



The Newsletter of the Shippensburg University Honors Program
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NCHC Atlanta: More Than “Just” a Conference

By Jordan Back, Luke Smith, and Rachel Smith, Honors Juniors

While it’s known as “Hotlanta” in the sweltering summer months, Atlanta in the fall is downright peachy. Fortunately for us, this was the chosen location of the 2017 NCHC Annual Conference, hosted by the National Collegiate Honors Council, the national organization of Honors Programs and Colleges. The conference, running November 8-12, presented an opportunity for Honors students, professors, and directors from all across the country (and even around the world) to come together and learn from one another. This year’s theme was “Just Honors,” which aimed at exploring ways in which Honors Programs can teach and interact with everyday social justice. Knowing little else about what to expect, we arrived in the city feeling excited at the prospect of the days to come.

On our first morning of the conference, we attended the opening keynote address by Ken Polite, the former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana. He shared the incredible journey he endured to overcome a disadvantaged background and become a successful social justice lawyer in his own hometown. He explained what it means to pursue justice in everything we do. With all this in mind, we were ready to attend the conference sessions with open minds and pens at the ready.

A definite highlight was City-as-Text on Thursday. All conference participants selected one of fourteen local points of interest to explore for the afternoon. Students, faculty, and administrators were grouped together at random and given nothing but a fact sheet and instructions to return by three o’clock. Jordan chose to visit Midtown, the business and arts district. Luke opted for the State Capital and Underground ATL to see historic sights and entertainment destinations. Rachel traveled to Sweet Auburn, a neighborhood noted for its rich history in the African-American community. We worked with our groups of students from all over the country to find our location and investigate the area as both tourists and anthropologists. Upon our return, we discussed our findings both small and large groups, giving us the chance to hear about everyone’s adventures.

The plenary speaker, Bryan Stevenson, gave us even more insight on this year’s conference theme. Author of the bestselling nonfiction book, *Just Mercy*, Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama. In discussing his experience as a defense lawyer, he painted a tragic yet hopeful image of the United States’ justice system, particularly in regards to the imprisonment of minors.

On Friday morning, Luke and Rachel presented at the Idea Exchange, a time for students to informally share concepts from their own Honors Programs. Our presentation was about last fall’s Honors interdisciplinary seminar, “Leadership, History, and Social Change,” and the signature event we created in the seminar, Democracy Day, which was designed to promote student voting. We also spoke with students about the unique events available in their Honors Programs and brought ideas back with us.

Amidst all of the conference offerings, we also got out of the hotel and saw many highlights of Atlanta. Some favorite neighborhoods included Little Five Points, Inman Park, and Buckhead. We also got to visit the World of Coca-Cola, where the expansive offerings of soda almost made us lose our minds. We all felt fortunate that we were able to see so much of the city in just a few days.

All in all, we had an amazing time experiencing Honors in a brand new way. We would like to thank Dr. Klein for this invaluable opportunity, and encourage any interested students to pursue attending the conference in the future!



Luke, Rachel, and Jordan pose in front of a sign that expressed their feelings after getting off of the plane in Atlanta.

The Luck o' the Irish

By Jake Gillespie, Honors Senior

On Thursday, November 2, Honors students flocked to the Honors Seminar Room in Harley Hall to get a little taste of Ireland courtesy of Lisa Watson. Lisa, a biology major with a pre-veterinary medicine concentration, studied abroad in the spring of 2017 as a second-semester sophomore at the University of Limerick. When she returned, she scheduled a Cultural Coffee Break. The Honors Program started this event to allow Honors students who studied abroad to share their experiences with other students, and even enjoy some food specific to the culture in which the student studied. Lisa provided Butler's chocolates, shamrock shortbread cookies, and Irish breakfast tea to give students their own taste of Ireland.

Lisa told the group that she traveled throughout Ireland during her time there and visited other countries throughout Europe. Her favorites were the "treacherously beautiful" Scottish Highlands and the island of Aegina off the coast of Athens, Greece. She couldn't decide what she liked more, the aquamarine waters, or the people; one woman even bought her a meal!



