



The Newsletter of the Shippensburg University Honors Program
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Reach Out in Review

By Cody Olson, Honors Senior

Reach Out has been an incredibly formative and life-changing experience for me in my time at Ship. I wrote about my interest in the club in my Honors Program application and immediately got involved in my first semester. Now, eight semesters later, I am preparing to graduate and leave my work with Reach Out in the past, which is heart-breaking but also exciting as I watch the club continue to grow and flourish. I recently returned to campus from my second trip with to Santo Domingo where Reach Out implements workshops with teachers, shares curriculum made by some of the university's best education majors, and teaches elementary students. Additionally, as of this most recent trip we have struck a deal with Argos, a multinational concrete and cement company, to build a new school for the students and teachers we partner with. We plan to break ground within the next couple of years.

As a non-Spanish speaking business student, my role in the club is rather unique. I know only the basics of the language needed to communicate with the teachers and students Reach Out strives to serve, and I haven't had substantial educational training to support the team's mission of teaching. On this most recent endeavor, I functioned as a communication facilitator. At the end of each day I led the group in an hour-long discussion to process our emotions and feelings as well as to assist the growth and development of the team itself.

As an aspiring student affairs professional and an individual who strongly believes in the transformative powers of education and service learning, I can honestly say that Reach Out gave me an outlet for my passions and helped prepare me for my future career. I would strongly encourage any student regardless of their major or interests to join this club. It allowed me to learn how to grow a budget and plan events, recruit and market, and adapt to challenging situations while stimulating positive team dynamics. I am so grateful for the experiences I have had, and I cannot wait to one day return to Santo Domingo and see the fruits of my organization's labor.



Photo Courtesy of Cody Olson
Honors Students Reese Dolbin and McKenzie Horn teach some eager students to identify countries around the world during a geography lesson.



Photo Courtesy of Cody Olson
Cody and Esmeralda snap a selfie in between class activities at the elementary school in Santo Domingo.



Photo Courtesy of Cody Olson
Pictured left, the Diego Columbus Residence located in Alcazar de Colon in Santo Domingo. This was one of the historical sites Honors students visited in Santo Domingo.

A Cascade of Experience

By Olivia Turner, Honors Junior

My experience during the Mt. Rainier Partners in the Parks program in summer 2017 was rewarding beyond all expectations. I had been looking forward to the experience because I knew it would be a great supplement to my academic and career interests in conservation biology as well as my personal love for botany and the outdoors. When, on the first day, we met with a senior park ranger for a rigorous hike and caught a glimpse of the internal workings of the national park along with a tantalizing view of the mountain's subalpine meadows and glaciers, I immediately knew this experience would be life-changing. Every day we met with a different professional, including park rangers, fluvial geomorphologists, biologists, and environmental professors, authors, and naturalists. Our partners took us to different places in the park: through old growth forests with spraying waterfalls, atop snowy glaciers, over rocky volcanic deposits, among ancient flower meadows, and in the middle of archeological sites. We were free to ask any question that crossed our minds. I learned about the fragility of the mountain ecosystems, the names and growing cycles of meadow flowers and subalpine and alpine trees, the habits of the varied array of wildlife, the cultural and anthropogenic history of the mountain, and the natural processes of the glaciers and the characteristics of the mighty rivers they feed.

Most importantly, Partners in the Parks introduced me to the primary goal of all national parks: the protection and preservation of natural landscapes and wildernesses for the enjoyment of all generations. The struggle that this mission presents park rangers, directors, scientists, and volunteers is more dynamic and challenging than I ever realized. However, my experience on Mt. Rainier has convinced me that it is a necessary and worthy struggle. The immense beauty of untouched land and the raw, natural power witnessed when submerged in the environment of

Mt. Rainier, or any wilderness, is unforgettable. Our nation's preserved lands act as a sanctuary of history, ancient culture, and freedom; to steal them from all present and future generations would be a grave mistake. Before my participation in Partners in the Parks, I had never experienced national parks in such a complete and compelling way. I have been deeply inspired to be a part of this struggle for long-term preservation both now as a local, educated environmentalist and in the future as a dedicated professional.

