

The Honors Chronicle

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March 2011

The Dominican Republic: Reach Out! Honors Students Continue Service-Learning Project in the DR

By Sarah Ricker, Honors graduate assistant

A group of Shippensburg University Honors Program students and faculty recently spent a week in the Dominican Republic to implement their service-learning project, "Reach Out: A Shippensburg University Honors Program Literacy and Leadership Initiative."

Nine SU students and three faculty members traveled to Santo Domingo, the capital city, to work with children and their teachers at the Pathways of Learning elementary school from January 9 to 16. This marks the second year of the Reach Out project.

Senior elementary education major Kristen Imboden created an instructional manual to enhance literacy education at the school. During their week in Santo Domingo, the SU faculty and students used the literacy manual to conduct training workshops for the school's teachers. They also demonstrated many of the



Photo courtesy of Reach Out students
Dr. Jose Ricardo and Honors student Stephanie Savarese at the Pathways of Learning School.

innovative teaching techniques in the manual by working directly with students in the classroom. "The literacy focus of the project allowed me to apply disciplinary

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Backpack to Briefcase: Alumnus Meg Dameron

By Chelsea Meier, Honors sophomore

"Backpack to Briefcase" is definitely one of the coolest Honors events I have ever attended! The Honors Program invites Honors alumni to return to Shippensburg to host an event in which they tell people about their accomplishments since graduating. I had the pleasure of meeting Meg Dameron, 2005 Shippensburg University and Honors Program alumnus. She is definitely an inspiration to



Photo courtesy of Chelsea Meier

Honors students Owen Eckert and Chelsea Meier with alumni speaker Meg Dameron.

people who aren't sure what career path they want to take after college. Meg's solution: take a risk. Take any path and every path you can find.

During Meg's first two years at Shippensburg, she had the opportunity to take a variety of classes because she was undeclared. She had no idea what kind of career she wanted, but after her advisor worked with her to select a major, Meg chose to major in History and minor in Art. After graduating in 2005, Meg became a curator in an art museum in Maryland. After working as a curator for about three years, she decided to go back to school and get her teaching certificate. Later, she found herself working in a temporary position for the Human Resources Department at Volvo Construction Equipment (Volvo CE), and she now works in Corporate Communications for Volvo CE.

Volvo Group is the world's leading supplier of transport solutions. The corporation makes automobiles, Volvo trucks, Mack trucks, tour buses, construction equipment, and many other pieces of equipment

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Calendar

March

15-16 - Honors Scheduling for Fall 2011

All students who intend to schedule Honors courses for the Fall 2011 semester must contact Sharon Poe, Honors secretary, at sapoe@ship.edu with the Honors courses they would like to schedule.

15 - HSO Meeting

3:30 p.m., WRI 017

20 - Drown Out Cystic Fibrosis Benefit Concert

7:00-11:00 p.m., Tuscarora Room

Hosted by the Honors Introduction to Human Communications class. All proceeds go to the Great Strides Foundation, which supports cystic fibrosis research.

26 - Ship Trip

9:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Shippen Hall

Honors students will host gifted children from area school districts.

31- April 2 - 2011 Northeast Regional Honors Conference

Honors students Jennifer Hoover, Sara Workman, and Kristen Imboden will make presentations at this year's conference in Portland, Maine.

April

1 - Deadline for Capstone Grant Applications

Submit applications to Sharon Poe, Horton 201. Forms are available on the Honors Program website at <http://www.ship.edu/honors/forms.html>.

1 - Zumbathon

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Henderson Gym

Fundraiser to support the Reach Out project in the Dominican Republic.

\$10 for students and \$15 for non-students

5 - HSO Service Project: King's Kettle Food Pantry

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

11 - HSO Meeting

9:30 p.m., CUB Orndorff Theatre

Meet and greet the candidates for 2011-2012 HSO offices.

11-14 - Geek Week

Show your Honors spirit! See the schedule of activities on p. 6.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Alison Feeney

By Scott Karper, Honors junior

“The World of Piracy” promises to be one of the more interesting of this autumn’s Honors classes. Offered every few years, the course is taught by Dr. Alison Feeney, a member of Shippensburg’s Geography/Earth Science Department. As an undergraduate, Dr. Feeney majored in History and Geology, giving her the academic background necessary to teach this interdisciplinary course. While the course offers “Category D” general education credit, Dr. Feeney has designed the class in such a way that students from many different backgrounds will enjoy the class while reaping intellectual benefits in the process.