Lisa (bottom row, second from right) with her roommates outside their residence hall at the University of Limerick.

Lisa said she was humbled by her experience abroad. "Going to Ireland showed me how uncultured I am and how much I want to learn about cultures different from my own. This desire was inspired by the girls I lived with at university in Ireland because of the adventures we enjoyed together and the long, thoughtful conversations we had about many topics, including our lives and cultural differences."

Lisa's travel bug clearly rubbed off on everyone who attended the Cultural Coffee Break. Isaac Dietrich, a sophomore in the Honors Program, said, "I enjoyed the coffee break because Lisa's enthusiasm for her trip was contagious. I think that helped make the idea of studying abroad sound more realistic. It just looked like a fun time but fulfilling as well."

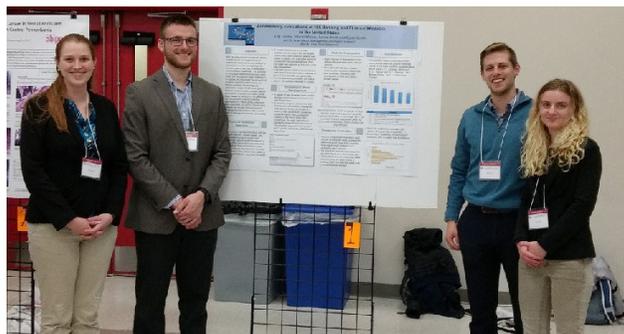


Lisa shows off some pictures in the Honors Seminar Room.

Con-grad-ulations!

By Jake Gillespie, Honors Senior

We would like to congratulate two members of the Honors Program who will be graduating this December. Allison Wilson, an accounting major, will graduate with the General Education Honors Program designation. Jenna Walton, a psychology major, will graduate with the University Honors Program designation. Her Honors capstone project was "Risk of Violence: A Scale Calibration." We wish both Jenna and Allison the best of luck in the next stage of their lives!



Allison (left) presents research at the Minds at Work Conference.

Jenna (right) presents her Honors Capstone Project in the Honors Seminar Room.



University Undergraduate Research Grant Recipients

By Jake Gillespie, Honors Senior

Congratulations to the following Honors students who received University Undergraduate Research Grants to support their research, creative, and service-learning projects. The recipients include:

McKenzie Horn, "For the People: A Manual for History and Civics Education"

Michael Donovan, "Reach Out: Multicultural Children's Literature and the Dominican Republic"

Reece Dolbin, "Choosing Between Two China's: The Impact of Chinese Bilateral Relations in the Dominican Republic"

Jessica Query, "Geography and Culture: A Look Around the World"

Sarah Nagy, "Synthesis and Single-Molecule Magnet Properties of $Mn[12-MCMnIII(N)shi-4]2+$ Metallocrowns with Various Bridging Carboxylate Ligands"

Brianna Kling and Brooke Poe, "Molecular Detection of Rickettsial Pathogens in Ticks Removed From Opossums in Pennsylvania"

Daniel Rosen, "Feasibility and Computational Analysis of 3D Printed Microfluidic Devices"

Tristan Phillips, "Galois Groups and Integral Bases of Some Lucas Polynomial Sequences"

Lane Yutzy, "Seroprevalence of Rickettsiae in Feral/Homeless Cats in Central PA"

Dijana Katic, "In Depth Analysis of Metal-Organic Framework (MOF) Degradation in Aqueous or Chemical Environments"

Jason Laubach and Cody Olson, "A Hog Farm is Coming: A Negotiation and Town Hall Simulation Paired with an Academic Teaching Plan"

Enoch Shissler, "Endogenous Tagging of Beclin-1 and LC3 Using CRISPR Coupled with Homology-Directed Repair"

Rachel Shaffer, "Determination of the Pathway Leading to Zonula Occludin 1 Phosphorylation and Subsequent Tight Junction Alteration in Diabetic Retinopathy"

Patrick Boddicker, "Study of Two Invasive Plant Species and Their Effect on Native Virginia Bluebells Along Stream Banks of Conodoguinet Creek"