Overall, my Mt. Rainier Partners in the Parks experience exponentially increased my respect and enthusiasm for the National Parks System, the breathtaking wildernesses it protects, and the scientists and laymen who honorably work under its name. I have been revigorated in my studies of conservation biology through my Partners in the Parks experience because I know my education will allow me to increase my appreciation for, and contribution to, the principles and efforts that drive the mission to reserve and honor our natural world across all generations.



Photo Courtesy of Olivia Turner

Olivia takes a minute to remember the scenery as she sketches the wildflowers throughout Mt. Rainier's valley.



Photo Courtesy of Olivia Turner

Olivia snapped a picture of the breathtaking view while on one of the many hikes she took during her experience at Mt. Rainier.

Maryum Ali Spreads HOPE for Ship

By Luke Hershey, Honors Freshman

Muhammad Ali, self-nicknamed “The Greatest,” brutally pummeled some of the toughest men in the world over the course of his decades-long career as a professional boxer. He was a polarizing public figure renowned for his razor-sharp reflexes inside the ring and his philanthropic efforts outside the ring. Ali passed away in June of 2016.

On the afternoon of February 22, Shippensburg University was honored to welcome Mr. Ali’s eldest daughter, Maryum, to campus. The climax of her visit came when she stepped into the limelight of the stage at the Luhrs Performing Arts Center and delivered a stirring lecture entitled, “Learning From & Applying the Legacy of Muhammad Ali & Other Civil Rights Activists to Social Issues Today.” Proceeds from the event benefited the Helping Our People Excel (HOPE) Diversity Scholarship Program for academically talented and financially deserving students.

The same fellow who won an Olympic gold medal busting noses raised a bubbly, non-threatening daughter. Ms. Ali kickstarted her adult life with twelve years as a stand-up comedian, touring with Chris Rock, before tapping into her musical talents to produce an uplifting rap album in the early 90’s—Kendrick ain’t got nothin’ on her. After tragically losing a cousin in the crossfire of gang violence, she obtained a degree in social work and began participating in organizations focused on delinquency prevention and family development, areas in which she is still heavily involved today.

Before the masses began flocking, I had the good fortune to hear from Ms. Ali in an intimate setting as part of an Honors Program Uncommon Conversation, an opportunity for a small group of Honors students to have a small Q&A with esteemed university guests. Approximately ten other students and I settled into seats in an otherwise empty theater to hear behind-the-scenes stories about what it was like being raised by one of the most celebrated athletes of all-time. The conversation was quite relaxed; questions from the mini-audience were encouraged. The forty-five minute session zoomed by quickly, and the discussion touched on a plethora of topics. Ms. Ali detailed her Keeping Up with the Kardashians-esque experiences as a faux inmate while filming the A&E docuseries *60 Days In*. She also shared a number of revealing, non-boxing stories about her father.

**Honors Spring Banquet
Wednesday, May 2
6:30 p.m., Tuscarora Room**

“Man is least himself when he talks in his own person. Give him a mask, and he will tell you the truth.”

-Oscar Wilde



Photo Courtesy of Butch Masterson

Luke and Maryum Ali pose for a picture after her presentation during the Uncommon Conversation in Luhrs Performing Arts Center.



Senior Spotlight

By Michael Donovan

While I was in my senior year of high school and applying for colleges, our Honors Program was something that made Shippensburg stand out from other schools. I came for a second tour to learn more about the Honors Program and see its facilities and was very taken by what I learned. Even before my time as a member of the program, I was struck by the goals and expectations Dr. Klein and the Honors faculty had for their students. The program values academics but also maintains a strong commitment to campus involvement, community outreach, and service. As I began my first year as a student and member of Honors, I questioned which of the various clubs or committees I could join so I could start to exhibit the goals of our program. While I did not know it at the time, I found a club that would change my life in Reach Out, our Honors Program Education Initiative, in the Dominican Republic.

