



The Newsletter of the Shippensburg University Honors Program
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Confidence in Providence at the 2018 NRHC Conference

By Josh Varone, Honors Senior

On Friday, April 13, 2018, six Honors seniors traveled to Providence, Rhode Island for the 2018 Northeast Regional Honors Conference. Mike Donovan, McKenzie Horn, and Jess Querry participated in a roundtable presentation and discussion of their Reach Out research and service projects, while Curtis Lamp, Rachel Shaffer, and I presented posters about our Honors capstone projects.

This year's conference theme was "The Renaissance of a 'Lively Experiment': Seeing Anew." Through all of the programs and sessions, this theme was apparent as students discussed topics in a variety of areas. Mike Donovan noted, "The students found a way to present different perspectives about all disciplines, and each presentation brought its own ideas."

Conference sessions included poster and paper presentations, roundtable discussions, and large group gatherings. Rachel Shaffer enjoyed learning about the interaction between her discipline of chemistry and others. "The conference was a unique experience to both share my research in STEM with those who are unfamiliar, as well as to be taught ideas from other disciplines that I can potentially use to redefine my own. This experience was extremely valuable through its ability to help me expand my knowledge past my major and appreciate the relationship between other fields and my own."

Curtis Lamp similarly liked the interdisciplinary approach. "The conference was a wonderful opportunity to interact with Honors-level research across many disciplines. This conference also gave me an understanding of how our Honors Program at Ship fits into the broader Honors community."

In addition to conference events, there were opportunities to explore the city of Providence and visit local attractions. Some points of interest included Brown University, the state capitol building, and the Roger Williams National Memorial, which McKenzie Horn



Photo Courtesy of Josh Varone

Mike Donovan, McKenzie Horn, Jessica Querry, Rachel Shaffer, Curtis Lamp, and Josh Varone are pictured at the 2018 NRHC Conference, in Providence, RI.

identified as particularly notable. "My favorite site on the trip was the Roger Williams National Memorial and visiting the coffee shops with great aesthetics."

Within walking distance from the hotel were a wide range of shops and restaurants offering insight into the local community. With the flexibility of the conference schedule, it was possible to experience much of what the city had to offer. As Jess Querry observed, "We immersed ourselves in the local culture by adventuring through downtown Providence and the surrounding area."

The conference provided many opportunities to grow academically and personally by attending sessions and exploring the city. Being able to attend and present at the 2018 Northeast Regional Honors Conference was an amazing experience as it enabled us to see the diversity in research and Honors experiences across disciplines and universities and even gave us the chance to explore a new city.

Pondering in Poznan

By Olivia Pieklo, Honors Sophomore

Pre-departure orientation for studying abroad goes relatively like this: You sit in a crowd of fellow future travelers while an advisor explains general rules of safety and issues that may arise. One of which is culture shock. Like many, I assume, I believed that I would be immune to such a thing. How could I, a woman with completely Polish parents, go through culture shock in Poland, a country that I have ventured to before and whose culture I grew up with?

Little did I want to admit that studying abroad in Poland would have its ups and downs. Luckily, as many students can attest, the “ups” greatly outweigh the downs. In the end, this infamous “culture shock” allowed me to become more independent and accepting of everyday life. Being yelled at in a foreign language? No problem! Avoiding terrifying drivers in Greece? Bring it on! Getting lost for two hours because someone accidentally took the bus in the wrong direction? Okay, that was completely my fault and doesn’t count. However, for the sake of the argument, I am blaming this on my limited understanding of the language.

In the end, these “challenges” are what make studying abroad in Poland memorable. Yes, I will always cherish the perfect days walking to class and taking in the sights. Nothing compares to walking past centuries-old bakeries and through infamous locations such as Auschwitz. It is always enjoyable to visit some of the “places you must visit while you are studying abroad in Europe” like Prague and Dublin.

