

The Honors Chronicle

Volume 25, Issue 4

www.ship.edu/honors

February 2012

Calendar

February

28 *Pizza with a Prof: Dr. Alison Dagnes*
4:00 p.m., Grove 406

29 *Environmental Committee Meeting*
7:30 a.m., DHC Fishbowl

March

2 *Spring Zumbathon for Reach Out*
7:00-9:00 p.m., Ship Rec

6 *Freshmen Scheduling Information Session*
3:30 p.m., DHC 108

6 *Sophomore Scheduling Information Session*
4:30 p.m., DHC 108

6 *Junior Scheduling Information Session*
5:15 p.m., DHC 110

19-20 *Honors Scheduling for Fall 2012*

23 *Midnight Masquerade Charity Ball: Educating Togolese Girls*
7:00-10:00 p.m., CUB MPR

25 *Orientation Committee Easter Egg Hunt/Decorating*
4:00 p.m., Location TBA

29 *Housing Committee Cookout*
5:00 p.m., Seavers Gazebo

29 *Dominican Film Night*
7:00 p.m., Grove Forum

30 *Deadline for Candidates for 2012-2013 HSO Officers*

Reach Out Continues Service-Learning Project in DR

By Holly Plank
Honors Junior

Over the past three years, Reach Out, a group of Shippensburg University students and faculty has touched the lives of a growing number of people in Shippensburg and the Dominican Republic. This past January, Reach Out traveled again to the Pathways of Learning School in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The group delivered curricular materials, school supplies, and a helping hand to a number of different teachers, students, and school center directors. The service-learning project was established in fall 2009 by students in the Honors Colloquium class whose passion for helping others has been transformed into a sustainable organization that successfully continues to carry on their goals and ambitions. Each year, the project evolves and changes to fit the needs of the Pathways of Learning School and to incorporate the diverse talents of Reach Out students and faculty.



Photo Courtesy of Holly Plank

Reach Out spent time with teachers and students at the Pathways of Learning school in January.

See Reach Out.....Page 12

Honors WIFYS Students Publish Book of Local Oral Histories

By Megan Fick
Honors Sophomore



Photo Courtesy of Hannah Brant

Honors WIFYS students Chris Silva and Grant Innerst pose with a local literacy council oral history participant.

On Friday, December 9, members of the LIU 12 Franklin County Literacy Council along with Dr. Laurie Cella's Writing Intensive First Year Seminar met in the Dauphin Humanities Center Fishbowl to celebrate the publication of a book containing stories written by the students about the members of the Literacy Council. Guests enjoyed coffee, bagels, and fruit while listening to the students read parts of their essays for everyone. Sophomore Hannah Brant, the event photographer, said, "It was a great experience to see everyone interacting at the reading. You could definitely see that meaningful relationships had been established through the project and that both the students and those that they had interviewed enjoyed the time they had invested."

For this assignment, Honors WIFYS students were matched with members from the Literacy Council. They travelled to Chambersburg, where the council is located, three times during October

See WIFYS PublicationPage 10

Detailed Calendar of Events

February 28

Pizza with a Prof. Dr. Alison Dagnes

4:00 p.m., Grove 406. Dr. Alison Dagnes is a professor in the Political Science Department and teaches classes on political behavior. She is the author of *Politics on Demand: The Effects of 24-Hour News on American Politics* (2010), and she frequently speaks on the topic of elections and the modern media. Her current research examines ideology and political satire and her book, *A Conservative Walks Into a Bar*, will be published this summer. Prior to receiving her doctorate in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Dr. Dagnes was a producer for C-SPAN in Washington, DC, which sounds more boring than it actually was.

March 2

Reach Out Spring Zumbathon

Reach Out will host its 4th semi-annual Zumbathon! The Zumbathon will be held from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Ship Rec. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Cost is \$5 for students with a Shippensburg University ID, \$10 for non-students who are preregistered, and \$13 for non-students at the door. Groups of ten or more should contact Hannah at hd7077@ship.edu for information on group discounts. Help Reach Out bring educational materials to the Pathways of Learning School in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

March 6

Mandatory Scheduling Meetings

Freshman, sophomore, and junior students must meet for the Honors Scheduling Information Sessions on March 6th. Freshmen meet at 3:30 p.m., sophomores meet at 4:30 p.m., and juniors meet at 5:15 p.m. in DHC 110. If you cannot make this meeting, please contact Dr. Klein to arrange a makeup session. Also be aware that Honors course listings are available for Fall 2012, and a tentative list for Spring 2013 is available on the Honors Course Offerings web page.

