

Honors

Community



**Fall-Winter 2021-2022
Newsletter**

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The Newsletter of The Wood Honors College at Shippensburg University
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Editor: Madeline Cardinale; Assistant Editors: Madison Cosey, Matthew Morine
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Letter from the Editors

Full disclosure, I'm still recovering from the fall semester, and it's literally January. Maybe that's because I'm in the homestretch of senior year; if my time left as an undergrad is measured in Honors newsletters, then after this bad boy gets published, I am but one issue away from alumna status. It's exciting, it's intimidating, it's tremendously chaotic, and yet . . . I feel very peaceful about life at the moment. A lot of this peacefulness stems from the fact that I'm transitioning from one supportive community to another—throughout college, I've found a home within the welcoming and motivating Honors student community, and within a few short months I'll be a new member of the astoundingly accomplished Honors alumni community. So, despite the fact that we're all in uncharted territory, beginning our adult lives in a pandemic with unique pursuits and circumstances, take it from me, and the sentiments of all those who contributed to this newsletter: the Honors College community has your back, and always will.



~ **Madeline Cardinale, Senior Software Engineering Major**

As I enter the new semester, our theme of community has me reflecting on the many meaningful relationships developed from my time here at Shippensburg, with both students and staff. While the past three years of my academic career have been a roller coaster of highs and lows, it is the community I found that has kept me grounded and encouraged to return each semester. While interviewing the Honors alumni (be sure to check out that article!!), I noticed similarities in the memories they shared from the Honors Program years ago to the ones I'm making now. I'm incredibly grateful for the Honors community of learners I have grown alongside during my time here at Ship. I feel as though I have connected more with fellow Honors students with completely different majors than those in my own program. In the wise, vowel-less words of Fall Out Boy, thanks fr th mmrs (except they were pretty great).



~ **Madison Cosey, Junior Mid-Level Education Major**

So me, this semester has been defined by personal growth. I won't go into the details, but I have noticed a lot of improvements in things like time management and getting involved with the campus community. What is profound to me is that at the same time, everything still feels normal. I will repeat myself: Even in the midst of a global pandemic, and a time of significant personal improvement, I feel like things are *normal*. Once I realized that, I started to think that "normal" is more of a feeling than anything. To me, that's a positive thing. When nothing seems to be happening there is plenty to accomplish, and when everything is chaos there is "normal" hiding just below the surface.



~ **Matthew Morine, Sophomore Applied Physics Major**

Honors Community On and Off Campus

Thoughts From the Honors LLC RA



**Honors LLC:
An On-Campus
Community**

The Honors Living Learning Community (LLC) is an important starting point for building Honors community at Shippensburg University. Here at Ship, roughly 90% of our residential population lives in suite-style residence halls, which have much more limited interactions than the traditional "bathroom and common phone at the end of the hall" that the previous generation is used to. The current residence hall design is akin to a hotel design. Although these buildings have very nice amenities, their design reduces interaction with other residents. The Honors LLC works to break down barriers and bring people together. Most floors in Shippensburg's residence halls are sparsely decorated, isolated, and quiet. You won't see people out and about or utilizing shared spaces. In the Honors LLC, residents are regularly talking in the decorated hallway, playing games in the lounges, propping open doors, playing guitar in the

hallway, and more. The Honors LLC also formally meets at least once a week to learn something new, play games, and provide service to the community. Most importantly, the Honors LLC meets weekly to building strong, long-lasting friendships. Academic, emotional, and social support is readily available in the tight-knit community that is the Honors LLC. Living in the Honors LLC is a completely different experience than that of a traditional residential student. It is an experience that helps support incoming first-year students with upperclassmen mentorship, new experiences, and lasting memories and relationships. ~Chase Slenker, Junior

I loved living in the Wood Honors College LLC this past semester! It was a great way to meet other freshmen and sophomores from the Honors College and make instant friends. Our weekly meetings throughout the semester focused on topics such as sustainability and suicide prevention awareness, as well as activities including a game night and volleyball tournament. Overall, the Honors LLC is such a fun community to be a part of, and I am so glad I got to experience it as a freshman college student. ~Amanda Fry, Freshman