However, I will never forget the grittier moments of getting lost in a northern city such as Riga, Latvia while trying to flee from the blistering winds and freezing cold, of running and squeezing into a crowded tram with new lifelong friends all the while unsure if you are heading in the right direction, and of laughing about the unexpected situations in which we found ourselves.

In the end, I have come to appreciate the imperfect



Photo Courtesy of Olivia Pieklo

Olivia spent the second semester of her sophomore year in Poznan, Poland to continue her studies and spend time with her extended family members, while also immersing herself in the culture of her ancestors.

moments in this experience more than the Instagram-worthy ones. When I will speak of my adventures abroad, I highly doubt I will speak much about that one time I ate Döner Kebab in Berlin (amazing, by the way). Rather, I will be recalling the visits to my aunts, uncles, and cousins in Poland. I will be reminiscing about the people I have come to know and love from Croatia, Slovakia, Turkey, Spain, Ukraine, Poland, Russia, Germany, and every other imaginable place.

Yet even as this particular experience abroad is coming to an end, it has only inspired me to continue testing the limits of what I can do and achieve. I have learned more than I ever could have imagined about foreign politics, cultures, and customs. However, the more I learn, the more I am aware of the gaps in my knowledge. As cliché as it sounds, the world truly is a place of infinite knowledge and opportunities, and learning truly does occur outside of the classroom.



Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia

Honors Day of Service/Ship Trip

By Josh Varone, Honors Senior

Last year marked the introduction of a new Service Committee event, the Honors Day of Service. Intended to complement Ship Trip (and held on the same day), this event includes volunteer projects in the Shippensburg area, both on campus and in the surrounding community. In its inaugural year the event was a success, though we still gained insight into how to better prepare in the future. Using that knowledge, this year fellow Service Committee co-chair Thomas Fisher and I worked to streamline the process to make it easier and quicker to participate.

Our second annual Honors Day of Service took place on Saturday, April 7, 2018. We began with breakfast and registration in the Harley Hall MPR, which offered a chance to coordinate with all of our volunteers and discuss ideas and plans for the day. This year, we coordinated three events: volunteering on the campus farm, assisting King's Kettle Food Pantry with some organizational needs, and participating in a street cleanup in the community. Despite the unseasonably cold weather, everyone was excited and ready to get started. After all the volunteers were signed in, we set out for our respective events.

On the campus farm, volunteers worked to prepare for warmer weather, and at King's Kettle students organized donated items in their warehouse for easier distribution in the future. Additionally, the street cleanup offered an opportunity to improve the appearance of some areas frequented by students, including Conestoga Drive (by Walmart and Lowe's) and Middle Spring Avenue (by Hot Point Commons and Creekside Court).

While we cut our events slightly short because of the low temperatures, Thomas and I were both thrilled with how the day turned out. Through the Honors Day of Service, we've been able to strengthen the presence of our Honors Program in the community, and we're excited about the event's continued growth in the future.

By Rachael Rudis, Honors Sophomore

Our 2018 Ship Trip proved to be as unique as the program itself! The purpose of Ship Trip is to share Shippensburg with local middle school students and offer a college experience during which they take mock college classes, eat in the dining hall, and tour campus. The day began with our visiting students breaking into groups for a photo contest much like our Honors meeting tradition; the winning group created sails of a ship with their folders.

The students loved the Harry Potter-themed Honors LLC and the all-you-can-eat ice cream at Reiser. Lunch was an especially fun part of the day, as many of them had never eaten in a dining hall before. Even more engaging were their classes. They had the opportunity to take three out of four classes offered, and each class had something unique involved. In a class on genetics, students got to extract DNA from strawberries. In another, they explored germs that are on common surfaces and even got to see these germs for themselves under a microscope. An acting class allowed students to participate in fun acting exercises, while "Whimsical Witches (and Where to Find Them)" offered a historical perspective on witchcraft. Honors students then answered our middle schoolers' questions about college life, and the event was brought to a close with a video of pictures from the day.

