

The Honors Chronicle

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April 2006



Photo submitted by Ashley Cayless

Sophomores Ryan Blackman and Ashley Cayless and freshman Kaitlin Daley overlook the city of Pittsburgh on April 7 after the conference workshops ended.

NE-NCHC Conference

By Kaitlin Daley, Honors freshman

This month, Pittsburgh was home to more than this year's Super Bowl champions.

On April 6-9, the city hosted the Northeast National Collegiate Honors Council (NE-NCHC) Conference.

For four days, Honors students from the north-east region of the United States and Puerto Rico filled the Pittsburgh Hilton, attending various presentations—ranging from analyses of the Chinese economy to personal stories regarding the Hurricane Katrina relief effort.

The Shippensburg University Honors Program was represented by three students—sophomore Ryan Blackman, junior Ashley Cayless, and freshman Kaitlin Daley—and Honors director, Dr. Kim Klein.

On April 7, Blackman, Cayless, and Dr. Klein made a presentation at the conference. Their presentation, "Reshaping the Boundaries of Service Learning," shared their experiences in developing the new Honors Seminar in Service Learning. In the presentation, Dr. Klein discussed the project's origins, Blackman examined the project's organization, and Cayless provided an overview of accomplishments and do's and don'ts.

Most sessions featured student research projects, while a few focused on ways to enhance college and university's program.

The conference included several roundtable discussions and poster presentations as well. The conference also included an Honors City-As-Text experience, where Honors students had the opportunity to explore the city of Pittsburgh with local guides.

This experience was not all work, however.

On Friday night, the conference sponsored a student dance, "Swingin' at the Granada Jazz Band," at Point Park University. A group of professional swing dancers performed, and then invited Honors students to try.

Through the conference, new light was shed on many subjects, a lot of factual knowledge was presented, and hopefully, students were able to bring some valuable information home to their respective Honors Programs.

Shippensburg Honors students will have the opportunity to attend the next National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, which will be held in Philadelphia in November.

More information about the national conference will be provided at the Honors fall general meeting.

Calendar

April

18 - Honors Student Organization Meeting

8:00 p.m., CUB 216

20 - Honors Read: *I, Robot* by Isaac Asimov

5:00 p.m., CUB 215

The discussion will be led by Beth Skiles and Dr. Allen Armstrong.

22 - Earth Day

10:00 a.m., Meet in front of CUB

Honors students will plant trees at Caledonia State Park.

25 - Spring Banquet

6:00 p.m., Tuscarora Room

The graduating seniors will be honored at the banquet. Dr. Gene Fiorini will be the guest speaker.

29-30 - Relay for Life

6:00 p.m.– 6:00 a.m., Henderson Gymnasium

Contact HSO Service Committee co-chair, Emily Cisney, if you are interested in participating.

May

13 - Shippensburg University Commencement

June

22 - Welcome Luncheon for Incoming Honors Freshmen and Families

12:00 p.m., Conestoga Room

The luncheon will be hosted by Dr. Jody Harpster, Interim President of Shippensburg University, and Dr. Kim Klein.

September

5 - Fall General Honors Meeting and Reception

3:30 p.m., Tuscarora Room

SUMMER ADDRESS CHANGES:

If you will be a returning student next year and your summer address is not your permanent address, please contact the Honors Office in Horton Hall 104, at 477-1604, or e-mail us at sapoe@ship.edu to report the change. Thanks, and have a great summer!

SideNotes

By Stacie Wight

"Spring Break Happenings"

I hope everyone enjoyed their spring break and didn't stay inside cooped up doing work. The weather was beautiful in Baltimore (home for me) and the parts of Pennsylvania I visited.

My spring break consisted of writing a paper for my literacy assessment class and visiting my boyfriend, Jeff, at the University of Scranton.

This wasn't anything overly exciting, but still a nice break from school.

After sending an email to all of the Honors students, asking you guys what you did for break, I was impressed with the six emails I did receive and disappointed that I had not received more responses. These were the responses I received...



Over break the Honors Program had a near fatality when the unsuspecting Kathy Henley sliced her finger off while working at a local deli outside of Philadelphia. Her advice is to beware of meat slicers...they can be sharp! I sure hope that finger grows back soon, Kathy!

James Dibble enjoyed Caribbean-like weather while working inside of a greenhouse and Dave Miller worked from sun up to sun down as a landscaper. Working was one of the most popular spring break fillers.

One of the most interesting spring break "happenings" was sent to me from Jesse McMichael.

He followed his favorite bands around Philadelphia and hung out with the band leaders off stage. In addition to rubbing shoulders with the rich and famous, he was also given the opportunity to help them out with their documentary.