March 8

Reach Out Travel Applications

Applications for students who are interested in travelling to the Dominican Republic in spring 2013 are available at www.ship.edu/honors/ReachOut. The application deadline is March 8, 2012. For more information about Reach Out and upcoming events, please see the adjacent the Reach Out Update, which is featured in each issue of *The Honors Chronicle*. Reach Out meets each Monday from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. in Library 106. All student is welcome to attend.

March 23

Midnight Masquerade Charity Ball

You are cordially invited to attend the *Midnight Masquerade Charity Ball: Educating Togolese Girls*. The gala, which will benefit girls in Kante, Togo, will be held in the CUB Multipurpose Room 100 A/B from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The proceeds from each ticket provide at least one semester of education and cover exam fees for high school-aged Togolese girls! Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at door, and \$25 for two.

March 19 , March 20

Honors Scheduling for Fall 2012

All students who intend to schedule Honors courses for the Fall 2012 semester must contact the Honors secretary on March 19-20 with the Honors courses they would like to schedule. If any courses are over-subscribed, students will be given priority based on the number of credit hours they have earned. Course descriptions are available here. Plan ahead! A list of Honors courses that will be offered in Spring 2013 are posted on the Honors Web site.

March 30

HSO Officer Elections

Deadline for candidates for 2012-2013 HSO officers to submit their statements to HSO President Chelsea Meier at cm4994@ship.edu.

March 29

Dominican Film Night

This event will be held to raise awareness about life in the Dominican Republic and Reach Out's efforts to support students in the country. The film will be screened at 7:00 p.m. in Grove Forum.

Week of April 2

Election of 2012-2013 HSO officers

Reach Out Updates

Hawaiian Spring Zumbathon

Reach Out's next Zumbathon is coming up on March 2 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Ship Rec. To preregister, check out <http://www.ship.edu/Honors/ReachOut>.

Application for Travel

The applications to travel are now up on our website at <http://www.ship.edu/Honors/ReachOut>. We will be accepting applications until March 8 and will be holding interviews at the beginning of April. You do not need to be fluent in Spanish or an education major to join us. For more information, contact us at <reachout@ship.edu>

Upcoming Events

We are planning many more exciting events for the coming semester. We hope you will look forward to Cultural Night, a celebration of Dominican culture which will be held on March 29th. And keep an eye out for updates on future events being held by Reach Out!



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, 2011-2012

Holly Plank (hp1950@ship.edu)

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



**The Honors Program is on
Facebook and YouTube!**



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

Honorable Alum: Annamarie McCormick Teaches in Germany

By Annamarie McCormick
Honors Alumnus



Photo Courtesy of Annamarie McCormick
Anthony and Annamarie at the Louvre on their trip to Paris last summer.

When I started as a freshman at Shippensburg in 2006, I had no idea what a fantastic journey lay ahead of me. I majored in elementary education (K-6) and minored in Spanish, which led me to study abroad in Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic, during my junior year. This was one of the most challenging and fantastic experiences I had ever had, and it was the catalyst of change for my plans and career path.

Upon returning to Ship, I enrolled in the Honors Colloquium and began my professional development semester and student teaching in the Harrisburg City Schools. The combination of spending my days in a bilingual kindergarten and brainstorming ways to make a difference as a member of the Honors Program led the class to start Reach Out!, which I am thrilled to see is making a bigger and bigger positive, sustainable impact every year.

