

The Honors Chronicle

Volume 23, Issue 3

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

November 2009

An Experience of a Lifetime

Students Present at National Honors Conference in Washington, D.C.

By Elisabeth Davis, Honors sophomore

Imagine all the heads of industry and politics coming together to meet and discuss how they are running the world. A major hotel in a city's capital, a large roundtable, a variety of interesting characters. Enter the epic music. And voila! You've summed up the feeling at the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Conference, which was held October 28 through November 1, 2009 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C. There you find a scenario like the one above: the best of the best, Honors directors and students, meeting together to share ideas about their Honors Programs, how they are succeeding (or need help), and hopefully going home with a few new ideas.

This year, I was honored—no pun intended—to attend NCHC, along with Annamarie McCormick, Grace

Burkholder, Shaun Thompson, Dr. Alison Dagnes, Dr. Mike Long, and Dr. Kim Klein. Unlike the rest of the Shippensburg delegation, all of who pre-

See NCHC

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Photo courtesy of Elisabeth Davis

Back row from left to right: Shaun Thompson, Dr. Long, Elisabeth Davis, Dr. Klein
Front row from left to right: Grace Burkholder, Annamarie McCormick.

A New Kind of Curriculum

Honors Colloquium Learns by Serving Others

By Wendy Tanner, Honors senior

The Honors Colloquium has hosted several events this semester to raise awareness about their project "Reach Out: Enhancing Education in the Dominican Republic." The class partnered with Grace B. Luhrs Elementary School to host a school drive to raise funds to purchase school supplies. The class also hosted Dominican Day to provide more information about Reach Out and the project in the Dominican Republic.

Members of Reach Out worked closely with the Luhrs PTO to develop a school drive. The drive was held during the week of November 10. It involved not only collecting materials, but also creating a sustainable local partnership. A table was set

up in the lobby from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. each morning. During this time, students were asked to donate \$5 to purchase school supplies. Different members of the Honors Colloquium were available each morning. The supplies included construction paper, notebooks, pencils, rulers, and other necessary supplies. In January, members of the class will distribute the school supplies to several child development centers in Santo Domingo, the country's capital city.

The school drive was a success. Enough money was raised to assemble 100 kits, exceeding the class's goal. Besides reaching that goal, strong relationships were also established between Reach Out and the students and faculty of the Luhrs Elementary School. As an extra way to involve the

Calendar

December

9 - Death by Chocolate

7:00 to 9:00 p.m., CUB 219-221

We will eat lots of chocolate and watch "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" to destress a little before finals.

14-17 - Final Exams

19 - Commencement

Congratulations to our December graduates!

January

20 - Deadline for Submitting Applications for 2010 PASSHE Summer Honors Program

Applications are due by 11:45 a.m. to Sharon Poe in the Honors office, Horton Hall 104.

28 - Honors Spring General Meeting

3:45 p.m., Tuscarora Room, Reisner Hall
All Honors students must attend.

Luhrs students, those who donated will also have the opportunity to decorate the bags that will contain the supplies.

See Colloquium

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Photo courtesy of Wendy Tanner

Students line up to learn the merengue at Dominican Day, hosted by the Honors Colloquium, "Reach Out: Enhancing Education in the Dominican Republic."

Pizza with a Prof: Dr. Wendy Becker

By Karli Wagner, Honors freshman

The November Pizza with a Prof was hosted by Dr. Wendy Becker at her home in Shippensburg. Dr. Becker is a professor in the College of Business. Out of the 17 students who attended the event, she knew many of the upperclassmen from her Business and Society course.

The discussion was started with Dr. Becker and the students discussing the research papers they had written in this course. The group also discussed the course itself. The discussion then moved to talking about other management courses, the professors who teach them, and the idea of having more free business elec-

tives for business majors.

Students were able to ask questions to gain a professor's perspective on the College of Business and Shippensburg University as a whole.

Lastly the conversation turned to Dr. Becker asking the students, especially the nine freshmen present, how the rest of their classes were going and how adjusting to college life was going.

Dr. Becker was especially excited about all of the freshmen in attendance. She believes it seems to be a bright class and that they will do great things here at Shippensburg University.

