

The Honors Chronicle

Volume 25, Issue 5

www.ship.edu/honors

April 2012

Calendar

APRIL

16 Deadline to apply for the Honors Study Abroad Scholarship for students studying abroad in Summer or Fall 2012

17 Honors Read
4:00 p.m., Location TBA

17 Honors Spring Banquet
6:00 p.m., Tuscarora Room.

19 Honors Symposium
3:00-9:00 p.m., CUB Orndorff Theater

19 Environmental Earth Day Festival
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

21 Service Opportunity: Inclusive Basketball
11:00-12:00 p.m.
Contact Janae jd3669@ship.edu for more information.

23 Deadline for all students to submit participation points tracking form to the Honors office, Horton 201.

30 Deadline for seniors to submit their Honors independent capstone projects.

May

5 Graduation Commencement Ceremony for undergraduates
11a.m. in Seth Grove Stadium.

August

3-4 Honors Freshman Orientation

September

4 Honors Fall Reception and General Meeting
3:30 p.m., Tuscarora Room, Reisner Hall
All Honors students are required to attend.

Midnight Masquerade Ball Raises \$1,300 for Togo

By Chelsea Meier
Honors Junior

Mary Bryson is a member of the Peace Corps and lives in Kante, Togo, a country in West Africa. In Kante, Mary works at an HIV/AIDS clinic. She started an English club and a Personal Finance club, and she works to try to educate as many people as possible. When we got in contact with Mary, through her father Lance Bryson, a staff member at Shippensburg University. In talking to Mary we discovered that many girls in Kante lack an education, as educating girls is not a priority in Togo and most families find it unaffordable, with tuition rates per semester being \$9.20 with additional fees for exams. The members of the Honors Student Organization wanted to help in many ways, because as students we understand the tremendous impact an education can have on individuals, families, and communities. HSO members decided to host a Charity Ball, open to all students, staff, faculty, and alumni of Shippensburg University in order to help Mary with her efforts in Kante, Togo.

I am thrilled to announce that the Honors Student Organization raised \$1,300 for the education of girls in Kante, Togo through the Midnight Masquerade Charity Ball! Dozens of girls can now afford to attend school for at least one more semester if not one more year!

The Charity Ball, held on March 23, took a lot of meticulous planning. Before we could even begin advertising the event there were so many things to take care of, like setting a date, reserving a room,



Photo Courtesy of Chelsea Meier
Honors students Chelsea Meier and Scott Karper pose in their masquerade masks.



Photo Courtesy of Mary Bryson
Peace Corps volunteer Mary Bryson works with children in Kante, Togo.

contacting catering, arranging ticket sales, and creating flyers. Once we had the basics in place, we were able to advertise more heavily through flyers, a Facebook page, and word-of-mouth. Students “pounded the pavement” for donations from local businesses, bought decorations, and I deposited the money raised every single day. Though organizing this large event was time consuming and stressful, I would do it all over, again and again, knowing that every single cent of money being raised is going towards the education of some very deserving girls!

The Charity Ball itself was a ton of fun! Students were able to eat, dance, and win door prizes! Dr. Mike Long, an Honors Advisory Board member and Math professor at Ship, was the deejay, and he knew how to get people on the dance floor! Students slow danced, and even kicked off their heels to line dance, jump around, and even break dance! Honors student Steve Masel surprised the crowd by singing “That’s Life” by Frank Sinatra. In addition to dancing, students had the opportunity to decorate masks at a mask decorating station, where festive masks and materials were provided. The event lasted three hours, and students were still full of energy despite sore feet by the time they left.

It was inspirational to see a group of caring college students come together for such a wonderful cause. I was originally nervous about the turnout because for some students, events like these are not affordable. I am grateful to the people who came and who saved their money to attend this event. In turn, by donating their money to this cause, they have forever impacted the lives of girls in Kante.

Reach Out Updates

Dominican Cultural Night

Reach Out held a successful Dominican Cultural Night on March 29th in the Tuscarora Room filled with Dominican dancers, food, cultural activities, and a movie. Attendees took part in mask making, games, writing letters to students at the Pathways of Learning School, and more!