My senior year ended on a high note—Reach Out was a big success, my student teaching was wonderful, and I knew my calling was to teach ESL students and their families. I ran my first marathon and graduated with an Honors certificate—what more could I need? It turns out that this was only the beginning for me. One month after graduation, I married the man I met at Midnight Breakfast Bingo during

freshman orientation week over four years earlier and began my new journey as a military spouse. Anthony had recently returned from a year in Afghanistan, and we were getting ready for our first move as a military couple. One month after our wedding, we moved to Wiesbaden, Germany. Having never moved with the military before, and certainly having never moved overseas, our first few weeks in Germany were filled with mishaps and sometimes not-so-thrilling discoveries.

We accidentally rode the bus illegally for almost a month! Anthony, the great husband that he is, was doing laundry while we were in temporary lodging. Upon opening the washer to move our clothes, I made the discovery that the dials on German washing machines are not indicative of time, but of degrees—Celsius. So, our clothes had all turned a lovely shade of green from being washed in 90 degree Celsius water!

There was only about a month between when we moved and when school started, and I immediately broke into a near-panic at the revelation that I did not have the luxury of multiple school districts from which to choose to apply or a variety of job openings-- the Department of Defense has two elementary schools on base in Wiesbaden, and a staff of experienced DoD teachers who love living and working in Europe, so positions are hard to come by as a spouse. I applied for the only openings available, as an aide for preschool.

The job was fine but I knew that I desperately wanted my own classroom, especially after working so hard in college and student teaching. Being an aide was challenging for me. Fortunately, as the first quarter ended, the assistant principal came to me to mention that the fifth grade in the other school on base had reached its cap, and they needed to split the class-- would I be interested in interviewing? I interviewed on a Friday and I, was offered the job the following Tuesday. I started teaching on Monday. The week of preparation was an unbelievable whirlwind. Fortunately, my fifth grade teaching colleague had been through the same thing just six weeks before me, and we worked hard together as a pair of first-year fifth grade teachers. The experience of starting in the middle of the year, as the third in a succes-

sion of teachers for the class, was incredibly hard. I learned so much, and I couldn't have been happier to finally have my own classroom!

This year, I teach first grade, and I love it in a way that makes me feel like I could teach first grade forever. I know that teaching for the DoD is a privilege, and that most first grade teachers in the States do not have the supplies, supportive small community, and fantastic facilities that my school affords me. I am thankful for every moment working with my class of 22 darlings! In preparation for our move back to the States in 2013, I have started my Master's degree this semester, and I am thrilled to study what I know is my passion: Elementary Education and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.

I feel very fortunate for all of the opportunities that Anthony and I have had since my graduation from Shippensburg. In Europe, we have visited so many incredible places. Being able to say, "Do you want to go to Luxembourg this weekend?" or "How about we find a race in Africa this summer?" is something I never imagined would be a part of my life. We have done marathons and triathlons, taken our first cruise, gotten lost in more than one city that doesn't have signs in a language we can read, and generally had a wonderful growing experience that I know I will take with me for the rest of my life.



Photo Courtesy of Annamarie McCormick
Our relay team finishing the Wiesbaden Half Ironman last summer. We took 50th place out of over 200 relay teams.



Speak Out!



We asked Honors Human Communication students:
What do you hope to accomplish through your service-learning projects?



“My group is volunteering with Better Days Animal League in Shippensburg. We will be feeding, cleaning, and walking the dogs as well as trying to organize fundraisers for money, toys, and treats on campus. We will be fundraising on campus soon, so please look out for us!”
-Bri Evans
Honors Sophomore

“The overall goal is for the students to learn about a particular service organization and themselves while learning to empathize and experiencing new perspectives.”
-Dr. Felicia Shearer
Honors Professor

“My group will be volunteering at Green Ridge Village, a Presbyterian senior living community in Newville. We will be assisting with planned activities for the residents and other day-to-day activities.”
-Mike Denchy
Honors Sophomore



“My group is working with the local Habitat for Humanity. We will be helping people in need with household management.”
-Brooke Clippinger
Honors Freshman

“We’ll be working with Circles in Chambersburg, a community fellowship program (and other organizations). We hope to show the people there how to grow healthy food inexpensively and easily by growing microgreens.”
-Julia Saintz
Honors Freshman

Compiled by Katie Benedict
Honors Freshman

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Alison Dagnes



Dr. Alison Dagnes, of the Political Science Department, has been a faculty member at Shippensburg University for nine years. When she first joined the faculty of Shippensburg University, she attended an informational meeting for the staff, and it was during that time that she listened to Dr. Klein encouraging the staff to become involved in the Honors Program. From that point onwards, Dr. Dagnes was hooked. Since then, she has won the Honors Program Professor of the Year Award, taught multiple Honors classes and seminars, helped coordinate the Kiss-A-Pig contest, and helped with Honors Orientation. Her future involvement will be heavily focused on her Election Seminar planned for the Fall 2012 semester, which she hopes will foster greater interest in the electoral process all across the Shippensburg University campus.