If that doesn't sound like an incredible spring break, than I don't know what does!

Before returning to school, Jesse still found time to work on his novel and other various film pro-

jects. Way to go Jesse!

Maybe not as exciting, but definitely cool, was Jess Krout's spring break visit to...BALTIMORE. That's right, Jess spent a couple days checking out the new shopping complex built just north of Baltimore near my house.

Jess visited a restaurant called Silver Spring Mining Company, home of the crab pretzel.

If you have never had a crab pretzel, you should. It is a giant soft pretzel topped with crab, melted cheese, and of course, Old Bay.

Some more miscellaneous advice from your fellow honors students, came from Stephanie Wroblewski and Natasha Alligood.

Stephanie recommends traveling with food and not relying on rest stations along the way.

Natasha and her friends spent a day in Washington D.C. (2 hours south). She says that it is a great place for poor college students—lots of free museums and cheap travel arrangements.

I hope everyone had a great spring break and Mini/Easter break. Enjoy this wonderful weather and take it easy!



Speak Out!



By Jess Krout, Honors sophomore

"No, because people can post things that are completely fabricated about themselves or others, so they should not be used as evidence in criminal offenses."



Christina Shirk
Freshman

Should law enforcement officials be allowed to use Facebook, MySpace, Xanga, etc., as evidence against a person in a criminal offense?

"I believe that they should use it as a source for catching crimes of felonies and such, but not for catching simple misdemeanors."



Kathy Henley
Sophomore

"I think the 'personalized' sites—which are actually public domain—should be able to be used as evidence, but only if there is sound proof that the content is legitimate."



James Dibble
Junior

"I think they should be usable as evidence. People know when they post on the Web sites that anyone can look at the information."



Scott Jones
Sophomore

"Yes, they should be able to use it. By posting on the Internet, information is knowingly made available for anyone to see."



Erin Harmon
Senior

What if I want to go to a professional school instead?

How do I know which grad school is right for me?

Can I afford a Master's degree?

How do I apply to grad school?



Photo by Jess Krout

Graduate SCHOOL

Workshops

Sponsored by the SU Honors Program

April 10: Applying to medical and other health professional schools

By James Dibble, Honors junior

During the week of April 10, the Honors Program sponsored three seminars on pursuing further education. Each of the workshops dealt with applying to different types of graduate and professional schools.

In particular, the health workshop that occurred on April 10 provided a good deal of information for students pursuing a career in medicine.

Dr. David Long, professor of biology, hosted the session. Two Shippensburg students who will be pursuing medical degrees next year provided information regarding their experience in preparing, selecting, applying and interviewing for further education in the health care field.

In undergraduate studies, they insisted that students should try to get the most out of their classes and review old material, which could be quite helpful when taking standardized tests.

When looking for schools, students should keep their options open, having plenty of safety choices.

Both speakers also maintained that applying early is crucial. And, during the interviewing process, applicants should remain confident and strong.

Above all, the seminar provided a good amount of advice that was not limited to just the field of medicine.

Attendance at this and other Honors workshops, like Pizza with a Prof, often provides good advice in furthering education and career possibilities.

April 11: Applying to graduate programs in business

By Chris Voss, Honors junior

On April 11, Dr. William Oberman, associate professor of management, hosted a session for Honors students on applying to graduate programs in business.

Dr. Oberman discussed the types of graduate degrees in business, ranging from MBAs to specialized master's programs in accounting and finance and doctorates.

Dr. Oberman stressed the importance of attending an AACSB-accredited institution, and listed the top business schools across the nation and the state.

For the second half of the presentation, Dr. Oberman discussed how students could go about selecting a graduate program in business by comparing five graduate business schools in Pennsylvania, including Wharton, Penn State, Pittsburgh, Carnegie-Mellon, and Shippensburg. He discussed how the schools compared in terms of curriculum, cost, and average GMAT scores and work experience of entering students.

Dr. Oberman noted that, in today's environment, work experience is required to be admitted to most graduate schools. Most students applying to MBA programs in business have at least three years of experience.

The workshop concluded with a question-and-answer session, where students asked about options for financing their graduate education, including corporate tuition waivers, and the benefits of earning graduate degrees.

April 12: Applying to graduate school in the humanities and social sciences

By Corey Alexander, Honors freshman

On April 12, the Honors Program held the final Applying to Graduate School workshop. This session was for students interested in applying to graduate schools in the humanities and social sciences.

Dr. Betty Dessants of the History Department and Dr. Chad Kimmel from the Sociology Department shared personal stories of how they achieved their doctorate degrees and also gave a lot of information about not only doctorate degrees, but also Master's programs.