Fundraisers

Reach Out held a volleyball tournament fundraiser on March 30th as well as a Community Night at Knute's Pub and Grill. Thank you to all who participated!

Dollar Tree Fundraiser/ Supply Drive

Reach Out was at the Dollar Tree in Shippensburg on Saturday and Sunday, April 21st & 22nd. Interested individuals donated \$1 or an item from a suggested school supplies list. All supplies collected from the Dollar Tree or purchased with donated funds will be taken to the Dominican Republic in January 2013. Reach Out raised \$219.40 and a shopping cart full of supplies.

Honors Program Office

Horton Hall 201

(717) 477-1604

Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday, 8 - 11:45 a.m.

Honors Program Director:

Dr. Kim Klein, kmklei@ship.edu

Honors Program Secretary:

Ms. Cindy Poe, cmpoe@ship.edu

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

Honors Student Organization (HSO)

Officers, 2011-2012

President: Chelsea Meier (cm4994@ship.edu)

Vice President: Nicholas Spinelle (ns0365@ship.edu)

Secretary: Sarah Montanari (sm4874@ship.edu)

Treasurer: Monika Mironenko (mm0373@ship.edu)

The Honors Chronicle:

Editor: Holly Plank (hp1950@ship.edu)

Submit story ideas, Honors event photos, comments and suggestions to Holly.

The Honorable Mention

Congratulations to Sarah Montanari who was selected to receive a \$500 scholarship from the Northeast Regional Honors Council to support her participation in the Partners in the Park experience: "Fire Island to Ellis Island" in New York this summer!

Congratulations to the 2012-2013 Honors Student Organization officers: Steven Masel, Janae DelMasestro, Karli Wagner, Jackie Maguire, and Hannah Brant.

Thank you to the following students who helped with the Midnight Masquerade Charity Ball: Krista Bussewitz, Laura Nelson, Megan Moore, Kayleigh Schreyer, Steve Masel, Amanda Schwarz, Ben Haun, Karli Wagner, Scott Karper, Janae DelMaestro, Katie Hyman, Rachel Slotkin, Lucy Kauffman, Holly Plank, Miranda Aaron, Nicole Nicholson, Sara Ulrich, Shelby Coghill, Chris Silvia, Monika Mironenko, Jackie Maguire, Shannon Lee, and Evan Fishel.

Thank you to Dr. Mike Long for dee-jaying for the Midnight Masquerade Ball. Thank you to all who participated in the Charity Ball, including those who made significant donations: Dr. Christine Senecal, Dr. Kim Klein, Dr. Joe Borrell, Dr. Lynn Baynum, and Nick Iula.



The Honors Program is on Facebook and YouTube!

Find us at the following sites:
www.facebook.com/shiphonors
www.youtube.com/shiphonors



Ship Trip Gives Local Middle School Students a Taste of College

By Amanda Schwarz

Honors Freshman

All Photos Courtesy of Hannah Brant



You may have noticed the enormous group of children on a rainy Saturday several weeks ago (or more specifically, March 31st). They were not here for an open house or any other event like that. The kids, who came from Chambersburg, Shippensburg, Big Spring, and other local schools, were here to participate in a very special event put together by a great group of Honors students called “Ship Trip.”

Ship Trip was created in the 1990s by Honors Program students for underprivileged kids as well as students from the local and other surrounding communities. They come to campus for the day and get to experience classes created and taught by Honors students. The neat aspect is that they pick which classes they would like to take before they come to Ship. They also get a tour of the campus and even get to see what a dorm room looks like. The idea is to show kids how fun and exciting college can be so they are interested in pursuing higher education after they graduate.