Another thing Dr. Becker seemed to be excited about was the house she has recently purchased. She has done

"Students felt welcomed and were able to ask questions and participate in discussions with enthusiasm."



Photo courtesy of Allison Morgan

Students pose in Dr. Becker's home after enjoying pizza, dessert, and coffee.

many renovations on her own and gave an enthusiastic tour of her home at the end of the dinner.

Being in a professor's home provided a very different atmosphere.

See Pizza

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Speak Out!



By Chelsea Meier, Honors freshman

I would be Ellen DeGeneres. She is funny and helps people around the world. She gives women and the gay community hope and was the voice of Dori in "Finding Nemo"!



Karli Wagner
Honors freshman

If you could live a day in the life of any famous living person, whom would it be and why?

Andy Rooney. An American writer, 90 years old, lived through nearly the entire 20th century. If I were him for a day and Sara by night, I believe I'd learn to genuinely value life.



Sara Shin
Honors junior

I think Bill Maher is a hilarious comedian who is absolutely unafraid of speaking his mind, regardless of how many people claim offense.



Derek Robertson
Honors sophomore

If I could choose the day, I'd like to be one of the U.S. senators who could swing the vote in favor of the next big climate change bill, like Lisa Murkowski of Alaska.



Christine Senecal
Honors professor

I would pick Warren Buffet because he is a successful entrepreneur, business man, and role model with billions of dollars at his disposal for charity.



Jon Moats
Honors senior

National Day on Writing: More than Just a Class Project

By Nick Spinelle, Honors freshman

When one thinks of writing, several possible thoughts may run through the individual's mind. One person may think of writing as simply something that is done as an assignment for class, a very common thought on a college campus. Others may view writing as a form of expression and consider it a work of art. Setting personal beliefs aside, writing is extremely important and plays a vital role in society.

With that statement in mind, Dr. Carla Kungl informed her Honors Writing-Intensive First Year Seminar (WIFYS) about National Day on Writing (NDoW). She told our class that National Day on Writing is recognized worldwide as a day where students explore the importance of writing. She informed us that we were going to participate in National Day on Writing by doing a community project associated with writing. We then broke into groups and the project was underway.

After much consideration and planning, October 20, the date of NDoW, finally arrived. It was time to put all of our hard work into action. For my group's project, Honors students Shannon Cooley, Ryan Schweikert,

and I traveled to Grace B. Luhrs Elementary School and worked with Mrs. Cindy Pimental's fourth grade class. Upon our arrival, the class was broken into three groups of seven, and each group participated in a "circle writing" activity where they created a Halloween-themed story. Each student started with a piece of notebook paper containing the first sentence of the story. They wrote a few lines and passed the paper to the person next to them. The next student continued the story based on the previous student's writing.

Other projects organized by students for the NDoW assignment included a graffiti exhibit, reading to elementary school students, having students illustrate the endings of stories, and giving a presentation about the history of writing. These projects provided Honors WIFYS students with the opportunity to show others how important and fun writing can be.

"The National Day on Writing assignment was a very fun experience. The students we worked with really had a great deal of fun with the project, and I think they learned the importance of writing as well," said Honors freshman Ryan Schweikert.



Photo courtesy of Nick Spinelle

Nick Spinelle helps fourth graders at Grace B. Luhrs Elementary School write their own stories.

"The project was a very unique experience that provided students with the opportunity to show others the significance of writing in a fun and creative way," commented Honors freshman Ben Mosior.

Overall, the National Day on Writing was a successful and rewarding experience both for Honors students and the individuals who participated in the projects. Everyone associated with the projects learned the significance and importance of writing in creative ways. Students learned that National Day on Writing was certainly more than "just a class project."



Reminder: Honors Spring General Meeting

January 28, 2010

at 3:45 p.m.

Tuscarora Room,

Reisner Hall

All Honors students

must attend.



Pizza, Cont'd

Students had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Becker's dog, Lucy, and she had the pleasure of sharing the students' dessert.

"Having a Pizza with a Prof in a professor's home helped students to relate to a professor on a more personal level." commented Honors senior Ally Morgan. "Students felt welcomed and were able to ask questions and participate in discussions with enthusiasm."