Students, who will be regularly encouraged to use their own personal talents to contribute to the class as “co-educators,” will gain experience in geography, cartog-

raphy, history, anthropology, distance learning, and geographic information system (GIS) hardware and software. While geography, history, computer science, education and art students are especially encouraged to enroll in the course, all students could certainly benefit from an introduction to GIS technology, as well as from the opportunity to experience the creation of a distance-learning program.

Dr. Feeney is working with an historian from Millersville University to create online learning modules, which could be used by various nautical museums, including the Mariners’ Museum in Virginia.

In addition to this project, Dr. Feeney recently submitted a grant proposal to fund a research trip to Bermuda. If the grant is successful, she hopes to bring several students from the fall “Piracy” class to Bermuda with her as research assistants. In addition to this opportunity, she also hopes

“Learning how to use GIS technology will greatly benefit anyone. Plus, who doesn’t want to learn about pirates—it was every child’s dream to set sail with the mysterious Captain Hook and Smee. Overall, this class sounds “ARRright.”

-Chelsea Meier
Honors sophomore



Photo courtesy of Dr. Alison Feeney

to take students on at least one field excursion. When she taught the class in 2007, Dr. Feeney took students to the Chesapeake Bay, where they mapped the area and fished for crabs and oysters.

While Dr. Feeney is a huge fan of suave, charismatic, Neo-colonial swashbucklers (her favorite pirates are Blackbeard and

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Speak Out!



By Stephen Bussey, Honors freshman

What has been your favorite college course and why?

“My favorite college course was “The Game” with Dr. Long because we learned about the mathematics behind some of our favorite game shows.”



Katie Frey
Honors senior

“Criminal Law and Procedure: It takes away the preconceived notions of what is or is not allowed and makes you focus on the reality of how the system works.”



Steve Masel
Honors sophomore

“My favorite course so far has been Computer Science I. I learned a lot in it, like what I would be doing in my major. Go Dr. Armstrong!”



Joshua Beck
Honors freshman

“One of my favorite undergraduate classes was History of the Early Middle Ages: my professor raised the bar with enormous amounts of reading. I surprised myself by finding it so fascinating.”



Dr. Christine Senecal
History Professor

“Voice class was by far my favorite class so far, because the people were amazing and we got to sing all the time!”



Alexa Wellington
Honors junior

Reach Out, continued



Photo courtesy of Reach Out

Students who travelled to the Dominican Republic.

knowledge gained through my four years at Shippensburg University,” Imboden said. “I was able to conduct research that applies to my field of study and change lives in the process. It was an incredible experience.”

During their week in the Dominican Republic, the SU students met a Shippensburg University alumnus, Susanne Bergey, who teaches at St. George’s Preparatory School in Santo Domingo. The SU students met with St. George’s faculty and students to consider ways that they might become involved with the Reach Out project. The SU students also visited La Universidad Dominicana Organización & Método to discuss the possibility of establishing a foreign exchange program with the university.

Dr. Tomoko Grabosky of the Counseling Department, Dr. José Ricardo-Osorio of the Modern Languages Department and Dr. Gretchen Pierce of the History Department mentored the students as they prepared curricular materials during the fall semester and accompanied them to the Dominican Republic. “Traveling to the Dominican Republic was a life-changing experience,” Dr. Pierce said. “In just one short week, I got to help

several dozen at-risk children in Santo Domingo improve their literacy skills and learn to love coming to school.”

Each year, the SU students hold several fundraisers to support the Pathways of Learning School. This year, the students will focus their efforts on raising funds to support the construction of a new school building to relieve the severely overcrowded conditions at the current school. On April 1, the Reach Out students plan to hold a black-light Zumbathon to support their project. The Zumbathon will be held from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in Henderson Gym. Tickets are \$10 for students.

