Honors seminar in spring 2018. As a computer science major, I have taken a few science classes as part of my major's curriculum. At the same time, I grew up as a devout Christian. Being aware of the conflicts between my religious beliefs and science, the first assignment of the class was to write a personal statement about how I have seen science and religion interact in my life. At the end of my statement, I wrote about how I struggled with my Christian beliefs ever since my mom passed away unexpectedly in fall 2015, which was my first semester at Ship. Her death left me questioning countless religious beliefs. Through lecture and class discussions, Dr. Shane took us on the ride of a lifetime through various world religions and historical scientific advancements.

There were many times after class that I felt overwhelmed because the material challenged the very foundations upon which I built my life. After mentally processing the reading material and lectures, I was able to resolve various science and religion conflicts in my personal life. Of all the classes I have taken, this seminar allowed me to learn and have closure with situations in my personal life.



Photo Courtesy of Lisa Watson

During the spring semester of her sophomore year, Watson spent a semester studying abroad in Ireland at the University of Limerick.

I entered the Honors Program a nervous freshman, and will be leaving the Honors College a well-prepared adult. Through the Honors College, I have learned about other cultures, what a good leader looks like, how to welcome new students, and how to use my knowledge to make a difference. I have gained experience in some of those other cul-

tures, understanding how different the world is from the little bubble of Pennsylvania. My study abroad experience in Ireland allowed me the opportunity to experience life in a different country, tasting, feeling, studying all that it had to offer. Through this, I was able to seize the opportunity to travel to other countries and experience even more of what Europe has to offer.

Through my classes there and at Shippensburg University, professors strived to help their students succeed and prepare for their futures. This dedication to the future of education and society prepares and encourages us to find joy and excitement in knowledge and all that can grow from it. The ability to attend college is a great privilege we often take advantage of. We should instead strive to learn as much as possible in the time we have available with these amazing professors, learning from their experiences as we begin to build our own. I am very proud to be part of the first graduating class from the Wood Honors College at Shippensburg University!

Honors Symposium: A Feather in Your Capstone

By Katie Sweigart, Honors Junior

On Wednesday, December 5, Honors seniors presented their Honors capstone projects. As they prepare to graduate at the end of this semester, each student created a presentation highlighting a research project within their field of study. After the symposium, students, families, and Shippensburg University faculty were able to attend the Recognition Ceremony and Reception honoring the December 2018 Graduates. Our graduates and their Honors capstone projects are listed below.

Lisa Watson, Biology Major, “Methodological Development for the Translational Evaluation of Renewal of Operant Behavior”

Courtney Weaver, Psychology Major, “Educational Experience as it Relates to Job Preparedness and Satisfaction”

Nicholas Rummel, Computer Science Major, “Document Classification Problem: Does a Web page Contain an Article?”

Victorial Keener, Elementary Education and Special Education Major, “Specialized Approaches to Early Interventions for Inclusive Jamaican Preschools”

Morgan Mellot, Psychology Major, “Creating an Operant Laboratory Experiment: Color Discrimination in Goldfish”

Brooke Poe, Biology Major, “Molecular Detection of Rickettsial Pathogens in Ticks Removed from Opossums in Pennsylvania”

Lane Yutzy, Biology Major, “Earthworm-Inspired Miniature Cone Penetration Device”

Congratulations to all of our December 2018 graduates. Good luck in all your future endeavors!

Democracy Day Urges Students to Go Vote!

By Isaac Dietrich, Honors Junior

The second annual Democracy Day event took place on November 5 inside Dauphin Humanities Center. Hosted by students from Ship Votes and HON 397: Leadership, History and Social Change, students had the opportunity to learn more about voting in America, as well as give testimonials about what the right to vote means to them.



Photo Courtesy of Isaac Dietrich

Honors Senior Grace Ramacciotti gives her Democracy Day testimonial in the CUB Fishbowl, one of many activities available to students.

“Seeing all of the students that attended the event and hearing them ask questions about different voting issues that interested them, or how to register for future elections, or even about how to get to the polls gave me hope for our generation and what seems like a resurgence of political agency among America’s youth.”

-Isaac Dietrich, Honors Junior



Photo Courtesy of Isaac Dietrich

Isaac and other Honors students provided sweet treats like cotton candy as part of the Democracy Day festivities.

Christmas in the Age of Reason (A Flash Play)

By Luke Hershey, Honors Sophomore

The lights come up on the Oval Office. It is the 2018 Republican Ugly Christmas Sweater Party, and all of the political hotshots are in attendance. CORKER, smiling, taps his glass full of immigrant children's blood with a fork and begins to speak.