This year's event focused on inviting new schools to participate in the program and spreading Ship spirit to the surrounding community. We also had students from Chambersburg, Agora Cyber, Cumberland Valley, Carlisle, Shippensburg, and Greencastle, and we hope they continue to return to future Ship Trips. Rather than focusing on a theme, Ship Trip co-chair Mike Donovan and I wanted to see what our teachers' passions were and focus the classes on those. This allowed them to share their interests with our visitors. Overall, Ship Trip was a success, and we are very excited to start planning for next year!

Senior Spotlight

By Jake Gillespie, Honors Senior

“Life moves pretty fast.” This is a quote from one of my favorite movies. Ironically, it’s a quote about skipping school that I am going to use to refer to my experience in the Shippensburg University Honors Program. It feels like I just arrived on campus for that first semester in August 2014. I was nervous, naïve, and maybe even a little afraid. It didn’t last long, though, when my first professor greeted my class with its first ever “Hello, students!” I had WIFYS in the Honors Seminar Room with Dr. Harrow, and little did I know that I would hear that same greeting not only for my entire first semester, but my last semester as well. Dr. Harrow’s class was fun, but it challenged me to be the best student, writer, and thinker I could be. That seems to be a theme throughout Honors classes.

I wrote a monster-sized research paper about Greek wrestling in antiquity that first semester in Dr. Senecal’s class. Then in the spring of 2015 I took part in a service project helping the Holocaust Museum with cataloguing documents in Dr. Godshalk’s World History class. Just a few weeks ago I completed my Honors capstone project that took months of critical thinking and analysis. These are just a few of the scads of experiences I had in my Honors classes.

But perhaps my favorite part of my Honors experience was getting the opportunity to work on the newsletter, *.hnrs*. I was fortunate enough to be able to give

our Honors students a platform to tell their amazing stories of scholarship, studying abroad, and changing the world. Our modest state university is home to some of the brightest minds not only in Pennsylvania, but across the country. Our Honors students continue to raise the bar for what college students are capable of, and it was a pleasure sharing your stories with our campus and beyond.

“OUR HONORS STUDENTS CONTINUE TO RAISE THE BAR FOR WHAT COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE CAPABLE OF, AND IT WAS A PLEASURE SHARING YOUR STORIES WITH OUR CAMPUS AND BEYOND.”

Speaking of our amazing Honors students, that was actually the topic of my Honors capstone project. I wanted to figure out what makes someone an Honors student. After thinking, re-thinking, and maybe even some over-thinking, I believe I was able to find an answer. It’s not our academics, nor is it the social circles we cultivate during our time here. After talking to

Honors students throughout my time here, and reading all of the stories students have told through *.hnrs*, I realized that above all, Honors students want to make a difference. Whether it’s in our university, communities, academic/professional fields, or even the entire world, Honors students make a difference. I’m incredibly humbled and thankful to have been a part of this amazing program for four incredible years, and I can’t wait to see what wonderful things this soon-to-be Honors College and its students do next. But whatever it is, I know that you’ll all be making a difference.



Photo Courtesy of Katie Sweigart

Jake presented his Honors capstone project, “The Creation and Implementation of an Honors Multimedia Marketing Campaign,” during the Honors Symposium on April 25.



Photo Courtesy of Josh Varone

During the Honors Day of Service, Jake helped with the street clean-up around the Shippensburg community alongside Samantha May, Grace Ramacciotti, and Katie Sweigart.

PASSHE Honors Student Conference

By Katie Sweigart, Honors Sophomore

On April 9, five Honors students represented the Honors Program at the annual Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education's Honors Student Conference at the Dixon Center in Harrisburg, PA. Olivia Turner, Katie Sweigart, Jake Gillespie, Rachel Rudis, and Gianna Sigado joined twelve other PASSHE schools who sent ambassadors to the conference. They had the opportunity to share the many opportunities and events unique to Shippensburg's Honors experience, including Ship Trip, Reach Out, and the Media Committee's marketing efforts.