If I'm being honest, I joined because it seemed like "the thing" education majors in the program did but Reach Out has become so much more. Throughout my time with Reach Out, I have experienced many of the highlights of my college career. It was the first club where I assumed responsibility and leadership, and through the years my level of confidence has really flourished because of this organization. The goal of Reach Out is to promote and enhance Dominican education and spread cultural awareness and fundraise here on campus.

Every year we take a group of around ten students and three faculty advisors and travel to Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic's capital, and work with our partner school. We spend fall semesters fundraising and organizing cultural events, and two students write curriculum manuals for their Honors capstone projects. We implement these curricula and get hands-on teaching experience with the students. This past year I was fortunate enough to complete my capstone as well, writing a children's book about Dominican government, titled *Quiero Ser El Presidente* that was printed in English and Spanish. I have been lucky enough to have traveled twice with Reach Out, once with a product that was the result of months of work and research, and I am proud to say I have witnessed the amazing work our organization does abroad. Interacting and forming friendships with the teachers and students has been one of my best memories of my time here. Reach Out has also made me more open to experiences and confident in my ability to bring about change to Shippensburg and beyond.

Because of Reach Out and the Honors Program, I have taken more steps to enhance my college experience, like co-chairing Ship Trip, sharing our program's message at admissions tours, and preparing for the Northeast Regional Honors Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, in April. I have transformed into a leader, a risk-taker and a more well-rounded individual ready to take on challenges. For that, I have Reach Out and the constant support of the Honors Program to thank.



Photo Courtesy of Michael Donovan

Mike Donovan and McKenzie Horn were joined on the trip with their faculty advisors, Dr. Keyes and Dr. Pierce.



Photo Courtesy of Michael Donovan

Mike created a children's book as a part of his Honors capstone project, Quiero Ser El Presidente.

SLEEPLESS, SAD, AND SEASONIST AT SU

By Luke Hershey, Honors Freshman

The joy of wintertime dies a violent, annual death as the clock strikes midnight on January 1st. Soon after the flip-flop of the New Year, the colorful Christmas lights are stuffed in boxes, the popcorn from those three-in-one tins turns stale, and my will to live plummets to a dangerously low level. From the beginning of January to the middle of March, the Northeast collective conscious retreats deep into a crotchety hibernation that even a widespread dependency on hot chocolate can't cure. The sun doesn't shine. Cars are caked in a disgusting layer of road salt. Noses are constantly spouting infected mucus. Lemonade and pool noodles become nothing more than the focus of flu-induced fever dreams.



My name is Luke Hershey, and I absolutely hate winter. This is my story.

It was a snowy Monday morning approximately two weeks ago. I had tossed and turned the entire night, desperately perusing the filing cabinets of my mind to uncover a decent topic for this column. I woke up twenty minutes late and accidentally left the house without brushing my teeth. The door handle of my 2008 Honda Civic was almost within reach when the surface of the earth slipped out from under me and the overcast gray of the sky dislodged itself from the expanse above. Black ice! I hit the ground like the Hindenburg (1). My skull bounced off the asphalt, the periphery of my vision turned hazy, and the hearty guffaw of a PC, religiously-unaffiliated God caressed my ears. "Write about the pitfalls of winter, you goofball," the voice whispered sensually before fading into an organic ambience. My perception of reality returned to normalcy. I hopped in the sedan and sped off toward SU with a soul full of divine inspiration. Reader, rest assured, my seasonist (2) attitude toward winter is not uncalled for—it's God-ordained.