Community can mean a lot of things to a lot of different people. Community is coming together and caring about one another. In the Honors LLC we always help each other even if there is no benefit to ourselves; this is true friendship. The Honors LLC has expanded my network and happiness, and it feels like home. I have met my closest friends and the people I know I can trust for the rest of my college experience within the Honors LLC, and it started my growth from a high school graduate to a successful college student. ~Chase Burdick, Freshman



The Honors LLC provided me with connections to other Honors students. Through the LLC's many activities, I was able to expand my community by meeting Honors students ranging from freshmen to seniors. These new relationships opened my eyes to the benefits the Honors College has to offer. The community also shared advice about classes and professors to uplift one another to ensure we all succeeded. ~Lilly Gariti, Freshman



To learn more about the Honors LLC, visit https://www.ship.edu/academics/colleges/honors/prospective_students/advantages_of_membership/honors_LLC/.

Honors Community On and Off Campus

Thoughts From A Commuter Committee Co-Chair

As one of the newest Honors Student Organization (HSO) committees, the Honors Commuter Committee has had a unique journey, being founded less than a month before the beginning of the pandemic and finding its purpose during virtual learning. While these curveballs likely would have been a setback for most new student groups, it was surprisingly easy to adapt our goals to the pandemic's restrictions—after all, commuters are intrinsically adept at maintaining academic and social success while spending most of our time off-campus. So, as Ship transitioned to the distance learning experience that commuters know all too well, the Commuter Committee began restoring aspects of the tight-knit Honors community that had been disrupted by the pandemic. By meeting weekly for laidback camaraderie and planning social-distanced events, writing for our blog to share commuter wisdom and entertaining content, and offering Honors students the opportunity to go on road trips exploring nearby cities, we have created a network of both commuters and resident students acting as a supportive family and resource to one another. In the words of Jeremy Satyawan Putra, Honors sophomore (and future Commuter Committee Co-Chair), "I may not have found a good parking space, but I did find a great home in the Honors Commuter Committee." I couldn't be prouder of the progress made by the Commuter Committee in its first two years, as its members have demonstrated that community is not solely found on campus. ~**Madeline Cardinale, Senior**



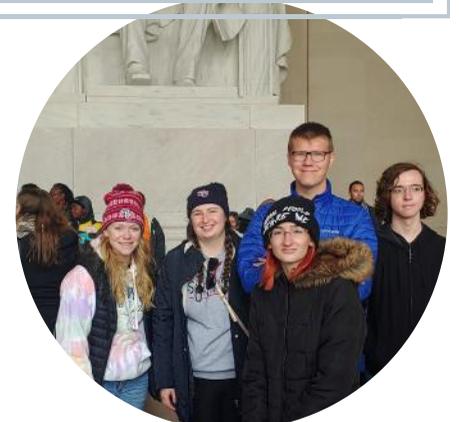
Even though I live off campus, I live so close that I barely call myself a commuter. However, I'm still a bit farther from all the amazing people on campus, so being a part of the Honors Commuter Committee still made me feel connected—and in ways even closer—to the community of peers and friends in the Honors College. The amount of love and support I have gotten since joining is unbelievable, and I will be forever grateful for the opportunities and connections I was able to make. ~**Juli Igarta, Sophomore**



The Honors Commuter Committee played such an important role in my first semester at Shippensburg University. As a commuter, I was super nervous about making friends since I didn't have a whole floor of people to talk to and get to know. This committee gives a chance for commuters and residents to connect in a way that no other campus organization does. I have met many of my closest friends through this committee and I am grateful for the opportunity that the Wood Honors College gives to students like me. ~**Mackenzie Longworth, Freshman**



This committee is a great help to those who are new to the area. Also, it creates community within the Wood Honors College by bridging the gap between commuting students and students that live on campus. Without this committee, student residents would have less opportunities to meet commuters. And I know for me personally, it is because of this committee that I was able to meet so many people that I would not have met otherwise. ~**Ethan Rosenberry, Freshman**



To read the official blog of the Honors Commuter Committee, *The Dorm-less Diary*, visit <https://dormlessdiary.blogspot.com/>.