The Mentor/Mentee Program: Kickstarting the Careers of Standout Students

By Olivia Turner, Honors Junior

Being a mentor in the Shippensburg University Honors Mentor/Mentee Program has been such an amazing experience. I chose to become a mentor in the Honors Program after my sophomore year because I wanted to be a catalyst of personal growth for incoming Honors first-year students. Through my experience with the program, I have realized that being a mentor is a service done well when my own knowledge of college life and academia can give my mentees an upper hand during their first year of college. For example, taking my mentees on a campus classroom tour or showing them how to navigate D2L and find posted assignments during the first week of classes are small services that ultimately make them feel more prepared and confident as Ship students. If I can help them establish this confidence within the first few weeks of school, I know that their potential here at Shippensburg as students and members of the Honors Program is unlimited. I also enjoy sharing my passion for Shippensburg University and our Honors Program with my mentees; what better way to develop friendships than to share your own experiences and encourage the formation of new ones through Honors activities? The Honors Mentor/Mentee Program is such an outstanding program because it allows mentors the power to cultivate strong, established, and contributing student members of the Honors Program and Shippensburg University.



Olivia and her mentee, Carl Potter, getting some work done in the library.

Crowning the Pumpkin Carving King and Queen

By Patrick Hiller, Honors Junior

What's Halloween without pumpkin carving? On October 27, the Honors Program held its annual Pumpkin Carving Contest at the Recreational Pavilion. The weather was great, and four teams totaling eight students each entered into the contest. The contest was set up by HSO Activities Committee Chair David Reagan, who prepared the pumpkins, tables, and carving supplies along with the seasonal apple cider and cookies. Pumpkin designs ranged from traditional fall and Halloween symbols to Pixar movie characters. A group vote on the best pumpkin came down to a tie between a face-shaped Trick-Or-Treat carved by Lane Yutzy and Brooke Poe and a Mike Wazowski from *Monsters, Inc.* made by Erica Helm and myself. Celebrity faculty judge, Dr. Senecal, picked the Mike Wazowski pumpkin to take home the prize of a Chick-Fil-A gift card and a wonderful set of Honors coffee mugs.



*Patrick Hiller and Erica Helm with their winning pumpkin, a representation of Mike Wazowski from *Monsters, Inc.**

Remarkable Research From Reber-Offner Grant Recipients

By Katie Sweigert, Honors Sophomore

Shippensburg's Honors students have the ability to change the world, but funding their research is often challenging along with paying for college. But thanks to the generous donation of retired SU history professors, Dr. Vera Reber and Dr. John Offner, that seemingly impossible task has been made possible.

The grant is designed to support women in science and provides an Honors student with a \$5000 summer research stipend. Honors students majoring in math, chemistry, physics, or computer science are eligible for the opportunity to undertake a summer research experience early in their undergraduate career without having to worry about working during the summer to pay their university expenses.

During the past two years, two Honors students, Rachel Shaffer and Dijana Katic, have been awarded the Reber-Offner Research Grant. In the summer of 2016, chemistry major Rachel Shaffer was the first recipient of the grant. Shaffer, now a senior, tested a group of potentially therapeutic drugs in vivo using fast-scan cyclic voltammetry. The grant allowed her to study these drugs in a living animal rather than on ITO-coated glass. Shaffer says that being awarded the grant has allowed her to further her career in the field of chemistry and helped her secure a research position at the National Institute on Drug Abuse in summer 2017.

In the summer of 2017, chemistry major Dijana Katic was the second recipient of the Reber-Offner Research Grant. Katic, now a sophomore, used the grant to pursue her interest in Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs). Katic's goal for the project was to synthesize MOFs and to perform analytical

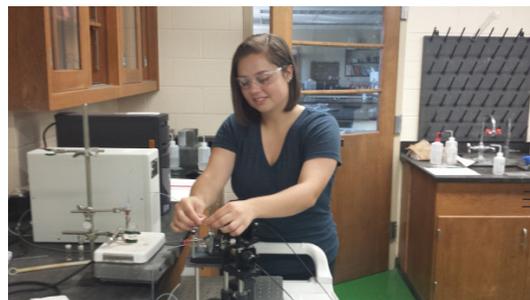
experiments to study the mechanisms behind their degradation in various conditions.