Students who are interested getting involved in the Reach Out project are invited to apply to be part of the group that will travel to the Dominican Republic in January 2012. The program application is available on the Reach Out website at <http://www.ship.edu/honors/reachout>. The application deadline is March 31.

Club-Plug

By Ethan Goldbach, Honors sophomore; Joseph Sauthoff, Honors senior; and Lizzy Cooper, Honors freshman

For many students, particularly those new to Shippensburg University, Student Senate seems almost an inconsequential facet of student life. Often this extends to students’ lack of awareness regarding the Student Senate’s existence. Yet, this organization actually plays a fundamental role in student life.

One of the most organized student government systems of public colleges in Pennsylvania, the Student Senate is responsible for decisions such as renovations, club allocations, and student service committees. Since the Student Senate is, in essence, a 4.1 million dollar corporation, it has, in recent years, made decisions of enormous consequence including the leasing of the SU Store, CUB and Reisner renovations, the building of the Ship Rec, and has upcoming housing renovations to the entire campus.

Joining the Student Senate gives undergraduate students the opportunity for experience in leadership positions. It allows students a unique perspective, to give insight into all aspects of university life and operations.

For Honors students, joining Student Senate is not only an excellent way to expand upon involvement in campus and



Photo courtesy of Student Senate

From left to right: Senator Ethan Goldbach, Treasurer Joseph Sauthoff, and Senator Lizzy Cooper.

community life, but is actually fun and looks great on a resume! To be elected a Student Senator, undergraduate students simply need to pick up a petition at the CUB Information Desk, campaign, and be voted for by their peers.

Besides being elected as a Senator, there are other ways to get involved in Student Senate. Any undergraduate student may join one of the Senate Committees as an At-Large Member, as well as being able to join a Hill Committee, which is composed of faculty, staff, and students.

For more information, feel free to contact us in the Senate Office, CUB 323.

“It’s really cool to be in-the-know about what’s going on behind-the-scenes and be able to provide our input pertaining to such an important resource on campus!”

Honors freshmen Sarah Maize and Carley Heck on joining the Library Hill Committee



Photo courtesy of Reach Out Committee

Honors sophomore, Rachel Statler, poses with children from the Pathways of Learning School.

Faculty, continued

Captain Jack Sparrow), students will examine piracy throughout its long and colorful history. This does not mean, however, that all class sessions will be filled with lecture from the professor. Most classes will include active learning during which students will participate as individuals and members of groups to complete technology-based projects.

Later in the semester, students will be able to put their new technical skills to use via individual research projects. While many students create videos, models and computer simulations, Dr. Feeney insists that anything intriguing and intellectually beneficial could be a potential project. With so much room for individual growth and intellectual adventure, “The World of Piracy” is certainly worthy of making an appearance on the schedules of all Honors students.

Life-Affirming Study Abroad Experience in Salzburg, Austria

By Jess Espenshade, Honors junior



Photo courtesy of Jess Espenshade

Jess Espenshade at the Hohenwerfen Fortress, outside of Salzburg, Austria.

Studying abroad was not a life-changing experience. It was a life-affirming experience. I became a better version of myself. I became more confident, independent and aware of the world around me.

I studied at the University of Salzburg in Austria in fall 2010. I had never been away from home for more than three weeks but, all of a sudden I found myself stepping off the plane into a German-speaking country that I would be living in for four months. I had been planning this semester for years, but it became real as I looked around and all of the signs were in German and I first saw the Alps that outlined the small Austrian town.

I have studied German for almost eight years through the language programs at my schools. I was confident in my ability to converse easily in German. However, I was hit with a wave of humility as I confidently

said, “Grüss Gott” in a local convenience store and the cashier replied in rapid German, apparently asking me a couple different questions. As the cashier surveyed the ‘deer in the headlights’ look on my face, she quickly switched to English to proceed with the conversation. At that moment, I knew that I was out of my element.

One of the greatest fears throughout my life has been the fear of rejection; the fear of being wrong. One of the biggest challenges in learning a language is knowing that when you open your mouth, there is a 99 percent chance of sounding like a fool. Throughout the semester, I am sure that I sounded like a fool more often than not. However, by the end of semester, I was able to hold conversations with locals at bars and was confidently able to discuss daily occurrences with people on the street. I was delighted whenever someone would make the mistake of thinking that I was actually from Germany.