Originally from Washington D.C., Dr. Dagnes cultivated an interest in political science, but initially, she majored in English at St. Lawrence University in New York, originally intending to go into advertising. However, after taking a political science course, she switched to a political science major, and shortly thereafter, she received an internship at C-SPAN. After graduating from St. Lawrence University, she applied to C-SPAN as a production assistant. With her previous internship experiences at C-SPAN, she was able to beat 150 other candidates for the job. However, she preferred the political aspect of the job to the the University of Massachusetts Amherst for to rotate in Political Science after finishing her

One of the first places that Dr. Dagnes ap-finding that it not only had an ideal location thusiastic professors and students. However, bers of the faculty, she suffered from passing middle of the interview. On the ride home much she loved Shippensburg and how much the university to finish the interview, and as *Higher Education* entitled "A Galling Event," second interview with a mission to show that tegrity, and (most of all) intestinal fortitude." pleted her interview, and she has been with nine years ago.

By John Watts
Honors Freshman



Photo Courtesy of John Watts

ever, after five years there, she realized that she production aspect, and as such, she enrolled at graduate courses, where she received her doc-dissertation on right-wing extremist groups. plied to teach at was Shippensburg University, and an emphasis on teaching, but that it had en-during her interview with several other mem-a gallstone, causing her to throw up during the from the hospital afterwards, she realized how she wanted to work there. She was soon back at she described in an article for the *Chronicle of* Dr. Dagnes stated that she went back to the she was "a woman of good humor, academic in-With renewed strength, she successfully com-Shippensburg University since that interview

Many will recognize Dr. Dagnes from her work in the recently published *Sex Scandals In American Politics: A Multidisciplinary Approach to the Construction and Aftermath of Contemporary Political Sex Scandals*, of which she edited. As part of a multidisciplinary effort, she helped coordinate multiple Shippensburg University professors and as a result, the group produced a book that approaches the subject of sex scandals in American politics from different perspectives and disciplines. This is not Dagnes's first book however; she is also the author of *Politics on Demand: The Effects of 24-Hour News On American Politics*. Currently, she is planning to write another book but, this time, will be focusing on political satire, such as The Colbert Report, and its effects on society and voter opinion.

**HONORS Spring
BANQUET**

**Tuesday, April 17th
6:00 p.m. - Tuscarora Room**

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

Celebrating scholarship, leadership, and service!



Senior Showcase: Kady Taylor & Abby Montler



Photo Courtesy of Kady Taylor
Kady Taylor, Jordan DeWalt and students pose in DR.

“Never believe that a few caring people can’t change the world. For, indeed, that’s all who ever have.” – Margaret Mead

By being a member of the Honors Program and Reach Out, I have had countless opportunities to meet and work with caring people that have changed my life. The Reach Out program is one that I have had the honor to be a part of, and through the extensive growth, development, and outreach of this international service project, I have played a variety of roles. In reflecting upon my involvement over the last three years, I feel as though the positions I cherish most are those of leader, mentor, and friend.

By occupying a leadership position, I have experienced personal and professional growth. As a pre-service educator, I have often thought about the role I will come to play in the field of education and the impact I will have on my future students. Through the organization and creation of instructional materials, and the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge acquired over the course of four years, I have gained a precious understanding of the true meaning of education. My passion and desire to work with young minds has been reinforced; after working with the children and staff of our partner school, along with my talented colleagues, I am more certain than ever I have chosen the correct career path.