Rather than a formal sit-down with lecture-styled setting, the PASSHE Honors Student Conference emphasized the importance of student-run panel sessions that allowed students to feel more comfortable engaging in seamless conversation between peers.

In the sessions, Honors students were able to gain insight from other PASSHE Honors students about how to increase student involvement both on campus and



Photo Courtesy of Katie Sweigart

Rachael Rudis, Jake Gillespie, Katie Sweigart, Olivia Turner, and Gianna Sigado pose for a picture in front of the PASSHE logo, located at the Dixon Center in Harrisburg, PA.

throughout the community. Most importantly, Shippensburg student-representatives were able to understand and appreciate the value that comes from being an Honors student at Shippensburg University.

An Evening of Masquerade

By Butch Masterson, Honors Freshman

On the evening of May 2, members of the Honors Program donned masks and gathered in the Tuscarora Room of Reisner Hall for the annual Honors Spring Banquet. The banquet celebrates the accomplishments of the graduating seniors and reflects on a year jam-packed with instances of outstanding scholarship, lead-

ership, and service. The event welcomed a number of high profile guests, including Provost Dr. Barbara Lyman and a host of esteemed Honors faculty. Students were also recognized for their exceptional research and contributions to the Honors community. Congratulations to all the award winners noted below!

Spirit of Honors Award

Joshua Varone

Outstanding Honors First-Year Research Award

Stephanie Barnett, "Vaccine Refusal: An Unethical Choice"

Honorable Mentions

Luke Hershey, "Rebirth through Rage: The Spiritual Role of Fire in Wide Sargasso Sea"

Erika Otthofer, "The Life and Crusading Military Feats of El Cid"

Outstanding Honors Capstone Project Award

Emily Bach, "Sewing for Family and Freedom in Ante-Bellum New York: Constructing a Narrative from Mary Morgan's Account Book"

Daniel Rosen, "Fully Ordered fct Pt-Co Intermetallics for Oxygen Reduction Reaction (ORR)"

Honorable Mentions

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

John Bucher, "The Prevalence and Impact of the 'Qwerty Effect' on the Russian Language"

The Honors Symposium: A Feather in Your Capstone

By Katie Sweigart, Honors Sophomore

On April 24 and April 25, Honors students, professors, family members, and friends gathered in the Honors Seminar Room for the Honors Symposium. The symposium is the annual event where Honors seniors make their final presentations on their Honors capstone projects. Twenty-five seniors who will graduate in May and

December 2018 presented projects that spanned more than fifteen different disciplines, ranging from art and history to computer science and physics. The students and their projects are listed below. Congratulations to all of our presenters on their successful completion of the University Honors Program curriculum!

Emily Bach, History Major, "Sewing for Family and Freedom in Ante-Bellum New York: Constructing a Narrative from Mary Morgan's Account Book"

Brandon Hockenberry, Chemistry Major, "Synthesis and Characterization of Aza-Diels-Alder Products"

Angel Barfield, Psychology Major, "Who Knows More?: Parental/Educator Knowledge Base on Types of Schools"

McKenzie Horn, Teacher Education Major, "For the People: A Manual for History and Civics Education in the Dominican Republic"

Patrick Boddicker, Biology Major, "Effect of an Invasive Plant Species on a Native Woodland Species in a Floodplain Forest in Southcentral Pennsylvania"

Curtis Lamp, Computer Science and Mathematics Major, "Particle Swarm Optimization: An Alternative to the Standard Solution to Storage Location Assignment Problem"

John Bucher, Computer Science Major, "The Prevalence and Impact of the 'Qwerty Effect' on the Russian Language"

Jason Laubach and Cody Olson, Marketing Majors, "A Hog Farm in S-Burg? An Interactive Town Hall Negotiation Simulation and Teaching Plan"