Honors students really got to show off their creativity with Ship Trip because they have the opportunity to plan and execute lessons they created from scratch. This year, the classes were definitely unique. Kady Taylor, Jordan DeWalt



and Holly Plank helped students to discover everything there is to know about animal scat (a fancy way to say poop). Students were able to use chocolate scat to learn about different animals and their dietary habits. Sarah Montanari’s class went on a journey of epic proportions as they learned everything and anything about food and where it comes from and where it goes before it even gets put on your dinner plate. Demystifying the Dismal Science, led by Paul Engelkemier and Derek Robertson took boring topics like the economy and money, and made them exciting and interesting for students. Chelsea Meier and Karli Wagner taught a class called Fun with Polymers which had students conducting their own slimy experiments and they even got to build a human polymer! The final class was taught by Amanda Schwarz. Riddle Me This!, showed students the history of puzzles and optical illusions as they worked in groups to solve common brain teasers and had their minds blown by dizzying pictures that challenged even the brightest mind’s perceptions. Although the weather was a little dreary as clouds threatened to unleash torrents of rain on the groups of students, they still had an excellent time! One student named Chloe said, “It was



fun going to the different classes!” When asked what his favorite part of the day was, Elijah said, “I liked the cafeteria and the campus tour.” Even though some students have been to Ship before, newcomer Sean said that the campus was “cool” and one of the Riddle Me This! classes asked if it always rains at Ship since the weather was a little less than pleasant. However, a little bad weather did very little to dampen the spirit of fun and education as students were able to experience what it is like to attend college classes.

The credit for this amazing trip goes to Miranda Aaron, Lindy Gemmell, Hannah Dreibelbis, and Katie Hyman, chairs of the Ship Trip committee. They organized the entire event from the beginning to the very end. There were a lot of volunteers helping out as well. Besides the teachers, there were tour guides, lunch mentors, registration groups, and even a dorm room tour guide.

It was clear from the smiles on the kids’ faces that Ship Trip 2012 went extremely well. With the creativity of the teachers and their lessons as well as volunteers, kids were able to get a little of taste of what the future could hold for them and an experience like that makes all the difference for these young students.





Speak Out!



We asked Honors students:
What is the most memorable thing you have done in an Honors class or as a result of an Honors class?



“One of the most memorable Honors classes I had was an Honors Seminar called The Game. Dr. Long did a fantastic job of not just challenging our class, but keeping us completely entertained with his funny jokes and stories. I wish that class was offered every semester!”
-Steph Savarese
Honors Senior



“My favorite moment was taking a group of students to see a castle in Belgium during the 2009 PASSHE Summer Honors Program. Most of them had never seen a castle before, so it was cool to see their reactions on the trip.”
-Dr. Christine Senecal
Honors Professor



“I loved presenting my research paper from Dr. Senecal’s class on Pharaoh Hatshepsut at the Celebration of Student Research conference last year.”
-Tiffany Florio
Honors Sophomore



“My favorite moment was during the 1st semester when Jenn, Kayleigh, Ben, and I wore matching Snapple t-shirts to Dr. Senecal’s class.”
-Amanda Schwarz
Honors Freshman



“I had a group project for WIFYS class my first semester at Ship. I was super excited to get into the lab school as soon as I could to interact with the students, so I convinced my group to design our project for Dr. Nelson’s 2nd grade class. As a group, we read a book to the students and then worked on a prediction activity. I love that my class experience was not confined to the college classroom but that I was also able to take it to the elementary school, which meant so much to me.”
-Melissa Koontz
Honors Junior

Compiled by Megan Fick
Honors Sophomore

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Gretchen Pierce



Dr. Gretchen Pierce has been a faculty member at Shippensburg University for almost three years. She grew up in Arizona and graduated from high school there. While in high school, she spent four days in Mexico through a student exchange opportunity, and she stayed with a Spanish-speaking family. This really piqued her interest in Latin American studies. After high school she entered college at Arizona State University and the Honors College. She was fairly undecided about a major because everything was interesting to her. So Dr. Pierce earned her BA in Interdisciplinary Humanities. The summer after her junior year, she travelled to Ecuador for her Honors thesis research. This was a deciding factor in earning her master's degree in Latin American Studies with a major in history and minor in art history. Dr. Pierce earned these degrees at the University of Arizona (which is actually the rival of ASU). She also earned her Ph.D. there with a focus in Latin American history and a minor focus in Latin American art history. During this time she spent a year in Mexico to complete her graduate research. Dr. Pierce met her husband in graduate school. While she was in Mexico, he got his first job in Indiana. When she returned from Mexico, she picked up an adjunct teaching position at the university at which he was working. After teaching there three years and finishing her dissertation University for a year before she was hired at