Through the group’s expansion, I have quietly slipped into a mentor position, guiding future group leaders, making executive decisions, and serving as a second opinion for new ideas. The talent and passion our group has recruited is not only impressive, but also extremely exciting. Reach Out has only just scratched the surface of its potential to make a difference at Shippensburg University and abroad.

Throughout my three years of research, planning, and traveling to the Dominican Republic, I have certainly seen my fair share of obstacles. However, through the hard work and perseverance of Reach Out members, our successes easily outweigh the struggles we have faced. I have created lasting friendships, and as I prepare to transition out of both the Honors and Reach Out programs, I leave with a family that is truly one of a kind.

For those of you who are interested in taking risks, stepping out of your comfort zone, or making a difference, I offer you one simple piece of advice – go for it! The time is now to seize those endless possibilities, to make the most of the inspiration you have within, and to utilize the countless resources available here at Shippensburg. Enjoy the time you have left here, but most importantly, make it count!



Photo Courtesy of Holly Plank
Senior Abigail Montler spends time with students at the zoo.

During my four years at Shippensburg, I have been involved in several groups and projects. I served on the leadership team of Catholic Campus Ministry, participated in service projects in the community, and became a member of numerous education clubs. Of all the groups in which I have been an active member, none has had a greater impact on my character, my professional growth, and my future goals than Reach Out.

During my sophomore year, I decided to take the Honors Colloquium course. The course is intended for juniors and seniors with the goal of completing their senior capstone projects. Although I was not eligible to complete my capstone project yet, I had a particular interest in the class because of its international component. There was talk that the class might focus on the Dominican Republic. I was very interested in this idea because, having been to the Dominican Republic on vacation, I was able to see a glimpse of the extreme poverty present in the nation. At that time I had no idea how much the project would change my life.

The project is now in its third year, and it is both a campus organization as well as a fall class with a competitive application process and annual travel option. Reach Out has captured the attention of Honors Programs nationwide and spurred an onslaught of community support, evident in the hundreds of dollars worth of supplies that we take to the school every year. More important than the supplies we take, three undergraduate Reach Out students, myself included, conducted educational research while working on the project. We have supplied the school with valuable literacy teaching strategies and the tools to develop curriculum. In the upcoming year, there will be two additional students conducting undergraduate research while providing the school with a science curriculum.

I have professionally grown a great deal through my experiences with research, teaching in a diverse setting, leadership and project management, and Spanish.

My part of this research has been in classroom management. I researched effective management strategies in urban, low-income, and diverse settings. With the support of the Reach Out team, I created a classroom management manual for teachers and organized a workshop for both the teachers in the Dominican Republic as well as pre-service teachers at Shippensburg. Having this experience has made me very strong in this field, making me more prepared to enter the workforce as a teacher.

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PIZZA WITH A PROF: DR. ROB LESMAN

By Megan Fick
Honors Sophomore



Photo Courtesy of Holly Plank

Dr. Rob Lesman instructs teachers at the Pathways of Learning School in Santo Domingo how to use a jeopardy board made by Reach Out students.

Dr. Rob Lesman, a professor in the Department of Modern Languages, recently became one of the advisors for the Honors Program's Reach Out project in the Dominican Republic and hosted a Pizza with a Prof on November 29. Although working with impoverished kids is a new experience for him, he said that he has enjoyed the experience with Reach Out so far. Dr. Lesman travelled to the Dominican Republic with the group in January and did a tremendous amount of translating among the different groups.

Junior Rachel O'Neill chose to attend this Pizza with a Prof because "it was interesting to hear from a Spanish professor since I haven't used Spanish in so long myself. He really reminded me of how exciting Spanish is and the opportunities it can provide."

Dr. Lesman first began studying Spanish in middle school. He enjoyed the language and, in high school, decided to follow what was most enjoyable to him—language and literature. "This isn't for everyone. You should only do this if you really enjoy it, otherwise your students will suffer if you don't enjoy what you're doing." Dr. Lesman believes that he was preprogrammed to go into teaching. His father was a retired English professor and his mom currently teaches Spanish. When he started receiving college advertisements in the mail he saw one that said they were about Spanish and other languages. He thought, "That's me!"