CORKER: I would like to propose a toast. The twenty-first century has seen the most temperature records broken in recorded history.

FLAKE: Ah, yes! Ninety-seven percent of researchers believe global warming is happening. They also agree that it is the result of human activity.

GARDNER: Sea levels are rising at their fastest rate in two thousand years.

HELLER: Climate change will lead to a refugee crisis! The number of migrants might reach one billion by 2050.

PAUL: The ocean is twenty-six percent more acidic than it was before the Industrial Revolution.

SULLIVAN: Two-thirds of the Great Barrier Reef has been damaged as a result of climate change.

SASSE: More greenhouse gases are in our atmosphere than at any other time in human history. The concentration of carbon dioxide in the sky reached the milestone of four hundred parts per million for the first time in 2015.

SHELBY: It takes fifty bathtubs of water to produce one pound of meat. Raising animals for food takes up half of all water used in the U.S.

LEE: Every six seconds, an acre of rainforest is cut down for cattle farming. That's 14,400 acres a day!

NUNES: Cow burps and farts make up twenty percent of U.S. methane gas emissions. Globally, animal agriculture is responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than all the world's transportation systems combined.

RYAN: If every American skipped one meal of chicken per week and ate vegan food instead, it would be like

taking five hundred thousand cars off the road.

MCCARTHY: If Americans reduced their intake of meat by merely ten percent, one hundred million people could be fed using the land, water, and energy that would be freed up from growing livestock feed.

KAUFFMAN: Glaciers are retreating almost everywhere around the world.

MCCONNELL: Climate change could slash up to a tenth of GDP by 2100, more than double the losses of the Great Recession a decade ago.

CRUZ: Global flooding could triple by 2030.

GRAHAM: Climate change will cause an increase in deadly droughts.

RUBIO: Climate change will cause an increase in deadly hurricanes.

WHEELER: Climate change will cause an increase in deadly wildfires.

PENCE: The earth's temperature will continue to rise so long as we continue to produce massive amounts of greenhouse gases. The planet could warm by six degrees by the end of the century. Millions of people may die!

TRUMP: And what are we gonna do about it?

ALL: Nothing!

TRUMP (*raises glass*): To an evidently bright future.

Everyone tosses back their cups of immigrant children's blood.

TRUMP: Now who's ready for some steak?

A chorus of cheers erupts. The world burns.



Final Thoughts From The Editors

I'm sure I don't only speak for myself when I say this semester has probably been the faster semester to date. As I try to think about everything I've done these past sixteen weeks, I feel as though it has been a blur, gone by in a blink of an eye. While I might not be able to remember what assignments and exams I prepared for, I will always recall how many amazing things I've witnessed from my peers, and especially our Honors seniors. For those graduating in just a few short days, congratulations. I'm jealous that you're finally able to apply the past four years into the real world, but I'm also shocked that my time is coming so soon. If I am able to accomplish half the things the 2019 Honors Senior class has done, I will feel successful. For those of you who haven't had a chance to see what they've done this past year, make sure you take the chance to read through our latest edition of *.hnrs*. Enjoy!

Katie Sweigart

Twenty minutes ago, I handed in a fourteen-page dumpster fire, and now I have absolutely no obligations or responsibilities for the next thirty-something days. I should be feeling relief, right? There is nothing due tomorrow. There are no more papers to write. For whatever reason, the rumble of dissatisfaction is bubbling in the pit of my stomach. I don't feel comfortable having nothing to do. I really don't want to snap this four-month streak of productivity! I think I'm gonna use the break as an opportunity to create: an album, a book, a play, a short film, anything. In whatever way it manifests, it will be mine. I think you should create something, too. Yes, watch some Netflix. Sleep in past noon a couple times. Rejuvenate yourself. After that, figure out how you can, in the words of the fallen angel Kanye West, lift yourself. Come back to Ship in January with something to show! Because why not? It's not like you have anything better to do. (Unless you do, in which case you should do that.)

Luke Hershey

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The cover photo for this edition of *.hnrs* was taken by Katie Sweigart.

.HNRS

Have a safe and
exciting Winter Break.
We'll see you again
in 2019!

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, January 23

Honors Student Leaders Meeting
12:00 p.m., Honors Seminary Room

Wednesday, February 6

Honors Student Leaders Meeting
12:00 p.m., Honors Seminary Room

Tuesday, January 29

Honors Spring
Reception and General Meeting
3:30-4:30 p.m., Tuscarora Room

Friday, February 8

Deadline for Honors seniors
to submit information for the Honors
Symposium program

Friday, February 1

Deadline to notify
Dr. Klein that you plan to apply for a
Partners in the Parks Scholarship

Friday, February 15

Application deadline for
Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grant