Throughout the semester I was challenged in many different ways. Academically, I was challenged by my choice to take half of my classes in German. I also struggled with the European teaching style and lack of daily homework or other busy work assignments to help boost my grade.

I was also challenged mentally as I realized how many different viewpoints and lifestyles were in Europe. I listened to the speech of a local politician talk about the threat of Islam in Europe and I went to a public protest of students rallying against the rising cost of education in a social economic system. Most

of all, I kept having to explain that Sarah Palin was not taking over the American political system and that Americans, overall, are not ignorant of the world around them.

Mainly, however, I was challenged personally as I had to live on my own, cook for myself and manage public transportation in many different cultures and languages. One of my most challenging experiences was trying to get a train ticket in Hungary when all the signs were in Hungarian, while the lady at the help desk kept yelling at us in Hungarian and possibly Russian.

My study abroad classes allowed me to listen to the lectures and then experience subject matter in the real world. I took a class about Mozart and other influential composers, and was then able to see the music performed at the Viennese Opera house. I would memorize the charts of grammatical concepts in German, and then could go and practice them at the local restaurants. These real-life applications reinforced and provided a foundation of learning that I could not find in my regular university classes in the United States.

Overall, I was able to experience many things that helped to redefine me as a person. I now know that I can live in any country and survive. I have the coping skills to handle almost any situation, and I have the German skills that will be a foundation for interactions with many different people. Studying abroad in Austria was definitely an experience that will affect me for the rest of my life.

Briefcase, continued

and transportation models. I was surprised to learn that the United States headquarters of Volvo CE is located right here in Shippensburg. Over 700 people are employed through the Shippensburg location. Jobs range from engineer and machine handler, to customer support and purchasing. Operations include welding, large machining, and paint and assembly of products. The Shippensburg branch of Volvo CE makes road construction equipment, particularly pavers, asphalt and soil compactors, milling machines, and many more. Meg has the opportunity to travel to both countries—Brazil and Mexico—on business trips several times a year.

The Shippensburg Branch of Volvo Corporation recently completed an expansion of its site. It is now 570,000 square feet and is LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified. It is one of the

most environmentally friendly manufacturing buildings in North America. Features of the site include preferred parking for environmentally friendly cars, shower facilities, skylights, low-volume plumbing fixtures, heavy insulation, more efficient materials, and better air quality. Meg made it clear that she is proud of what her company has accomplished.

So, what does Meg do at work? Meg has many tasks to complete on a daily basis. She is to communicate strategies, company objectives, and business conditions to people within the Shippensburg Volvo Group and around the world. She manages communication channels, the Intranet in the building, visual management boards, all employee meetings, and the company’s monthly magazine. She is an internal consultant on communication. She works hard to improve cooperation and communication in her work environment.

It is fascinating that Meg, a history major



BACKPACK
to
BRIEFCASE



and art minor, is now working in communications for one of the leading suppliers of construction equipment in the world. Meg taught me that there are unlimited career opportunities for students, no matter what they choose to major in, since most alumni end up working outside of their degree field. One just has to go with the flow, take risks, and accept challenges. Meg admits that she wouldn’t mind exploring other career options in the future and hopes to incorporate the rest of her skill-set within her career path. Meg’s story reminds college students, that it’s okay to not have a definite plan for the future. Like Meg, all we need to do to make it from “backpack to briefcase” is explore our options and take risks.

PIZZA WITH A PROF: DR. TOMOKO GRABOSKY

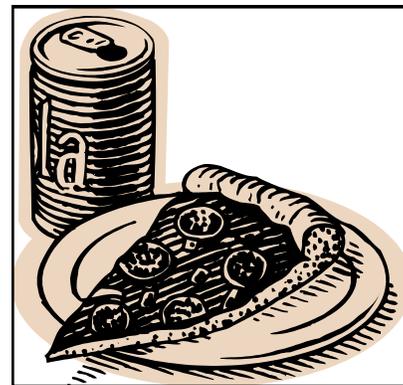
By Jennifer Hoover, Honors junior

As spring break approaches and professors cram in those last-minute exams, Honors students were able to take a break from their busy schedules and enjoy a relaxing afternoon of pizza and discussion. On Monday, February 21, Dr. Tomoko Grabosky of the Department of Counseling Services hosted Pizza with a Prof. Dr. Grabosky and the students discussed stress management, trauma-related issues, and cultural psychology.