Dr. Lesman received his undergraduate degree from Brown University. While at Brown, he studied abroad in Santiago, Chile during his junior year. He chose a home stay where no one else in the house spoke English and also decided to take two different classes at two different universities while in Chile. One was at the public Universidad de Chile and the other was at an elite Catholic university. These experiences especially helped him see the different sides of Chilean culture. He selected Chile to connect what he had been studying in school to real life. He loved the writings of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda and the his descriptions of Chile so he wanted to see

Chile himself.

During his senior year, Dr. Lesman applied for graduate school in English but wasn't accepted. These programs are difficult to get into, so he ended up studying comparative literature between English and Latin American literature. After graduation he continued at the University of Texas where he received his Ph.D. The University of Texas helped to give him a lot of experience in teaching. He applied for jobs nationally after graduating. Throughout this time he estimates that he applied for 40-50 jobs. In the end, Dr. Lesman accepted a temporary ten-month job at a small school in Iowa. While this wasn't his ideal job, he learned a lot from the experience. After his job ended, he had to start over again and estimates that he applied for another 30-40 jobs. Finally, he received the position he currently holds here at Shippensburg University. Since starting here he has taught a wide variety of classes in the Modern Languages department.

Dr. Lesman's advice for future job seekers is to be flexible. Junior Miranda Aaron summarized the event by saying, "The conversation at Pizza with the Prof was unexpected but incredibly interesting. Dr. Lesman talked about how he got to where he was today. It all boiled down to keep an open mind and take any opportunity that is given. I think this is useful advice we should all keep in mind as we proceed into the uncertain and sometimes daunting future."

Dr. Lesman left us with this closing piece of advice: "We live in America and think we know everything, but we need to go out and see the world."

PIZZA WITH A PROF!

DR. ALISON DAGNES

When: February 28 4:00 p.m.

Where: Grove 406



This Month in Pictures



Club Plug *AmeriCorps Community Fellows*

By Sarah Montanari
Honors Junior



Photo Courtesy of Sarah Montanari

Elementary students work in the garden at GBLUES as a part of environmental education.

Do not be deceived! The AmeriCorps Community Fellows Program is more than just a club. It is a commitment and a challenge, but to say that it is well worth your time would be a severe understatement.

Community Fellows is one of several programs from the Pennsylvania Campus Compact (PACC), an organization of college presidents, which provides opportunities for college students to become directly involved in service, leadership, and community. Essentially, students apply for placements and, upon acceptance, commit to complete 300 service hours during an academic year both at their placement and through other service activities. The program does come with an extrinsic perk: an education grant of approximately \$1300 and certificate upon successful completion of the year!

I became a Community Fellow during the second semester of my sophomore year. My placement is at the Grace B. Luhrs University Elementary School; my service focus is environmental education. However, Shippensburg University offers about a dozen different placements, including working with seniors on college applications at Shippensburg

High School and running activities for the local Boys and Girls Club. The responsibilities and duties for each placement vary. For example, at Luhrs I oversee the lunchtime composting and recycling process, draft and deliver environmental lesson plans, and work with the students in their class gardens.

The greatest asset of the Community Fellows Program has been what I have gained from my experience. I have developed stronger leadership, communication, time management, and organization habits. I have been able to engage with a community of peers who are also passionate about the world and their impact in it. I have had the opportunity to connect with members of the Shippensburg University and Shippensburg community, including professors, clubs and organizations, parents – even the mayor!

Most importantly, I am a part of something meaningful. Community Fellows has empowered me to go out and empower others. For me, this manifests in the eagerness and smiles of the children with whom I work. For more information on the AmeriCorps Community Fellows Program and getting involved, please visit <http://www.paccompact.org/communityfellows>.

WIFYS Publication

and November to meet and interview their partners. Dr. Cella chose this assignment because she is very committed to hands-on learning, saying, “This project has evolved over the years. I was excited to partner with Marie Steinbacher, the director of the LIU 12 Franklin County Literacy Council, so my students would learn more about the council while working on the project.” Each visit to the literacy council usually lasted for about an hour, and during that time, students asked their partners questions they had prepared. While some partners were reserved at first, after a while they opened up and did not hesitate to ask questions back.