WHC Epitomizes the Promise of Higher Education

By Dr. Lawrence M. Eppard, Assistant Professor of Sociology

I have held higher education in the highest regard for as long as I can remember. I am a first-generation college graduate so my understanding of academia as a kid was based upon a loose patchwork of things that I had seen and heard. Film depictions made a particularly strong impact on me. I saw the movie *Dead Poets Society*, for instance, a number of times in the 1990s and its portrayal of education really stuck with me.

While I believe *Dead Poets Society* was actually set in a college prep school, it nonetheless gave me the impression that at serious institutions of learning there were communities of individuals committed to the pursuit of knowledge. It gave me the sense that a university was a place that provided students more than enough time, space, and resources to foster the full development of their minds. The idea of living day-to-day in a community engaged in serious intellectual dialogue thrilled me. Needless to say, depictions like this had me hooked and I could not wait to experience college myself (I could do without Headmaster Nolan, of course).

Several of my personal higher education experiences have lived up to this idealized vision of college, but two in particular stick out.

The first is graduate school. I earned my Ph.D. at the University of Florida and while I was there I was constantly surrounded by smart people who were always talking about their intellectual



passions. During the day we had serious intellectual discussions with our peers and esteemed professors in the classroom, in the evening we would continue these discussions with our peers over dinner, and at night we would study and write on our own. It was exhilarating.

A second more recent example also sticks out, and it is my ongoing association with the Wood Honors College at Shippensburg University. I am thrilled to be involved in the Honors College because it replicates the graduate school environment.

Being a college professor is wonderful—you read and write about your intellectual passions all day long, only taking breaks to go to the classroom to talk to your students about them. It is so thrilling when students rise to your level of enthusiasm for and engagement with the material. Teaching in the Wood Honors College, students come to every session with a high level of enthusiasm and engagement.

I am amazed at what has been built by Dr. Kim Klein and the rest of the wonderful people involved in this program. It is a true intellectual community of student scholars and their faculty mentors who explore important issues from multidisciplinary perspectives.

“ [Honors students] all seem to share the same ethos that ideas are to be vigorously considered and debated and critiqued, but people are to be treated with kindness and respect. . . . When you first see an Honors classroom, you cannot believe what you are witnessing—and then every day for the rest of the semester you cannot wait to get back there. ”

When you walk into an Honors classroom a few minutes before you are to begin your lesson, you see all of your students have arrived early. The room is warm and welcoming. The air is full of energy and thoughtful chatter about a wide variety of interesting topics. The students are a true cohort, as they all know each other and are very comfortable with one another. During class time they all seem to share the same ethos that ideas are to be vigorously considered and debated and critiqued, but people are to be treated with kindness and respect. It feels quite like a graduate school seminar. When you first see an Honors classroom, you cannot believe what you are witnessing—and then every day for the rest of the semester you cannot wait to get back there.

The Wood Honors College is a true community of mature, collegial, driven, engaged, self-directed, curious, and intellectually-serious individuals. It epitomizes what the college experience should be. I marvel at what it has become, and I am excited to be a part of where it is going in the future.

Fostering Community: HSO Semester Highlights



Honors Orientation

"Even before starting classes at Shippensburg, Honors students have the opportunity to meet and interact with fellow Honors students at our summer Honors Orientation. I think the comfort that comes with having so many familiar faces on campus and a community to call your own on the first day of classes really helps to ease the transition into college and fosters the development of long-lasting relationships!"

~Cooper Grove, Honors Orientation Committee Co-Chair



Reach Out

"This year Reach Out helped to improve the global community by providing support through funds, materials, and meaningful relationships to our partner school in the Dominican Republic. We have created a community of people who strive to improve education at home and around the world."

~ Shelby Williams, Reach Out Co-Chair



Fundraising

"The Honors Fundraising Committee was happy to be involved in connecting both past and present Honors students through providing Homecoming tee shirts this semester. It was really great to see so many people repping Wood Honors College gear at the Homecoming football game!"

~ Chase Carpenter, Fundraising Committee Co-Chair



Service

"This semester the Service Committee worked closely with the community to help support Shippensburg. We held our annual trail cleanup in coordination with the Environmental Committee, where we worked on the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail and Richard Avenue. We also had groups head to King's Kettle to help feed local families in need. For next semester we are communicating with the Middle Spring Watershed Association for more projects, so be on the lookout!"