Dr. Pierce first became involved in the a student presenting a research paper, and Klein asked her to join Reach Out. This was involved with her studies in a very realistic the last *Honors Chronicle*, is a program that winter break to deliver school supplies and an Honors Colloquium, but has turned into an been involved in Reach Out for two out of the the faculty leader of the project. Kady Taylor, Pierce's dedication and passion is something fun-spirited, light-hearted and extremely Out." This fall semester, she will be teaching also hopes to teach some honors seminars in the future. A topic she has in mind is Human Rights and Genocide.

Dr. Pierce is currently researching anti-alcohol campaigns in Mexico during the Mexican Revolution, which was from 1910-1940. Mexico's anti-alcohol campaign happened around the same time as prohibition in the United States, as well as other countries worldwide. She is researching the connection between control of alcohol consumption and state-building. Dr. Pierce is finding that weaker governments had to rely on less direct ways of curtailing alcohol consumption. This leads to an investigation of how different members of society were involved in the anti-alcohol campaign, and how that speaks to the way their society and government is structured. If you're interested, Reach Out meets on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in Library 106. Dr. Pierce would love to include you!

By Katie Benedict
Honors Freshman

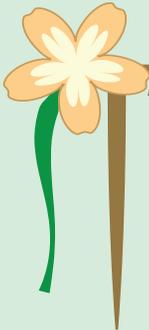


Photo Courtesy of Gretchen Pierce

and degree, she taught at Northern Illinois Shippensburg University.

Honors Program in spring 2010. She mentored then hosted a 'Pizza with a Prof' where Dr. the perfect opportunity for Dr. Pierce to get way. Reach Out, which was highlighted in travels to the Dominican Republic every aid in curriculum development. It started as Honors-sponsored club. Dr. Pierce has now three years it has existed, and she has become an Honors senior in Reach Out says "Dr. that makes the project more worthwhile. She's supportive of all of the students in Reach the Honors Capstone Colloquium. Dr. Pierce

HONORS *Spring* BANQUET



Tuesday, April 17th
6:00pm - Tuscarora Room

Come honor graduating seniors, welcome new HSO officers, and present the Spirit of Honors award!

Celebrating scholarship, leadership, and service!

Student Showcase: Sarah Antonelli



By Krista Bussewitz
Honors Junior

Many who give their money and time to worthy causes do so out of altruistic motives. In Sarah Antonelli's case, her drive to help others during this year's Relay for Life, on April 20th-21st, comes from her own personal experience with cancer.

After suffering from unexplained headaches, Sarah was diagnosed with a pheochromocytoma, or a cancerous tumor on the adrenal gland in the brain. Because, fortunately, it was caught and treated so quickly, Sarah's battle with cancer was swifter than most. Her recovery from her surgery to remove the tumor had her out of school for only one week. Although the physical effects were brief, Sarah still struggled that first year after the surgery, worried that her cancer "could come back." She also was frustrated that her cancer "held [her] back" from doing the activities that she loved: participating in the high school musical and working as a volunteer firefighter. But she found support from everyone from her family to her teachers, who helped her get caught up with what she missed while out of school.

Since her surgery in January of 2007, Sarah has resolved to give back whatever she can to support others, who like her, find themselves unexpectedly threatened by the specter of cancer. She began helping with Relay for Life at her high school during her sophomore year; by her junior year, Sarah was on the committee organizing the Relay for not only just her school, but for the entire community as well.