Everyone involved in the experience had positive things to say about the project. Freshman Sara Ulrich said, “I was apprehensive at first when I found out I would have to interview a complete stranger. I can be very shy when first meeting someone and was worried that I wouldn’t know what to say. I ended up working with Connor as a partner and, even though I commute and he lives on campus, we were able to make a well-meshed essay.” Her partner, Freshman Connor Schneps, added to Sara’s thoughts by saying he enjoyed the assignment and “liked the experience of interpreting someone’s life story.”

Continued from page 1

Although the assignment started out as a class project, it quickly turned into something more. Grant Innerst enjoyed having the opportunity to get to know the person he interviewed and liked everything about the project. His partner, Chris Silvia, responded, “I thought it was a really great project. It allowed us to get into the real world instead of the classroom which really made it interesting. Our partner, Sue, was really a pleasure to work with and overall just the nicest person.”

Many of the partners from the literacy council who were involved in the project had never had the opportunity to tell their life story to someone. This project impacted their lives because it made them feel appreciated and respected. WIFYS students were able to develop an appreciation for experiential and service-learning. Going above and beyond regular classroom expectations can lead to exciting opportunities and meaningful learning.

The publishing party was an exciting, much-anticipated event for students, but it was hard for them to realize that the project they had been working on for months was finally coming to an end. Although the project may have officially ended, the stories published in the book will be retold for years to come.

Editor's Corner

Dear Readers,

Above all else, I would like to thank the talented, dedicated Media Committee of the Honors Student Organization for all of the time and effort that they put into this issue of *The Honors Chronicle*. Throughout this year, the *Chronicle* has shown the development of community within the Honors Program. In the Last issue, we explored our community's impact on the environment. In this issue, look for examples of Honors students' commitment to service in the community. The new "Senior Showcase" section of *The Honors Chronicle* celebrates two students who have exemplified what service is all about through Reach Out. Abby Montler, Kady Taylor, and the rest of the Reach Out team go above and beyond what is expected to help our brothers and sisters in the Dominican Republic. Sarah Montanari works everyday to promote community through service at Grace B. Luhrs University Lab School. Chelsea Meier and the Charity Ball team are working to raise money for girls to be able to go to school in Togo, Africa. This year's Honors Human Communication and Honors WIFYS classes both worked extremely hard to promote community through service. I hope that they are proud of their incredible work. The Honors Program is truly a community of passionate individuals, and I only wish there was enough room to mention all of the good that Honor students are doing in this community. Together, we are making a difference! 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!



Holly Plank
-Editor



Montler Continued from Page 3

My personal growth has also been abundant. Experiencing firsthand the kind of unimaginable poverty that is present in the Dominican Republic, I now look at my life from a different perspective. I find it difficult to complain about anything because I am perpetually grateful for the things that I have been blessed with. From this experience, I have a renewed devotion to service that will never end.

Additionally, I have built some timeless bonds with not only fellow members of Reach Out, but with the group of teachers and students at the Pathways of Learning School. As Kady Taylor, the other chair of Reach Out, put so well, they have become our unconventional family. It feels like a homecoming every January when we return.

The required textbook for the colloquium course during my sophomore year was called *How to Change the World*. I chuckled at the title, dismissing the idea that a small group of eighteen people from a Pennsylvania university could have a real impact on the world. Today, I can never be sure of our impact on the whole world, but I know firsthand how Reach Out has changed my life, and the impact that a group of fifteen people has had on the lives they have touched in the Dominican Republic.

The Honorable Mention

Congratulations to Karli Wagner and Ethan Goldbach, who will represent the Shippensburg University Honors Program in the 2012 PASSHE Summer Honors Program in England!

Congratulations to Kayla Reed, whose research "Through the Eyes of a Woman: The Impact of Nature on a Pioneer Woman's Life" was chosen by the Council on Undergraduate Research for inclusion in their prestigious "Posters on the Hill" conference in Washington D.C. on April 24, 2012.

Thank you to Jev Voight for his incredible advertisements featured in *The Honors Chronicle*.

Congratulations to Holly Plank, who won the 2012 NSTA Preservice Teacher Essay Contest and will be recognized at the student chapter showcase at the National Science Teachers Association National Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Reach Out presents...