Joshua Coffey, Physics Major, "An Investigation into a Model Ion Thruster"

Samantha May, Interdisciplinary Arts, "Hairspray: A Case Study on Overcoming Discrimination"

Reece Dolbin, History/International Studies Major, "Choosing Between Two Chinas: The Geopolitical Impact of China's Investment and Trade Profile in the Dominican Republic"

Jenna Neiderer, Management Major, "Intersectional Discrimination in Personnel Selection"

Michael Donovan, History Secondary Education Major, "'Quiero Ser El Presidente': Producing Multicultural Children's Literature for a Dominican School"

Jessica Querry, Teacher Education Major, "Geography and Culture: A Look Around the World"

Leah Fleming, Finance Major, "Chambersburg Borough's Municipal Electric Utilities: A Look at Alternative Energy Sources"

Daniel Rosen, Physics Major, "Fully Ordered fct Pt-Co Intermetallics for Oxygen Reduction Reaction (ORR)"

Hayden Fulton, Sociology Major, "Thru-Hiking The Appalachian Trail: The Intersection of Gender, Sub-Cultures, and Geographies"

Jessica Schlesiger, Computer Science Major, "Producing Domain-General Intelligence in Super Mario World Using the NEAT Neural Network Algorithm"

Jacob Gillespie, Communications/Journalism Major, "The Creation and Implementation of an Honors Multimedia Marketing Campaign"

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

Macklin Hawkins, Biology Major, "Prevalence of Internal Helminths in Pennsylvanian Wild Canids"

Enoch Shissler, Biology Major, "Impact of CRISPR Modification of Endogenous Beclin-1 on Autophagy in Glioma Cells"

Samantha Hillmuth, Art Secondary Education Major, "Friend or Food: Realities of the Meat Industry"

Joshua Varone, Computer Science Major, "Improving the Performance of Web Cache Replacement with Machine Learning"

THE SANDAL SCANDAL

By Luke Hershey, Honors Freshman

Warmer weather is finally here, I feel like I have a fever, and the campus is beginning to buzz with the beautiful aura of summertime apathy. Pretty soon, hefty textbooks will be replaced by mildly-enjoyable Nicholas Sparks novels. (Do people actually still read his stuff?) We will spend immensely less time ripping our hair out in the library and more time ~~developing skin cancer~~ tanning on the beach. I am having trouble concentrating on these darn final exams because pervasive daydreams of smores, lightning bugs, and fireworks keep interrupting my productivity. I am honestly not even sure if I will be able to finish this column with a clear head. In direct contrast with the spirit of summer vacation, I would like to officially send you off on your schoolless endeavors with a hateful rant. Let us talk briefly about sandals.

God tossed Lucifer and his demon cronies out of Heaven. Since necessity is the mother of invention, the head archangel, rendered sweaty and bothered after attempting to don the close-toed shoes of Eternal Paradise in the barren, scorching expanse of Hell, invented sandals. Then, when Cain smashed his brother's head in with a rock, Satan gave the world's first murderer a pair of foot thongs as a gift of congratulations. The idea of relic has been passed down ever since from generation to generation. Believe it or not, this story was actually in the original draft of the Bible. Shortly after Moses finished writing Genesis, Nike paid the old fellow seven

billion dollars in gold nuggets to get the inconvenient detail removed. (Where did you think the Israelites got the gold to construct the Ark of the Covenant?) The company just wanted to sell more slides!