I'm quite convinced that I will someday snatch my last breath in the few months preceding the thawing of spring. Satan himself seems to have cursed my recent cold weather experiences. I shattered my wrist skiing in January of 2011—Wii Sports bowling hasn't been the same since. My first and only girlfriend whipped out the classic "it's not you, it's me" breakup in January of 2013—I will likely never love again. My dog was diagnosed with terminal cancer in March of 2014—honestly, that mean ole' pooch probably deserved to die. The presidential inauguration of Donny Trump was in January of 2017—suddenly #Kanye2020 doesn't sound so ridiculous, ay? The hungry gullet of Winter 2018 has yet to unlock its jaws and swallow me whole. I just hope Mother Nature lets me live long enough to see this thought-spew published.

My strong opinions on Jack Frost are not at all unique. There's a perfectly-acronymed scientific title for it—seasonal affective disorder (SAD). Some statistics indicate that over 14 percent of the adult US population suffers from the "winter blues"—that's tens of millions of people. The human body seems to dislike wintertime on a biological level. It's not just a matter of mere preference. If YOU are feeling particularly downtrodden during these dreary months, take time to do a few sunny things—jam to some Blink-182, rebinge The Office for the fifth time, or go get some ice cream. Hold fast, everybody. Spring (break) is coming soon (3).

¹ ODDITY ALERT. Why is it socially acceptable for me to poke fun at the Hindenburg disaster despite the fact that 36 civilians perished in the explosion? Nobody would have an issue if I made a joke about the sinking of the Titanic either—over 1,500 passengers drowned. A question to keep you up at night: how long after a disaster should society have to wait before it's okay to disregard the death toll and cook up a punchline?

² "Seasonism" is the earth-concerned version of racism. A "seasonist" prefers one season over all the others.

³ Unfortunately, by the time you read this thing, spring break will be over. Hope it was great.

Final Thoughts From The Editors

Dear Reader,

Spring break is over. For those of you who have been through a spring semester already, you know what that means. But for those of you who have yet to experience it, I will do my best to walk you through how the coming weeks will play out. The first half of the spring semester is a slow grind. All of those class readings are getting old, and you've written so many papers that your laptop's keyboard is fading faster than your motivation. But after spring break, Father Time warps clocks around college campuses in such a way that you will do just as much work, but in a tenth of the time. You will blink once, and you're final projects are due. Blink a second time, and it's final exam week. Blink a third time, and you're heading home for the summer, and seniors will even be packing up your house to leave Ship for good. Between blinks, though, time can slow just enough to have a quick read of *.hnrs.* So for the penultimate time, read on!

Jake Gillespie

With only a few more weeks left in the semester, your agenda is filling up with assignments and your mind quickly enters turbo mode. As you catch a glimpse of the summer sun at the end of the tunnel, don't slow up, you're almost there. What seems like the fastest semester to date, take a minute to enjoy everything around you. Take some time to relax, catch up on some spring cleaning, and maybe even take a minute to see what your Honors peers have been up to in this issue of *.hnrs.* Keep on grinding, and enjoy!

Katie Sweigart

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

April-May 2018 Calendar of Events

April 5: Trivia Night, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Harley Hall MPR

April 7: Honors Day of Service, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Various Locations

April 12: Fulbright Workshop, 3:30-4:30 p.m., CUB 226

April 16: Deadline to submit applications for Outstanding Honors First-Year Research Paper Award, Outstanding Honors Capstone Project Award, and Honors Study Abroad Scholarship to Cindy Poe at cmpoe@ship.edu

April 22: Chipotle Fundraiser hosted by the Fundraising Committee, 5:00-9:00 p.m., 975 Norland Avenue, Chambersburg, PA 17201

April 24-25: Honors Symposium, Honors Seminar Room

April 30: Deadline to submit Honors Participation Policy Tracking Forms, electronic copies of Honors capstone projects, and Committee Chair year-end reports to Cindy Poe at cmpoe@ship.edu

May 1: Honors Mentor Meeting, 3:30-4:15 p.m., Honors Seminar Room

May 1: Honors Summer Orientation Meeting, 4:30-5:15 p.m., Honors Seminar Room

May 2: Honors Program Spring Banquet, 6:30 p.m., Tuscarora Room, Reisner Hall