Relay for Life is a 12-hour-long, yearly walk which raises awareness and funds for the American Cancer Society. Sarah's favorite parts of the Relay are the ones which honor fellow batlers and survivors of cancer. The walk begins with the survivors' lap, which is open to anyone who, either currently or in the past, has battled cancer, while fellow walkers stand on the sidelines and cheer them on. Sarah sees the survivors' walk as one of the most important parts of the Relay because it "shows them that they are cared about." A more somber event that she looks forward to is the luminaria ceremony, where paper bags and candles are turned into lanterns which line the track, memorializing those that have won or lost the fight for their lives against cancer.

Now cancer-free for five years, Sarah has continued her involvement in the Relay for Life while at Shippensburg Univer-



Photos Courtesy of Sarah Antonelli

Left; Sarah's parents Anne and Robert Antonelli have been incredibly supportive of their daughter. Below- Sarah walking with her parents at the survivors' lap at University of DE. Right; Teammates at Shippensburg's Relay for Life 2011.

sity. She is happy to see that the event on campus is successful, with previous years having seen over 500 students participating. She admits, however, that running the Relay for Life on a college campus provides unique challenges. "We have to be creative with everything. Our biggest challenge is targeting the college students and finding ways to get their attention" which is no small feat, considering the fact that many college students are financing their own education! But that creativity is channeled successfully into events, like life-sized Monopoly, to raise funds quarter by quarter. For those that are unable to donate funds, Sarah also plans to give them a "free and quick" outlet this year. Before the Relay, slips of paper will be provided for students to write encouraging and supportive messages, which will then be formed into a chain. "When we hang it up at Relay, it will show how everyone has something to say about cancer."

Through participating in the Relay itself, or just supporting those who do, Sarah hopes that Ship students and members of the community continue to stay involved in supporting the fight for cancer. Rather than see her cancer survival as a burden that she overcame, Sarah has it as one of her defining characteristics and motivations.



Pizza with a Prof: Dr. Sean Cornell

By John Watts
Honors Freshman



Photo Courtesy of John Watts

Dr. Sean Cornell's courses are student focused, and the Marine Science Consortium is just one example. Whenever possible, he tries to incorporate field experience into his courses.

On February 22nd, Honors students had a chance to attend a Pizza With A Prof hosted by Dr. Sean Cornell of the Geography and Earth Science Department in Shearer Hall. Honors students in attendance learned of the opportunities available within the Geography and Earth Science Department for not only Honors students, but for all students.

After students had availed themselves of the pizza, Dr. Cornell discussed the Marine Science Consortium, an experience brought to students by multiple PASSHE schools as a unique educational program in Wallops Island, Virginia. Dr. Cornell, who teaches classes for the Consortium, discussed what classes would be available to students during the summer, highlighting those taught by Shippensburg University professors, such as a Coastal Literature, Precalculus, and an Ecology class. For his part, Dr. Cornell will be teaching a Coastal Zone Natural Resource Management course during Session IV of the Marine Science Consortium. Dr. Cornell also discussed an opportunity available through the Consortium that he helps with, called Alternative Spring Break, which is a volunteer program where students and professors can go to the Consortium facility and do repair and beach management service. For more information on programs available and general information about the Marine Science Consortium, go to www.msconsortium.org.

Another opportunity that Dr. Cornell discussed was a course that he teaches called Field Study of Curacao. In this course, students take a trip to Curacao, where, with help from Dr. Cornell, they establish a question to research that is based upon their major. This research is collected during the students' time in Curacao, and their findings are presented at a conference. The students must use the resources available, such as interviews, entries from the Curacao National Archives, or observations. In the past, students have researched such subjects as the Papiamentu language and the

habits of frogs in the area.

During the course of the Pizza With A Prof session, Dr. Cornell exposed students to a variety of possible opportunities, and each one provided a unique opportunity for students within and outside of the Honors Program to learn about the world. So, whether you decide to take courses on the beach at the Marine Science Consortium, or to explore the unique animals, people, and places on the island of Curacao, Dr. Cornell will be there working as well, ready and willing to offer a helping hand.



