

The Honors Program Newsletter

VOL. 17, ISSUE 4

FROM THE HONORS OFFICE, HORTON HALL 104

FEBRUARY 2004

CALENDAR

March

15-16 - Scheduling for Fall Honors Courses

Contact Sharon Poe at x1604 or sapoe@ship.edu with your desired Honors courses. See the notice on Page 4 for more information.

16 - Orientation for Northeast Region of the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference

4 p.m., Horton Hall 110

18 - Uncommon Conversations: Naomi Wolf

Naomi Wolf is a feminist and social critic, whose books include *The Beauty Myth* and *Misconceptions: Truth, Lies, and the Unexpected on the Journey to Motherhood*.

4:00 p.m., Women's Center.

23 - Applying to Law School Workshop

Dr. Stephanie Jirard, Criminal Justice Professor
5:00 p.m., Shippen Hall 340

25 - Honors Student Organization Meeting

8:30 p.m., Honors Lounge

All students are welcome to attend.

April

1-4 - Northeast Region of the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Hartford, Ct.

Five Honors students will represent Shippensburg.

3 - Excitement in Education

8:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Shippen Hall

See the article on page 2 for more information.

8 - Honors Student Organization Meeting

8:30 p.m., Honors Lounge

All students are welcome to attend.

15 - Pizza with a Prof: Prof. Jan Ruby and Dr. Ted Carlin, Art and Communications/Journalism Departments

5 - 5:45 p.m., Art Gallery, Huber Art Center

16 - Honors Bus Trip to U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C.

Contact Sharon Poe at x1604 or sapoe@ship.edu if you are interested in participating.

27 - Honors Program Spring Banquet

6 - 7:30 p.m., Tuscarora Dining Room

Textbook project takes off

BY DR. GENE FIORINI, MATH DEPARTMENT

By now many readers will have heard of the book project that is being organized by several Honors students. Beginning at the end of Fall 2003 and continuing through Spring 2004, Honors students are collecting, organizing, and shipping educational materials to high schools and colleges in other countries in dire need of resources and textbooks.

The University of the Philippines (UP) ranks as one of Asia's top four universities. Its mission, as spelled out by the Philippine government, is to educate the nation's top high school and college students. High school students are selected through a rigorous testing process in their final primary school year. These students are automatically admitted to UP upon successful completion of their high school curriculum. Additional students from non-UP high schools across the country may also attend UP if they successfully pass another battery of exams in their senior year. Each UP satellite university consists of a college campus and an adjoining high school campus. This insures that UP high school students are exposed to advanced education at an early age.

Beginning in 1999, I was invited to give a series of lectures at UP. These lectures spanned five years and have taken place at several UP campuses across the Philippines. Through these lectures, I had the opportunity to tour several campuses and their facilities. It became apparent that most university resources were kept at the main campus in Diliman, Manila. It was appalling to see what few resources the satellite campuses had, and these grossly out of date. Returning to Shippensburg, I began to collect what excess resources I could and shipped them to the campuses I had visited. The gratitude of UP faculty and students was astounding.

In Sept. 2003, I had a conversation with Dr. Klein in which I mentioned that I was sending educational resources to UP. She asked if I would be willing to work with Honors students to expand this into an international service project. I agreed. Since then Honors students have begun the process of collecting, sorting, and shipping resources.

How YOU can help the schools in need

BY MEGAN WERTS

Over the past two months, the Honors Service Committee has been working to gather and sort textbooks for schools in need in the Philippines.

Over the next few years, the Honors Program will be undertaking more of the responsibilities of the project. Students will contact schools in the Philippines to determine what materials are needed, and they will gather and send other needed materials besides textbooks.

If any students are interested in assisting with the remainder of this project or in helping to expand the project in the future, please contact the Honors Service Committee chair, Megan Werts, by e-mail at mw3784@ship.edu.

Calling 2004-2005 HSO candidates

Honors Student Organization President Meg Dameron is now accepting applications for her replacement—and for the other officers' successors as well.

By April 1, Honors students who would like to be candidates for a 2004-2005 Honors Student Organization office (president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer) should e-mail Meg Dameron with "a brief description of why they are a good choice for the position" and "what they would like to do" as an Honors officer.

