What do fair trade coffee, readers’ theatre, silica aerogels, and oysters have in common? They were all topics of Honors Program students’ capstone projects in 2014-2015. On Tuesday, April 21, 2015, graduating seniors presented their capstone research, creative, and service-learning projects at the Honors Symposium, the annual forum that marks the culmination of Honors students’ undergraduate experience. Twenty-three students presented a diverse range of projects to an audience that included their faculty mentors, family members, and fellow Honors students. For more information and a complete list of Honors capstone projects, go to http://www.ship.edu/Honors/Curriculum/Symposium/.

Celebrating Seniors II: Spring Banquet

On Tuesday, April 28, 2015, the Honors Program held its annual Spring Banquet, where students and faculty celebrated the conclusion of another successful academic year. This year’s theme was “A Night in Paris,” and it was made all the more festive with Eiffel Tower decorations, a French menu, and French music playing during the dinner. After dinner, attendees enjoyed a video with highlights from the past year and a tribute to graduating seniors. During the recognition of graduating seniors, the University Honors Program graduates were presented with new medallions, which were designed by Honors student John Watts. Annual Honors awards were also presented at the banquet. The 2014-2015 award recipients included: Kelsey Mengle, Outstanding Honors Capstone Project; Ashley Stuck and Lauren Wenerd, Honorable Mention, Outstanding Honors Capstone Project; and Emily Bach, Outstanding First-Year Research Paper. The Honors Program’s highest award, the Spirit of Honors Award, was presented to Kelsey Mengle and Amanda Schwarz. Congratulations to our graduates and award recipients!
Honors Program Class of 2014-2015

University Honors Program Graduates

Jennifer Carlin
Shelby Coghill
Brandon Duelley
Briana Evans
Connor Fox
Melina Godshall
Hannah Greenberg
Olivia Hunt
Grant Innerst
Lucinda Kauffman
Kathleen Lazarski
Morgan Livingston
Sara Long
Kelsey Mengle
Tierney Miller
Nicole Nicholson
William Parisi
Kiley Petro
Heather Rensch
Julia Saintz
Amanda Sanger
Amanda Schwarz
Kelsey Stasyszyn
Ashley Stuck
Lauren Wenerd

General Education Honors Program Graduates

Katie Benedict
Jacob Landis
Christopher Silvia, Jr.
Jennifer Spangler

Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors!

Freshman Orientation Snapshots!
In June of 2015, I participated in the Partners in the Parks trip to northeastern Nebraska and the Missouri National Recreational River. On my flight into the tiny city of Sioux City, Iowa, I was a jumbled mess of nerves. I had never flown alone before, I did not know anyone on the trip, nor was I familiar with this part of the country. It was bound to be an entire week of firsts.

Partners in the Parks is coordinated by the National Collegiate Honors Council, and is experiential learning for its participants in America’s National Parks. The first Partners in the Parks program took place in 2007 at Bryce Canyon National Park, and the program has grown to include more than a dozen sites in 2015.

The trip was focused on the Missouri Recreational National River, and we followed it across Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota, learning about the Native American populations of the region and how the ecosystems had been affected by European settlers and technological advances like dams. We had numerous seminars with various professors and park rangers during our travels, from an evening seminar about the Summer Solstice with a drama professor, to micro invertebrate hunting in the Niobrara River with a marine biologist, to sessions about native flora and fauna from a high school history teacher. It was such a unique experience to go around a part of the country I had never been to or even really cared about before and forge life-long relationships and learn so much about history, the environment, and myself.

The most important memory I have from my trip is the last night we all spent together. We were camping in a secluded part of Ponca State Park, right on the Missouri River (and it is highly likely that Lewis and Clark stayed in that same campsite). We invited Jerome Kills Small, one of the last remaining Lakota Indians to spend our last night with us and teach us about parts of his culture. He taught us how to say a few words in his language, and sang to us as the sun set with his drum. It will always be a special and beautiful memory to me, especially because the Lakota is a dying population. As the sun went down on the river, I knew that I would remember this trip for the rest of my life.

The Honors Program will host an Open House at Homecoming on Saturday, October 17, 2015 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Presidents Hall MPR. Enjoy meeting with former Honors classmates and current Honors students. A poster session will highlight Honors undergraduate research and service projects, study abroad programs, HSO activities, and the Living-Learning Community. Tours of the Honors facilities in Presidents Hall will also be offered. And yes, there will be refreshments! Please RSVP to honors@ship.edu by October 1.

We look forward to seeing you there!
The Write Stuff

I had the privilege to attend the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota in April with a University Undergraduate Research Grant. While there, I attended panels to conduct research for my Honors capstone project, interviewed an editor from *The Southern Indiana Review*, and led the Forum for Undergraduate Student Editors (FUSE) caucus as their national president. Along with panels and readings, the conference has a book fair with over 700 exhibitors. It represented literary magazines, small publishing companies, authors, and a range of other merchandise. The panels covered a huge range of topics related to writing, editing, and publishing, and the most useful panel I attended for my Honors capstone project was “Tweeting for Lit Mags,” which discussed how to create a consistent voice and keep a schedule for advertising a literary magazine on social media. Although the primary focus of the panel was on Twitter, it also discussed etiquette on social media, such as how to properly engage in a conversation with current events.

Travelling alone was a somewhat confusing and occasionally terrifying experience, but one that I would recommend to everyone if they have the chance. I had not been on a plane in years and have never travelled alone anywhere, even to a smaller city, so this was an eye-opening experience in both the confusing nature of travel and the kindness of others. One morning, as I was walking to the conference center, it began pouring and I had not packed an umbrella. A girl ran up to me, handed me her umbrella, and said “Take this, I don’t need it!” She ran off before I could even respond but her gesture was one of the first experiences I had in Minneapolis and made me feel much more comfortable through the rest of my trip. Outside of the conference I was able to go to the Mall of America twice, make new friends, network with other editors, and walk around a city that I would otherwise never have seen.

Editor’s Corner

If I had to summarize the central theme of this edition of *The Honors Chronicle* into one word, I would immediately pick “transition.” Once again, we’re beginning the semester with many new faces in the Honors Program. Each one of them brings a wealth of experience and potential, and we are all excited to watch them grow and achieve great things during their time at Shippensburg University.

On a similar note, last spring’s seniors have transitioned into the vast world, where each one will go far with what they’ve learned and already accomplished. To all of our recent graduates: don’t forget to come back to visit!

Lastly, *The Honors Chronicle* is also gearing up for a steady transition to new leadership. By the next edition, you may start to see changes to this publication as our new editors, Jake Gillespie and Mackenzie Brouse, begin to leave their own mark on this newsletter. Suffice it to say, I’m excited to see this publication grow and change as the semester goes on, and I’m glad that you’re all here to join Jake, Mackenzie, and me on this journey.

- John