Both professors stressed that the process of finding the right graduate school, applying, and then completing a Master's or getting a Ph.D. is time consuming, costly, and requires a great commitment. They also stated that doing so has many advantages, and they were both very happy that they had followed through and earned their doctorate.

Each professor gave out informational hand-outs and provided helpful tips on how to make personal connections and fill out applications.

Overall, I found this session to be very informative and helpful. The professors did not simply push the idea of going to graduate school on the people who attended; they provided a well-rounded, honest evaluation of the time and energy needed to complete a graduate program.

They thoroughly explained both the advantages and hardships that go along with achieving the coveted Ph.D.

Undergraduate Research, Study Abroad, and Internship Opportunities

Playin' da blues in the deep South

Honors sophomore Dan Paterno traveled to Mississippi and Tennessee to learn about the blues culture



Photo submitted by Dan Paterno

By Dan Paterno, Honors sophomore

Paterno plays alongside Johnnie Billington, prominent blues guitarist and singer, in Mississippi.

When most people think Spring Break, they don't typically think of a once-in-a-lifetime educational opportunity.

But after the Honors Summer Semester in Memphis got canceled, the Shippensburg Honors Program, in conjunction with the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC), offered me the opportunity (and some financial assistance) to travel to Memphis and the Mississippi Delta for a week.

The week was part of an Honors Faculty Institute set on exploring the "terrain" that gave birth to blues music, titled "Exploring Blues Terrains: Experiential Teaching and Learning."

As a blues guitarist and social scientist interested in taking learning outside of the classroom, this chance to study the physical and cultural landscape of the blues was a perfect match.

And at the risk of sounding terribly cliché, it also afforded the opportunity to make memories that will last a lifetime.

In Memphis, I got to live on Beale Street; this historic locale was home to the first thriving black community

in the south, the cradle of electric blues, and the birthplace of rock and roll.

I stood where greats like Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Elvis all got their starts in Sun Studios.

I had the chance to listen to and interview more blues musicians than I can count or remember, and our group even got to meet and talk with the legendary blues vocalist Bobby "Blue" Bland.

On the way down to experience Clarksdale in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, we stopped and sat in on a gospel mass with the seventies R&B superstar-turned-reverend Al Green. This impressive religious experience was an interesting counterpoint to the Mardi Gras-like atmosphere of Beale Street.

Not to be outdone by its northern equivalent, Clarksdale was wrought with blues heritage.

It's home to the infamous crossroads where the father of the Delta Blues, Robert Johnson, purportedly sold his soul to the devil in exchange for his revolutionary guitar playing abilities, as well as the birthplace of the father of electric blues, Muddy Waters.

We stayed at the recently renovated Hopson Plantation, where the mechanized picking of cotton was first implemented (which led to the largest internal migration in U.S. history as African Americans moved to northern industrial centers like Chicago, looking for work).

At dinner, fellow blues trekkers and I took the stage from the house band of a local joint to play the blues where it was born (the set ironically included "Crossroad Blues," a song written by Robert Johnson about the very backdrop we were playing).

The next afternoon, I was even fortunate enough to play with blues hero Johnnie Billington as he came to talk about the blues to our group, wearing a three-piece suit in the midday Mississippi sun.

I could go on for pages about what a fantastic learning experience only a few days of an Honors seminar provided me.

But maybe it's more fitting to leave with a few images that I won't soon forget: moonlight over the Mississippi River, alligator gumbo at midnight, the air of Beale Street alive with music, and playing the blues with my heroes where it all began.

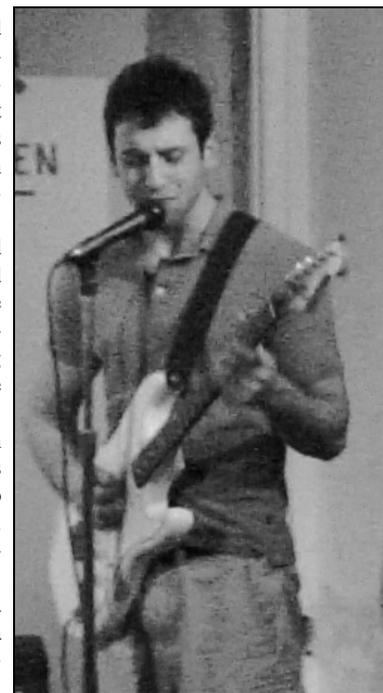


Photo submitted by Dan Paterno

Paterno takes the stage, playing a set that included "Crossroad Blues," a song written by Robert Johnson about how he gave up his soul in Mississippi.

Orientation strengthens the bond between mentor, mentee

By Kathy Henley, Honors sophomore

The majority of freshmen are uneasy their first days of college, adjusting from an old familiar place to somewhere entirely different and sometimes scary.