~ Chris Higgins, Service Committee Co-Chair



A Conversation with Honors Alumni

To learn more about how a sense of Honors community contributes to both campus experience and post-graduation success, we sat down with Honors alumni Codey Fickes, Kaitlyn Frey, Rachel Shaffer, Audrey McGarrell, and Josh Varone to hear their thoughts and experiences.

.hnrs: *How did you guys meet in college?*

Josh: I met Rachel and Audrey at my orientation as an incoming freshman. I think we met in the residence halls, or we might have met in the dining hall.

Audrey: Yeah, so when Josh and Rachel were freshmen, Codey and I were both volunteers as orientation leaders. So that's how we met Rachel and Josh and everyone else in their class. And then when Kaitlyn, Codey and I were freshmen, honestly, how did we meet? Somebody else take the reins.

Codey: Probably either at orientation, or I feel like we were in Senecal's class together. I could be wrong.

Kaitlyn: We all lived on the same floor in the Honors dorm. So we got closer as the year went on.

Rachel: When Josh and I were freshmen, Codey was our RA. So, I feel like that's when I remember Codey from. My memories of orientation are fleeting after this many years.

.hnrs: *How did the Honors Program influence your sense of community throughout your college experience?*

Rachel: I feel like it gave us a very consistent group to be with. I mean, it kind of introduced us in the first place, but we continued to have classes together, continued to do events together, and we were friends outside of that as well. It's pretty small, more tight-knit. I feel like it just kept us always in contact.

Josh: And I think living in the Honors LLC and being around that group of people, having the study lounges and the regular lounges, just always being around each other—it definitely helps form friendships outside of class.

Audrey: And, I'm assuming that Dr. Senecal still teaches history and the paper. I think that is, as insignificant as it may seem in your four years of college, a shared experience that people can kind of relate to each other through, even if it's the only thing that they have in common. It's just kind of a funny, unique "introduction into college!"

Codey: I think orientation also helped because I feel like before college even really started, I had my little group of friends. Not every single one of them ended up being my best friend ever, but I remember leaving orientation being depressed for three weeks because I was like, oh my

gosh! All these friends I just made; I have to wait three weeks to see them!

Kaitlyn: Yeah, it helped to lay the foundation for our friendships throughout the rest of college. And then even beyond that, like my first- and second-year dorm roommate came to my dental school graduation, and I saw her regularly throughout dental school. So, it was something that went beyond just undergrad for me.

.hnrs: *Which aspect of Honors provided the most community to you?*

Audrey: I think living in the same place, the Honors LLC.

Rachel: I agree. You can't really get much closer than seeing everybody, like, right outside your door every day.

Codey: Definitely agree. I'm a little biased because I was the RA, but especially during Audrey and my sophomore year, our class all lived together and then made friends with everybody in Josh and Rachel's year. So, we got really, really close, and overlapped classes, which was awesome.

Audrey: Codey makes a good point with how the LLC has primarily sophomores and freshmen, but even sometimes older students. It's a cool way that you can meet and become close with members of different classes, not just your own class.

Kaitlyn: I think it also extended beyond Shippensburg, like we got to meet other Honors students from different Honors Programs in the state system. That's how I met my fiancé, actually; he was in the Honors Program at Slippery Rock, so being in Honors allowed that to happen.

Josh: Also, all the different events that the Honors Program offers. I just remember, like, the Apple Pie with Alumni, Pizzas with a Prof—a lot of those events where you're able to get some free food and hang out with some of your friends. That's always fun, too.



Josh Varone, Codey Fickes, Audrey McGarrell, Rachel Shaffer, and Patrick Boddicker at the annual Shippensburg University Homecoming football game.

A Conversation with Honors Alumni

.hnrs: *What is the Honors alumni community like nowadays? How do you keep in touch with each other, especially now that you have your busy post-college lives and are geographically far away?*

Codey: I'm still really connected with a lot of people, and they're just incredibly talented and accomplished. Every time I turn around someone's getting a promotion, someone published a research article, someone's getting a new degree. It is insane, the cool stuff that people are doing and the careers that they're making. The bonds you make in the Honors Program are super strong, so everyone is still hyping up each other's social media posts, going to people's weddings, buying people baby gifts and stuff like that. There's so much because there's just a small group of us and we're pretty tightly connected.