After all have applied, Honors students will receive an e-mail on April 9 with the candidate information. Students can then vote by responding to the e-mail by April 16. "The new officers must be announced by the third Friday in April, the 23rd, according to our constitution," Dameron said.

The excitement returns in April

Excitement in Education, "E²," returns to campus on April 3. Students of all majors have the opportunity to teach Harrisburg students about their interests while giving back to the community.

Currently E² needs additional instructors, teachers' aides, lunch servers, tour guides, and registration helpers. Anyone interested—or who knows of non-Honors students or organizations that might like to help—should contact E² Chair Stephanie Rush at sr4349@ship.edu or call 477-4624.

Meet new GA Jeannette McBryan

Jeannette McBryan joins us this spring, beginning her first semester in the M.S. Geoenvironmental Studies program. Originally from Milton, Pa., she attained her B.S. in Geoenvironmental Studies with a minor in Psychology last May here at Shippensburg. Jeannette helps the Honors Program by maintaining the Web site, creating newsletters, and working on various other projects this year.

HONORS PROGRAM OFFICE

Horton Hall 104 (717) 477-1604
Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Fri. 8 - 11:45 a.m.
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HONORS STUDENT ORGANIZATION (HSO)

Officers

President:	Meg Dameron	nutmegatron@yahoo.com
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E²:	Stephanie Rush	sr4349@ship.edu

Uncommon conversing with Alice Walker

BY RYAN HESS



Alice Walker visited Ship on Feb. 12.

Alice Walker's slow-spoken cadence instantly pulled the group of students into the "uncommon conversation." She spoke about taboo subjects, like female genital mutilation and its effect on women in Africa. She also challenged student views about the war in Iraq and women's rights, forcing us to expand our horizons.

Most interesting were her comments on her writing and teaching. She writes about people whose voices often go unheard by creating characters and allowing them to respond to circumstances. Thus, her stories almost tell themselves. She also became the first professor in the nation to teach a course solely on female African writers, paving the way for such courses at other institutions.

Other Honors students were equally impressed with Walker's visit. Susan Shimer said, "The discussion session was enlightening, especially when she talked about seeing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speak; it was like she was a walking piece of history." Heather Palmer recalled, "She said, 'To write poetry you need life lived intensely, and craft...to let it [the poetry] grow.' I especially liked this line. She talked of writing as being a seed, where one must nurture and have patience with it."

Pizza with a Prof: Education worth investigating

BY CHRIS VOSS



On Nov. 13, the Department of Teacher Education hosted Pizza with a Prof as Dr. Kimberly Bright and Prof. Tracey Knerr talked to interested students. The majority were Elementary Education majors, or leaning toward education in general. I was not, but was still interested in education, going back to days of old when I would "school" my little brother.

"Pizza with a Prof, oh boy!" Nicholas James Komisky, born Dec. 18, 2003, to Dr. Kim Klein and Mark Komisky. Quote provided by Mr. Komisky.

The professors went over such ideas as adapting to children, choosing an elementary education concentration, and the benefits of special education, as Prof. Knerr's concentration is in that field.

I personally felt that this was a perfect session for those who wanted to know more about specializing in the college of education, and coming from an outside observer, it was truly worth the investigation.

Prof. Tracey Knerr said about the event, "I enjoyed the opportunity to meet several of the Honors students, both in Teacher Education and other majors. Students got an opportunity to mingle, make friends and get questions answered."

There will be one more Pizza with a Prof this year, on April 15 from 5 to 5:45 p.m. in Huber Art Gallery. Professors Jan Ruby and Ted Carlin will co-host a Pizza with a Prof on behalf of the Art and Communication/Journalism Departments.

Honors students rid Rails to Trails of trash in November service project

BY NAOMI CREASON

On Nov. 15, three groups—the Honors Program, Volunteers Club, and SEAC (Student Environmental Action Coalition)—joined together to help pick up trash along the section of the Cumberland Valley Rails to Trails path adjacent to campus.

The trail extends along Adams Drive, passing Rowland Hall and underneath the bridge to the Spiritual Center, out nine miles from Shippensburg to Newville. Rails to Trails program was created to facilitate the conversion of abandoned railroads into public recreational trails.