Dr. Becker was very personable and really opened her home to the students. She was

eager to share her home and was very interested in the students' lives. The whole evening was very relaxed and was a huge success.



Photo courtesy of Allison Morgan

Students enjoy pizza and conversation in Dr. Becker's living room.

NCHC, Cont'd

sented in either a panel or roundtable discussion, I was there as a representative of our program and served as a student moderator for a panel.

On Thursday morning, Annamarie, Grace, Dr. Dagnes, and Dr. Klein made a presentation on the Honors Election Debate Series, which the Honors Program has hosted biannually since 2004 as part of the panel, "Promoting Civic Engagement across Campus: The Honors Election Debate Series."

Our group did well during the discussion. We came prepared, we knew our material, and we were ready to help any other group that was interested in starting a similar program.

We took this attitude to other panels we attended, students and professors alike. Annamarie and Grace attended several on study abroad and freshmen orientation, and were pleased to learn that our own freshmen orientation program is very developed compared to many others in the country. Both were

able to give advice to other programs' delegates about how to improve or even start their own programs. However, through other panels I learned different strategies which we can use to fine-tune our program. In the meantime, Dr. Dagnes and Dr. Klein attended other panels for ideas on how to expand our program, with the goal of becoming an Honors College. Our group took the ideal of the conference—i.e., give and take—and ran with it as we explored panels with topics ranging from Honors recruitment to Honors living-learning centers.

After a day of panels, we had the evening to explore the city before the conference gala. The evening of exploration ended with a performance by the Capitol Steps. If you have never seen the Capitol Steps, I highly recommend them. They are a political comedy group that satires every aspect of political life. And the best part is that they are not biased toward one party, making liberals and conservatives alike laugh at their own ideas. It was a perfect way to show

the cooperative spirit of NCHC. On Saturday, October 31, Shaun Thompson and Dr. Long presented "The Game: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Math, History, and Service-Learning." Their presentation was astounding, and they received great feedback from those in attendance.

We attended a few more panels, getting more ideas on how to fine-tune the Shippensburg Honors Program. Then it was time for us to head back to Ship.

The NCHC conference was definitely an experience of a lifetime, though there is one every year. To get together with students, professors, and Honors directors from a variety of backgrounds and share ideas really does make you feel like you're attending a meeting with heads of the world.

The Honors Program is now on Facebook! Find us at the following site:
www.facebook.com/shippensburguniversityhonorsprogram



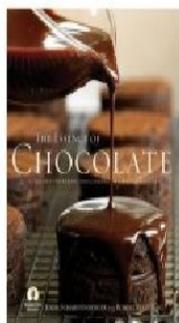
Death by Finals? Nah! Death by Chocolate!!



Date: Wednesday, December 9

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Place: CUB 219-221



RSVP to Katie Marshall (km7421@ship.edu) or Jen Coccagna (jc4939@ship.edu) by Monday, December 7!

This Honors Rec event will be held Wednesday, December 9 from 7:00 to 9:00 in CUB 219-221. We will eat lots of chocolate and watch "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" in order to de-stress a little before finals.

Colloquium, Cont'd

On November 17, Dominican Day was hosted in the CUB MPR. The main purpose of the event was to raise awareness about Reach Out's mission to enhance education in the Dominican Republic. Several tables displayed information about Reach Out and the history and culture of the country.

The event was split into two parts. From 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., Dominican Day was geared toward children from Luhrs Elementary School. During this time, the children participated in several activities, including mask-making and creating cards that will be given to children in the Dominican Republic.

The second part of Dominican Day took place from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and was open to both the on- and off-campus community. Besides tables featuring information about the Dominican Republic and Reach Out, there was also a Spanish language table where members of the Spanish Department were available to help teach Spanish words and phrases. Mask-making was also available during this time and was a popular activity with visitors. Another table was available to

write letters that will be given to the children in the Dominican Republic. Dominican music was also played throughout the night. Tables were set up that featured Dominican-inspired food, including stew, rice and beans, fruit, cornbread, and fruit juice.

The highlight of the night was dance lessons taught by Dr. José Ricardo of the Spanish Department. He taught participants the merengue, a popular Dominican dance. He broke the steps down to make it easier for everyone to learn. By the end of the lesson, everyone was able to put the steps together.