Audrey: Yeah, the Honors alumni community within our friend groups Snapchat each other every single day. It's cool to have those friendships that are lasting. Also, as Codey said, as far as other people, maybe we don't talk on a daily basis, but we're still connected with them on social media. It is amazing to see what everyone's accomplishing.

Rachel: I agree, through social media is kind of how you keep up with everybody, but if you were to run into them, you would still be able to have a conversation and be friends that way.

Kaitlyn: Yeah, I say the same. You get random updates through social media, and then you have your close group of friends that you keep more in contact with. I'm still really good friends with my Honors roommate from the first two years of school. She was my biggest cheerleader in undergrad, and she was the same through dental school.

Audrey: Yeah, it's such a good feeling to see these people that we shared so much of our lives with, even if we don't keep in contact regularly. It really does go back to the shared experiences of being in the Honors Program and having that sort of network of people around you.

.hnrs: *How do you advise current students to take advantage of the community in the Honors College, and how can they better feel like a member of the community versus just a student at Ship?*

Codey: Join everything, and then you can pare down what you do. In your freshman year, you want to be involved in everything, and then you can eventually pick and choose. It'll get you involved with people you wouldn't normally talk to, and then you develop relationships from there. I did Ship Trip, and then I became the organizer, and through

that I met people that I talk to now that I definitely wouldn't have gotten to know otherwise because we didn't have a lot of classes together.

Rachel: Shout out to Ship Trip. Amazing. I love Ship Trip.

Kaitlyn: I would also just add, reach out to faculty and take the time to get to know them better. Sit down with them and don't be afraid to talk to them.

Josh: I would say the biggest thing is just to participate in the events. When you hear about them, go to them, get the free food and hang out with other Honors students. Get to know everybody. I think that was a huge factor in my time there. It made a huge difference for me.

Audrey: 100% agree with that. Especially when I was a younger student, I was pretty terrified of participating and talking to people I didn't know; I was shy. I would just encourage people that even if you're scared, even if you're uncomfortable, go to these events. Talk to people you don't know because they could become lifelong friends.

Rachel: In addition to going to events, if something comes up that you could do or that you're eligible for, just take advantage of it. Like, if there's an Honors conference and Dr. Klein encourages you to go or apply for a grant, then you should. Those things really set you up for opportunities down the road and could introduce you to something you might be interested in. Taking advantage of those opportunities, and getting used to taking advantage of opportunities, is really important because you keep that same mentality as you move forward in your career.

Codey Fickes, '17, earned a B.S.Ed. in History with a Social Studies Certification at Shippensburg and an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from Messiah University. He is in his fifth year teaching Social Studies at Palmyra Area High School. He is currently pursuing an M.S. in Applied Psychology at Shippensburg.

Kaitlyn Frey, '17, earned a B.S. in Biology with Minors in Anthropology and Biochemistry. She graduated from University of Pittsburgh Dental School last year, and currently lives in Washington where she is doing a one-year family dentistry residency through the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic.

Audrey McGarrell, '17, earned a B.S. in Spanish and an M.A. in Public Administration from Shippensburg. She currently works for the Cool Roof Rating Council, a nonprofit which rates roofing and wall products for their radiative properties to help with environmental energy efficiency for buildings. She is married to fellow Ship Honors alum Josh Varone.

Rachel Shaffer, '18, earned a B.S. in Chemistry with a Biochemistry Concentration. She is in her final year of medical school at Drexel University in Philadelphia, and she is currently applying for an adult neurology residency.

Josh Varone, '18, earned B.S. Degrees in Computer Science and Business Management. He currently works remotely as a web developer for WebFX, based out of Harrisburg. He and Audrey recently moved to Portland, Oregon, and have a dog named Echo.