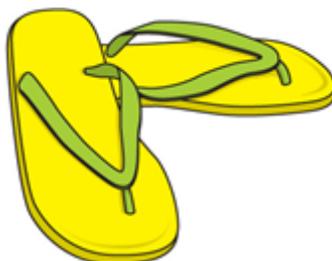
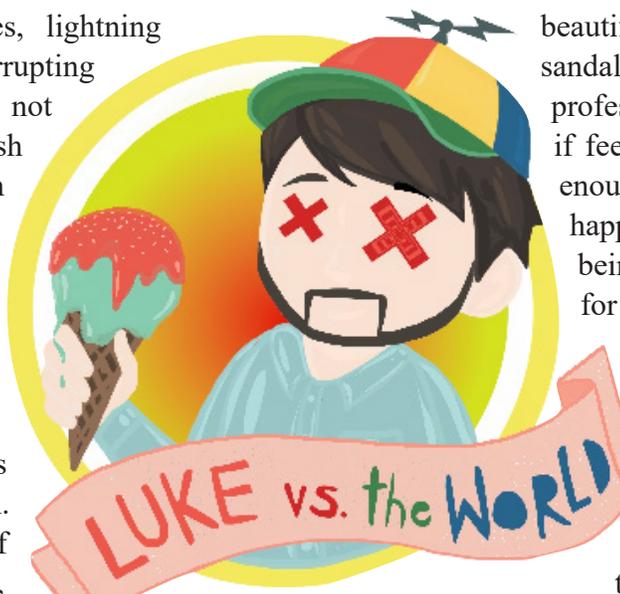
Unless you are standing on the seashore, where sandals serve a legitimate purpose (socks and sand do not mix well), I beg you not to wear open-toed shoes. I have never seen an appealing foot cradled by a sandal. (Foot models do not count. Their trotters are

beautiful because they only wear sandals when their feet are being professionally photographed.) As if feet were not already disgusting enough, have you observed what happens to a foot as a result of being exposed to the elements for just a day? The outer layer of skin morphs into a micro-version of the Sahara Desert: cracked, disgusting, and deadly. No one wants to see that.

Every July, the nation unites to launch packets of gunpowder

into the sky. Happy families seated on blankets and lawn chairs watch the packets explode into colorful spark streams that pollute the atmosphere and aid in the depletion of the ozone layer. Half of the blasts are duds; they die with a quick, white flash. (The Shippensburg Borough sets aside an annual budget of twenty thousand dollars for the local fireworks extravaganza.) We write it off as a celebration of independence and exclaim that the explosions are absolutely worth it. Is it? Are they?

Have a great summer!



Final Thoughts From The Editors

As I sit here coming up with my final thoughts for yet another successful year, the moment has quickly become bittersweet as I am finally experiencing my time with our graduating senior, Jake Gillespie, come to an end. He has taught me how to be a better student, editor, and person, and I can't thank him enough for all that he has taught me over the past year. Jake, I hope Luke and I can make you as proud as you have made us as the lead Editor, Media Committee Chair, and Honors student. I look forward to continue creating content for this amazing newsletter, and I can't wait to see what next year has in store. As I pack up my bags and head off into the sunset of summer, I encourage you all to sit back, relax, and take in the sunshine. Or, catch up on all the opportunities and events that Honors students have experienced in this issue of *.hnrs*. Enjoy!

Katie Sweigart

The only thing left on my list of responsibilities is this newsletter, so I'm going to try to make my comments short and sweet. My dad, the local sage, always says, "The older I get, the faster time goes by." When I was young, I dismissed his phrase of wisdom as one of those middle-age-people cliches, but the poignant truth of his musings becomes even more apparent as the hourglass of my life sifts finite existence sand (I know, what a dark metaphor). I'm officially done with my first year of college. It doesn't even feel like I've lived the last year; if I didn't know the date, I would assume that I graduated high school yesterday. Life only gives us brief moments of breath and reflection. This summer, soak everything up. Don't take anything for granted. Read a good book. Recharge. Make memories. August will be here in a blink.

Luke Hershey

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



Have a great summer!

Looking forward to Fall 2018:

Welcome Back Picnic

Wednesday, August 29
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Fall General Meeting

Tuesday, September 4
3:30-4:30 p.m.