Meg Werts, President of Volunteers Club and Chair of the Honors Service Committee, planned the project for the three clubs. "The Volunteers Club has participated on the Rails to Trails Clean-up for several years. The Honors Program was interested in working on a larger service project," Meg explained. "We have

been working on linking the two groups together, and Dr. Klein thought it was a good idea."

Picking up the trash proved to be very difficult and somewhat dangerous to those involved. It was not uncommon to see one of the volunteers scaling the 85°-angle cliff to reach one candy wrapper. Everyone also suffered from trying to reach under dense branches that under normal circumstances would need a machete to get through—and then unfortunately getting tangled in the thorns of a tree.

Freshman Tara Fremont commented, "There's some really disgusting stuff down there, and it figures that the piece of trash will be in the furthest to reach bush."

When the day was complete, the group settled down, preened each others' coats and hair, and were treated to a pizza lunch provided by Honors.

*To learn more about Rails to Trails, visit their website at:
<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/rails/>*

Adjusting to abroad: hard but worth it

BY ERIN HARMON

Studying abroad can be a very intimidating experience, no matter where you go. Think back to your first day of college, when you were moving in. This is an intimidating experience for most. Now imagine doing it in another country, after having traveled for many hours, lugging all of your possessions in one bag, while not understanding what people are telling you and not really knowing where you are going. It's very hard, and very lonely.

When I was at home, I didn't expect any of these barriers. Yes, the British speak English, but very different English. Often I have to ask people to repeat things several times (especially if they're speaking fast) before I have a clue what they are telling me. The clothing that I wear is different, I always feel dressed down and way too casual. They drive on the opposite side of the road, which means when crossing the street, you have to look the opposite direction. Cars don't stop for crosswalks. The buses are red

and have two stories. The taxis look like they are straight from the 1950s. People eat differently, with their forks upside down while they push the food onto it with their knife. Words are different. The dining hall is known as the "canteen" and the erasers for the chalkboard are called "board rubbers." Everyone has a "mobile" phone, pronounced mo-bile. To say goodbye, have a good day, thank you, anything, a person uses "Cheers." These were all little things that I didn't expect, little things that make me different.

I'm settling in now, here. I'm getting used to not having an Internet connection in my room. I can understand accents a little better, and have gotten used to the food from the canteen. It's all part of studying abroad. I know that when I go home, I will be more traveled, cultured, and independent. I would recommend this adventure to anyone who is considering it. It will truly open your eyes to the world around you. More importantly than that, it will open your eyes to yourself. *Erin is studying abroad in London this spring.*

HONORS PROGRAM PHOTO GALLERY



Photos from Rails to Trails: Above and at left, Honors students pick up trash along the Rails to Trails path bordering Adams Drive, just off of campus. At left, students pose with their findings, including a discarded Open House sign!



THE HONORABLE MENTION

Congratulations to senior Honors students Matthew Anderson, Florida Cimino, Natalie Cochran, Shayna Cooke, Page Heath, Eric Shulenberger, Renee Sowinski, Rebecca Strawn, and Sarah Walton, who were selected for the 2003-2004 *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities*.

Congratulations to junior Amanda Perry and freshman Jessica Kreger for being chosen to travel to Costa Rica in the 2004 SSHE Summer Honors Program. Sophomore Shannon McCloud will serve as the alternate.

Thanks to sophomore Dana Leese and junior Sarah Sheaffer for calling prospective students in the Phonathan on Feb. 15.

Welcome to five new members of the Honors Program: Freshmen Shannon Connor, Andrew Cornell, Mark Lehman, Michael Manis, and Heather Palmer are all beginning their first semester as Honors students this spring.

**Monday, March 15 &
Tuesday, March 16**

Honors Fall 2004 Scheduling

There will be no Honors scheduling meeting this semester. The Honors course listings are available on the Honors Program Web site at <http://www.ship.edu/~honors/Courses.html>. On March 15-16, Honors students should contact Sharon Poe at x1604 or sapoe@ship.edu and let her know which Honors courses they would like to schedule. If any courses are oversubscribed, students will be given priority based on the number of credits they have earned. *Planning ahead? A tentative schedule of spring 2005 courses will be listed on the Web site soon.*

In this issue of The Honors Program Newsletter:

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