Wood Honors College Distinction

Abigail Crosby, Teacher Education (Special Education and PreK-4) Major
“Utilizing Tactile Teaching Methods to Increase Letter Identification”

Madeleine Davis, Sustainability Major
“Combating the Stagnation of Capitalism Using Ecological Theories”

Nathaniel Dunbar, Accounting and Finance Majors
“Investment Portfolio Optimization”

Doris Hartung, Mathematics Major
“Effectiveness of Phage Therapy Against Biofilm Bacteria”

Bailey Hendricks, Teacher Education (Special Education and PreK-4) Major
“Addressing Student Difference through Children's Literature: Changing the Thinking in the Elementary School Classroom”

Bess Points, Geoenvironmental Studies Major
“Palynological Investigation of a Paleosol on the Eastern Shore, Virginia”

Bryan Rottkamp, Supply Chain Management Major
“Amazon Internship: Go-Cart Containerization Deep Dive”

Honors General Education Distinction

Caitlin Bagnick, Criminal Justice Major

Haley Bennett, English Major



With all best wishes for your future success!

Honors Student Wins National Award

Congratulations to Luke Hershey, 2021 Portz Scholar!

Congratulations to alumnus Luke Hershey, one of four Honors Program/College students nation-wide selected for the Portz Scholar Award. The Portz Scholar Award is sponsored by the National Collegiate Honors Council, the national professional association of Honors Programs and Colleges. The award recognizes the Honors students who produce the top research and creative projects from across the nation each year. Luke won for his Honors capstone project, *The Noalbumcast: An Experiment in Form*, and he is the first Ship Honors student to win the Portz Scholar Award.



The album, which Luke created under the direction of his faculty advisor, Professor Neil Connelly, is a creative project which combines components of novella, album, and podcast traditions into an eighty-two-minute audio experience. The album containing the full project, titled *The Truth, Raw, Live in a Cemetery*, is available at the following link: <https://linktr.ee/youngstersflying>.

Luke graduated in May 2021 with a major in English Secondary Education, and he is currently a Multimedia Teacher with the Harrisburg School District.

Luke's work is difficult to describe (a memoir triggered by the death of his grandfather that verges into fictional accounts of some events, expressed as a spoken word piece that at times breaks into song) but the effect is profound: the level of insight and artistry on display here blew me away. With a pure, true voice, vivid imagery, and lyrical wordplay, Hershey takes the reader on a journey both rich and rewarding, new and startling, a genuine emotional odyssey.

~Professor Neil Connelly, Luke Hershey's Capstone Project Advisor

My grandfather told one-of-a-kind stories. Stories that were pee-your-pants hysterical, over-the-top, and totally human—usually all at the same time. After being confronted by his audience about the less-than-believable bits of his stories, my grandfather often shrugged and said, “The story is more important than the truth.” I’m still amazed at how easily this man, who repaired AC units at Shippensburg University for nearly forty years, was able to get to the heart of it all with his words. With my capstone, I didn’t just want to memorialize Wayne Hershey. I wanted to become more like him, and in doing so, hopefully never forget the pieces of him that I loved. I can’t thank the Honors College enough for supporting me during this personal mission, and I’m deeply humbled by the positive reception the project has received.

~Luke Hershey, '21, Portz Scholar Award Recipient

Consider a Gift to Support Wood Honors College Students

Please consider making a gift to any of these important funds which support Honors students like Luke. To make a gift, visit the SU Foundation website at <http://www.sufoundation.org/initiatives/academics/honors/>.

- Wood Honors College Endowment: Supports Honors students' undergraduate research and creative projects, participation at national and regional conferences, and other educational opportunities that are central to the Wood Honors College experience.
- Wood Honors College Scholarship Fund: Supports merit scholarships for incoming Wood Honors College students
- Wood Honors College Colloquium Fund: Supports Honors interdisciplinary service-learning projects around the world
- Wood Honors College Study Abroad Scholarship Fund: Supports students who desire to expand their academic experience and cultural horizons by studying abroad
- Wood Honors College Associates Fund: Supports the most urgent needs of the College

Thank you for your generosity!

Shippensburg University
FOUNDATION

The Honors Mentor Committee continues to build community among first-year students and their Honors mentors, evident in these creatively unique "Take Your Mentee to Starbucks" Photo Contest submissions.



Thank you to everyone—students, faculty, and alumni—who contribute to making the Wood Honors College a vibrant community!