Photo Courtesy of Holly Plank

Dr. Cornell takes many students to Wallops Island each semester for field trips. He will teach a course at MSC this summer.

The Honors Program presents a unique opportunity to get to know our professors:

Pizza with a Prof

GUEST - Dr. from
the ... dept
**Be on the lookout for
our next Pizza with a
Prof series in the fall!!!**
RSVP to by
September ..., 2012

This Month in Pictures



Club Plug

Pokémon Club

By Amanda Schwarz
Honors Freshman



Photo Courtesy of Amanda Schwarz
**Members of Pokémon Club pose at a recent meeting.
Pokémon Club was created by Honors students.**

When Honors student Benjamin Haun came to Shippensburg University, he saw that the school was lacking a very special club. Ever since the late 90's, Haun has been a huge fan of the explosive phenomenon known as Pokémon, the show that follows Ash Ketchum and his journey to become the ultimate Pokémon master. Haun met students on campus who shared his similar interest, which prompted him to start his own club. The Pokémon Club allows people to meet and play Pokémon cards, Pokémon video games, or just hang out and discuss the popular franchise. Even though many people play the card game against each other, it is not uncommon to see someone playing the video games. With the release of a new set of video games expected to come out this upcoming fall, the presence of video games is a definite next semester. If you are not familiar with the card game, there is no need to fear! Members of the club often teach newcomers how to play and even lend out decks for others to use. Pokémon Club is involved with the Pokémon League, which means that people who attend meetings regularly get special promotional cards as well as badges. These are unique items that you can't find in stores!

Even though the club was just formed this year, it is certainly thriving! The Pokémon Club has travelled to a pre-release in York and hosted a tournament on March 25th. The club has big plans for the future as it plans more tournaments and travel to other events. Meetings are held on Tuesdays from 3:30-5:00. p.m. in the Seavers study lounge, and newcomers are certainly welcome. Check out their Facebook page: (Ship) Pokémon Club or email Benjamin at bh3077@ship.edu for more information. The Pokemon Club is hosting a tournament for anyone interested on Saturday, April 22nd from 12:30-4:00. p.m. in CUB 119.

Editor's Corner

Dear Readers,

The 2011-2012 academic year has proven to be a monumentally successful year for the Honors Program here at Shippensburg University. Through the leadership and dedication of many Honors students, this program has continued to grow as each student was able to leave his or her mark. This program would not be nearly as original without the creativity of each unique individual. This is why the Media Committee decided to showcase the creativity of Honors students and faculty. Whether it is the creation of a new club on campus, designing interactive lessons for middle school students, spearheading a charity ball to pay for Togolese girls to go to school, or fighting cancer through Relay for Life; the Honors community is using its creativity to make a difference. Creativity is the key to making an impact now and solving the problems of the future.

Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or story ideas. I hope to use your innovative ideas to continue to improve the *Chronicle* one issue at a time. Spring is almost here! To all of those not graduating, I wish you the best of luck on your finals and hope that you will have a wonderful summer. To the seniors who have been my mentors and friends, I will miss you dearly. I only hope that I can make as much of a positive impact on others as you have made on me.

Thank you for everything,

Holly Plank
-Editor



Culture and Memory in Britain: The Romans to the Romantics

Spring 2013 interdisciplinary seminar to
feature study abroad component

By Jennifer Spangler
Honors Freshman

All Honors students take a series of interdisciplinary seminars as a part of their upper-division Honors requirements. These interdisciplinary seminars allow students to make real-world connections between different fields of study, a vital skill in our interconnected world. Beginning in spring 2013, the Honors Program will enrich its interdisciplinary seminar offerings by offering one seminar every spring semester that has a study abroad component.