"I think that the Dominican Day was an excellent way for the students who are going to the Dominican Republic to grease the gears and warm up for the project," said Dr. Ricardo. "It was also a good opportunity for the university community at large to appreciate other aspects of the Hispanic culture, which most of the time is portrayed from the Mexican perspective."

Dominican Day was a huge success. More than 150 people attended the event, and Reach Out was pleased with the positive feedback

Reach Out: Enhancing Education in the Dominican Republic

By Wendy Tanner, Honors senior

This year's Honors Colloquium is putting its skills to work in an effort to improve the public education of children in the Dominican Republic. The Colloquium's service project, entitled "Reach Out: Enhancing Education in the Dominican Republic," is designing a curriculum that will be implemented in January 2010 when members of the class travel to the Dominican Republic.

The curriculum will be distributed throughout five child development centers in Santo Domingo, the country's capital. The ages of the children range from 2 to 15 years old. The curriculum is not the traditional reading and writing subjects. The class has designed various hands-on activities for the children to

help improve their English. Topics range from colors and numbers to family and transportation. Technology education will be emphasized as well.

"I am excited about working on an international project that will benefit individuals who have demonstrated a need," said Honors senior Kali Antolik. "I feel that it will be a real eye-opener for me to see our efforts having a strong impact on the lives of children in the Dominican Republic."

The class has actively recruited partners both on and off Shippensburg University's campus to gain support for the project. Reach Out consists of 17 students ranging from sophomore to senior status. Their disciplines include, but are not limited to, business, educa-

tion, history, and communications. Information about Reach Out is available on the colloquium's website, www.ship.edu/honors/reachout. A blog about the project can also be found at sureachout.blogspot.com.



Photo courtesy of Kali Antolik

Students at Grace B. Luhrs Elementary School partnered with the Honors Colloquium to collect school supplies for children in Santo Domingo.

Kristen Brooks, Honors junior, wins NCAA Elite 88 Award

By Sara Workman, Honors junior

Kristen Brooks, a junior from Lancaster, Pa., recently became the first student athlete to win the NCAA's Elite 88 Award. This new award is given to an athlete who has the highest grade point average and is playing in a national championship competition.

The award was founded by the NCAA to honor students who have become extremely successful, not only on the field but in the classroom as well.

Kristen, who plays mid-field for the Lady Raiders field hockey team, has been a leader both in the classroom and on the field. Kristen is a double major in marketing and international management.

"It is an honor for Shippensburg and for our field hockey program to receive the first inaugural award," said Lady Raiders Head Coach Bertie Landes. "It was a very proud moment for me as a coach."

The award was presented at the annual banquet for the Division II Field Hockey Championships at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.



Photo courtesy of psacsports.org

Kristen Brookes is the first ever recipient of the Elite 88 Award.

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THE HONORS CHRONICLE

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PASSHE SUMMER HONORS PROGRAM 2010 IN

EGYPT



**Applications are available
on the bulletin board
outside the Honors Office,
Horton Hall 104**

THE HONORABLE MENTION

Congratulations to our December 2009 graduates: **Amanda Benedict, Adam Christman, Allison Jackson, Samuel Levy, and Dennis Shindle!**

Thanks to the students who represented the Honors Program at the Shippensburg University Open House on December 5: **Dale DiSalvo and Abby Montler.**

Thanks to **Jessica Barben** for chairing the Honors Read book discussion group for the past year and a half.

Thanks to all of the students who helped with Ship Trip (formerly Excitement in Education) on November 7: **Miranda Aaron, Madeline Alger, Daniel Bender, Lisa Brehm, Benjamin Carlucci, Elisabeth Davis, Katherine DiNolfi, Dale DiSalvo, Eric Hofmann, Jennifer Hoover, Kaitlin Hyman, Kristen Imboden, Scott Karper, Melissa Koontz, Jacob Lutter, Kyle McGrogan, Jordan Middleton, Matthew Miller, Katie Morton, Michele Muenker, Derek Robertson, Jessica Rossi, Diana Schneider, Alexa Sleeper, Addy Virtus, Karli Wagner, and Sara Wlazelek.**

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