Dr. Grabosky opened the event by discussing about her life in Japan. As a high school student, she dreamed of coming to the United States, inspired by American movies from the 1980s such as *The Breakfast Club* and *Sixteen Candles*. In Japan, her academic curriculum was very rigorous and dating was explicitly against school code, so Tomoko was excited to experience the freedoms that the United States represented. She began her undergraduate

studies at SUNY Oswego in rural New York, majoring in journalism. She was shocked by all the open space compared to Japan. Whenever she had imagined studying in New York, she had been thinking along the lines of New York City! Dr. Grabosky struggled to adapt to life in the United States which is considered a “doing” culture rather than a “being” culture. Additionally, her thick accent made it difficult for her to express herself and communicate with peers; however, these challenges led Dr. Grabosky to her current career in counseling.

Dr. Grabosky also had the Honors students discuss what stressed them. The most common stressors included time management, group projects, and financial difficulties. It was comforting to know that other students experience these stressors, too. Dr. Grabosky offered some simple advice to help combat these anxieties. She suggested taking time out of your day to sit down for



meals, rather than just grabbing something on the go. Also, taking a short five-to-ten minute break between studies can help you feel more refreshed and focused. She also provided information on wellness initiatives on campus including workshops, massages, and meditation sessions, and a complete schedule can be found at http://www/ship.edu/Counseling_Center. All students are welcome to participate!

The Honors Program



Banquet

Thursday, April 21
6:00 p.m.
Tuscarora Room

HONORS PROGRAM OFFICE

Horton Hall 201 (717) 477-1604

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday, 8:00 to 11:45 a.m.

<http://www.ship.edu/honors>

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THE HONORS CHRONICLE

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Submit story ideas to Angela at ad3690@ship.edu.

GEEK WEEK

Show Your Honors Spirit!

Spirit Days:

Monday, April 11:

Crazy Hat Day

Tuesday, April 12:

Favorite Sports Team Attire
(hats/jerseys/tshirts/or equip-
ment)

Wednesday, April 13:

Dress To Impress

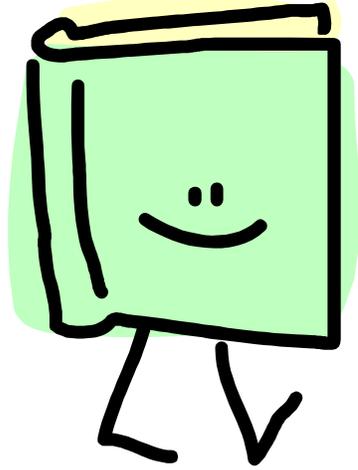
Thursday, April 14:

Western Theme
(cowboy hat/vests/boots/etc)

Friday, April 15:

Ship Spirit Day

Honors students can earn one participation point per day, and a maximum of three points during Geek Week. To earn points, students should submit a picture of themselves sporting their Honors spirit attire to Steve Masel at sm1002@ship.edu or Shannon Lee at sl0684@ship.edu.



THE HONORABLE MENTION

Congratulations to **Miranda Aaron** and **Addy Virtus**, who will represent the Shippensburg University Honors Program at the 2011 PASSHE Summer Honors Program in Bermuda!

Thanks to everyone who helped with Ship Trip in November, including **Miranda Aaron, Daniel Bender, Lisa Brehm, Ben Carlucci, Emily Ciccocioppo, Janae Delmaestro, Paul Engelkemier, Megan Fick, Kenneth French, Erin Grady, Doug Hamberger, Eric Hofmann, Katie Hyman, Kristen Imboden, Kaitlin Kitner, Shannon Lee, Sarah Maize, Chelsea Meier, Tracy Migliori, Sarah Montanari, Katie Morton, Michele Muenker, Jen Phillips, Derek Robertson, and Lindsay Rosen.**

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Find us at the following

sites: www.facebook.com/shiphonors and www.youtube.com/shiphonors