According to Katic, her research consisted of four parts. The first part of her research included a comprehensive literature review on previous research performed on MOFs. Then, with the guidance of her advisor, Dr. Alexander Spore, Katic synthesized specific MOFs in the lab, while also becoming familiar with instrumentation in the department. At the end of her research, Katic began an investigation into the mechanisms needed to begin the degradation process of these MOFs.

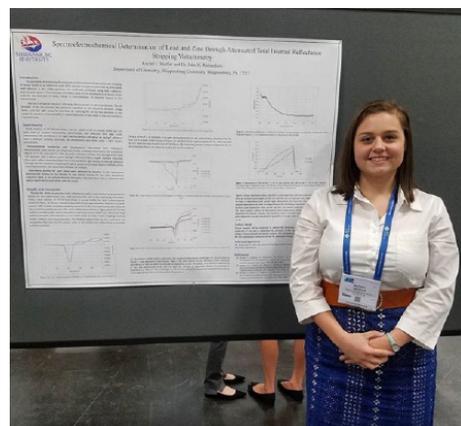
With the possibility of presenting at the American Chemical Society Conference in New Orleans in spring of 2018, Katic says that the Reber-Offner Research Grant was more than just funding for a research project.

"I have gained an invaluable experience that not many students are as fortunate to have. I learned many skills and became comfortable with instrumentation that will be crucial in my success as a chemistry student in my remaining three years at Shippensburg," says Katic.

The deadline to apply for the Reber-Offner Research Grant is March 1, 2018. More information about this opportunity can be found in the spring semester Honors weekly updates.



Rachel conducts research in the summer of 2016.



Rachel presents her findings at the American Chemical Society National Meeting in San Francisco in 2017.



Dijana works on her grant-funded research.

Final Thoughts From The Editors

Dear Reader,

You're almost there. Just a few exams stand between you and five whole weeks free of tests, quizzes, papers, and required readings. You can catch up on those Netflix shows you've been disciplined enough to avoid while studying for finals, and those books you haven't had time to read will finally take their rightful place above your textbooks. But remember, there's still some work to do. If you study hard and try your best, you will conquer any exam thrown your way. However, study breaks are also essential to final exam success. If you decide to take a study break, why not check out what your fellow Honors students are doing? Good luck on finals, have a safe and restful winter break, and most importantly, read on!

Jake Gillespie

The last few weeks of the semester have been filled with late nights, paper deadlines, exams, and excessive amounts of caffeine. Now that the semester is finally coming to an end, you can dedicate the next five weeks to ringing in the holiday season. With finals out of the way, there's time to relax, spend time with family, and check in on your Honors peers. This final newsletter of the semester is nothing less of exciting--Honors students are always on the move. Special thanks to Jake, Kenzie, and Dr. Klein for this opportunity to be one of the editors for this newsletter. I look forward to working on future publications with such an amazing team. Have a safe and exciting winter break, and never forget about your Red Raider Pride. Enjoy!

Katie Sweigart

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The cover photo of this edition of *.hnrs* was taken by Honors Program senior, Jake Gillespie

January-February 2018 Calendar of Events

January 8: Application deadline for Humanity in Action Fellowship. Visit humanityinaction.org.

January 24: Student Leaders Meeting, Time TBD, Honors Seminar Room

January 29: Application deadline for the 2018 PASSHE Summer Honors Program. Submit applications to Cindy Poe, cmpoe@ship.edu, by 11:45 a.m.

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

February 1: Deadline to notify Dr. Klein that you plan to apply for a Partners in the Parks Scholarship, sponsored by the Northeast Regional Honors Council. For more information, visit nrhchonors.org.

February 7: New Student Orientation, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Honors Seminar Room

February 9: Deadline for Honors seniors to submit information for the Honors Symposium program to Cindy Poe at cmpoe@ship.edu.

February 15: Application deadline for Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grant. For more information, visit apply.phikappaphi.org/Awards.



HOLIDAY FUN

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