The first Honors study abroad seminar will be taught by Dr. Shari Horner of the English Department and Dr. Christine Senecal of the History Department. The seminar topic is "Culture and Memory in Britain: The Romans to the Romantics." The seminar will focus on the cultures of Britain, taking a look at how each culture influenced the next through literature, art, architecture, historical records, and more. The wide range of materials utilized to study Britain and its cultures means there will be something to interest everyone. Students taking this seminar can fulfill a Category B literature requirement and an Honors seminar requirement. The seminar offers major credit for History and English majors, and minor credit for students minoring in History, English, and Interdisciplinary Studies. This is an excellent choice for many students, due to the interdisciplinary focus, which allows multiple majors to become involved.

This seminar will be a fantastic experience on its own but the study abroad component only makes it more intriguing. During May of 2013, students will have the opportunity to spend 8-10 days in London, England. Not only will the relatively short duration of the trip make travel more affordable for students, but the trip will take place after finals week. There will be no interference between the trip and any other classes that any student will be taking at the same time. This is an excellent opportunity for a study abroad experience, especially for those who may be hesitant to travel and experience other countries.

This new seminar program is meant to give students a broadened perspective on the world. According to Dr. Klein, "The Honors Program's most important goal is to prepare students to compete and lead in the 21st century. Increasingly, this means that students must acquire global perspectives and global experiences." By participating in the upcoming Culture and Memory in Britain seminar, students have a chance to increase their knowledge of the world – and the opportunity to experience it firsthand. Look for more opportunities to experience internationally focused seminars next year, and in the years to come, as the program gains momentum and brings the world to Honors students.



Watts Up?

by
John Watts

Honors Freshman

The Pennsylvania Budget-Cutting Massacre

Salutations! "Watts Up?" is a monthly opinion and analysis column that will be appearing in *The Honors Chronicle*. Every month, we'll be looking at a new issue or topic on campus, and I'll be weighing in with my opinion and findings on the subject. Fair warning though: I may not be entirely serious with some of the ideas that I present.

This month, we'll be looking at the bogeyman for every school that is a member of PASSHE: The Budget Cuts. Suffice it to say that every school not only in Pennsylvania, but also in the entire country as well, is facing budget problems. Left and right, we're seeing schools trying to cut corners and laying off staff in order to just barely keep running. A month or so ago, I read an article that an inner-city high school in Pennsylvania was so starved for funding that teachers were given the chance to leave, otherwise, they would be working for free because the school could no longer pay them. Interestingly, every single teacher opted to stay and work as volunteers, out of a desire to help their students. Now, as if the public elementary and secondary education institutions weren't facing enough trouble, Governor Tom Corbett is proposing budget cuts to the higher education system that would cut Shippensburg University's funding by about 7.7 million dollars. This is, of course, in addition to the budget cuts made to the PASSHE schools during the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

My immediate reaction to this could not, unfortunately, be published due to concerns over the language that I used. However, suffice it to say, I was outraged. These budget cuts will make the tuition costs increase for not only Shippensburg University, but for every school in the PASSHE system as well. In a world where you cannot go very far without a college education, this is extremely problematic to say the least. With the rise of tuition costs, we will begin to see fewer people going to college because they simply cannot afford it. For those who do go to college, the student loans that they needed badly enough before, and need even more now, will drive them deeper and deeper into debt. So tell me, Governor Corbett: what does Pennsylvania have to look forward to in the future?

What does this mean for the Honors Program? Well, potentially, the budget cuts could lead to larger class sizes, due to the difficulty of hiring new professors on a severely limited budget. The budget cuts could also mean that there are fewer resources available for Honors students working on research or other projects.

On the bright side, the PASSHE schools are fighting back. Recently, students and faculty from Shippensburg University and other PASSHE schools met in Harrisburg in protest of the proposed budget cuts. Unfortunately, I could not attend, however, I would like to thank all of those who were able to go for their support for education and for their resistance to the ludicrous budget cuts. If I had enough, I'd give each and every one of you a cookie.

Next Month: "Alien life-forms on Campus: How extraterrestrial beings managed to take control of Dauphin Humanities Center and replace all the professors there with androids."

Construction on the new Honors Living- Learning Center is underway!

Expected Completion - Spring 2013



SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY



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