The Honors mentor program helps to ease this transition by welcoming them to the school, providing guidance, and being a friendly face, especially throughout the first few weeks.

I really valued this experience, and many of the first friends I made came through this program.

As the Honors Program as a whole goes through a makeover, so does the mentor program—making stronger bonds between mentors/mentees in addition to more activities to help students adjust and make friendships with all the students in the program.

Mentors will be paired up with mentees who have common interests, and throughout the summer, will stay in contact.

On orientation weekend, there will be more programs that students can do to enjoy themselves between the rigors of moving in.

On Thursday, members of the

Honors orientation committee will be available to welcome new students and help them with any immediate questions they have.

A book discussion will be held on Academic Day to challenge students and introduce them to the discussion-based atmosphere of

The Honors Mentor Program is a great chance to meet new people, make new friends, and have fun in between what can be stressful times.
- Kathy Henley

college.

Students will be able to meet for brunch Saturday and then perhaps head over to the stadium to cheer on the Raiders at the football game.

The weekend will end with a picnic and scavenger hunt Sunday, before starting a new chapter in their education.

As the semester progresses, the new advising programs that take

place for freshmen will ideally be more intimate, with smaller groups more specific to their majors and interests.

More activities will be planned throughout the semester, in an effort to maintain the bonds made earlier over the summer.

Plans for a monthly game night, talent shows, and trips to King's Kettle are in the works.

As we are an Honors Program, study night sessions with coffee and snacks may be a new activity.

The mentor program is a great chance to meet new people, make new friends, and have fun in between what can be stressful times.

It also gives us, the upperclassmen, a chance to help out new students who are in the position we remember being in not too long ago. For the new students, mostly freshmen, it gives them something that new students are looking for: a friendly face.

Students interested in becoming a mentor should contact mentor coordinators, Audrey Weeks at aw7539@ship.edu, or Beth Kusko at ek4832@ship.edu.

Advising Web site created to inform students

By Jess Krout, sophomore, and

Jordan Cupelli, graduate assistant

As technology expands and students find themselves more and more often in front of their computers, the Honors Program saw a need to update its Web site, making it a more effective informational tool for current Honors students.

New to the Honors Program's Web site is a section entitled "Advising," where students can find new pages with information about applying to graduate and professional schools, national fellowships and scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate study, undergraduate research opportunities at Shippensburg and around the country, and internship and career opportunities, including international career opportunities. Previous Web pages covering curriculum and scheduling, study abroad opportunities, and freshmen orientation have been updated to accommodate the needs of the new four-year program.

The purpose of the site is to inform students of not only undergraduate opportunities, but also graduate and post-graduate opportunities. To build the site, Graduate Assistant Jordan Cupelli worked closely with Mira Mattern, web designer for the university, and Dr. Kim Klein, Honors Program director.

The new portion of the Web site is now online and can be accessed at www.ship.edu/~honors/advising/index.html.

HONORS PROGRAM OFFICE

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Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday 8 - 11:45 a.m.

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Officers, 2005-2006

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Honors field trip to see *Wicked* was more than a Broadway hit

By Melissa Ford, Honors junior

As a longtime fan of *Wicked*, in both book and musical form, I was incredibly excited to learn that not only could I lead a discussion of the book for Honors Read, but I could also go on a field trip to see the musical!

Many students were just as excited as I was for this trip, making the excursion even more fun. The field trip, sponsored by the Honors Program, took place on April 5.

After a few hours spent exploring Philadelphia, we ran to our places in line at the Kimmel Center. Some of us sang songs we already knew from *Wicked*; I was too busy bouncing up and down giddily to join them.

At long last, we took our seats. The view was less than perfect, but everything we did see was phenomenal. I was particularly impressed by the mechanical Time Dragon lurking over the stage and coming to life at certain points. Glinda was also a crowd favorite, gleefully spouting malapropisms.

Both funny and touching, the show was even better than I had envisioned. As we left, many of us remarked that *Wicked* was certainly worth the trip, and even worth making another one to see it again. I hope that the Honors Program can arrange many more trips like this in the future, because I foresee a great demand for it after the success of the *Wicked* trip!

The SU Honors Program's



Spring Banquet



Celebrate Honors students' achievements
at the Annual Spring Banquet.

Tuesday, April 25, 2006
Tuscarora Room
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Relay for LIFE

Help support the American Cancer Society by walking at Shippensburg University's Relay for Life, held at the Henderson Gymnasium April 29-30 from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Join the Honors students' team, or find out more information by contacting Emily Cisney at ec0244@ship.edu, or Jess Kreger at jk7632@ship.edu.

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