ZUMBAthon[®]

Hawaiian Spring

SU Rec Center
March 2nd, 7-9pm
(Doors open at 6:15pm)

Students w/ ID: \$5

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Preregistered: **\$10**

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Reach Out Travels to Dominican Republic Continued from page 1

While in the Dominican Republic, the group was able to interact personally with the students who attend the Pathways of Learning Schools through lessons, games, and other activities. A great amount of time was also spent in two workshops with the teachers of the school. The group brought literacy and classroom management manuals that thoroughly explained various research-based literacy development and classroom management techniques. The manuals were accompanied by a large quantity of basic classroom materials to help the teachers implement the ideas in their classrooms. The materials that were collected and created also included specific materials to aid the lessons and ideas in the literacy manual as well as to promote a positive classroom environment. Reach Out students worked throughout the fall semester to develop detailed classroom displays to aid understanding and promote high expectations of students. Reach Out was also able to take students and teachers to the Santo Domingo Zoo for a field trip at the end of the week. The interactions between Reach Out students and the students and teachers of the Pathways of Learning School further prove that smiles and laughter are truly a part of a universal language.

Reach Out was also fortunate to be able to explore different historical and cultural sites in and around Santo Domingo during the trip. They are hoping to be able to take the knowledge they learned and share it with the local community and the student body at Shippensburg University. In the global world in which we live, Reach Out finds it imperative to share their experiences to raise awareness for the Dominican Republic in the Shippensburg area. The group is working to network with other organizations that share their common goal of helping others.

While in the Dominican Republic, Reach Out had the opportunity to visit a Haitian batey. Bateys in the Dominican Republic were originally towns constructed for sugar workers. The Haitians living in this batey experience very poor living conditions. Reach Out spent time with children in the community and hopes to incorporate relief efforts in the future.

The original goal of the Honors Colloquium was to create an international, sustainable, service-learning project. As the project continues to expand and branch out to new ideas such as classroom management this year and a science curriculum next year, more and more students from the Honors Program and Shippensburg University are becoming aware of the culture and specific needs in the Dominican Republic. University students and the greater Shippensburg community have been extremely supportive of this project and have allowed it to evolve into what it is today. Service-learning projects such as Reach Out are a vital aspect of the Honors experience at Shippensburg University. Experiential learning is the best way to learn, and service-learning is the best way to learn about yourself. All of the learning that occurs within this group will benefit their professional careers. More importantly, the students of Reach Out and the dedicated faculty are able to pass on knowledge to members of this community. Ultimately, this project is putting knowledge and power into the hands of our brothers and sisters in the Dominican Republic.

To learn more about Reach Out or to access this year's application to travel, please visit www.ship.edu/honors/reachout. The application deadline is March 8. A listing of upcoming events and updates are included in each issue of the Honors Chronicle, and anyone is welcome to join us at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays in Library 106.

Midnight Masquerade Charity Ball Will Benefit Girls in Togo

By Chelsea Meier
Honors Junior

At the recent Spring General Meeting, Janae Delmaestro and I informed the Honors Student Organization of our plans to host a Charity Ball to benefit girls in Kante, Togo, a small country located in West Africa. We are now in the process of planning the ball, and it is proving to be quite a large and exciting task! With the help of all of the HSO committees, we are busy creating flyers and spreading the word to all Shippensburg University students, faculty, and staff about the upcoming "Midnight Masquerade Charity Ball: Providing an Education to Togolese Girls."

Lance Bryson, Associate Vice President of Facilities Planning and Maintenance at SU, approached Dr. Klein to ask if the Honors Program would be interested in helping his daughter, Mary, with her endeavors while she serves in the Peace Corps in Kante, Togo. The Service Committee, was intrigued by this opportunity, and as an organization we decided to take on the projects with which Mary needed help. Mary's goals are to "work with the HIV/AIDS community to help them learn income-generating and budgeting skills, to start a girls' soccer club that incorporates life skills and health lessons, to begin an English club, [and to find a way to fund girls' high school educations]." Since Mary will finish her stay in Togo this summer, we feel that raising money to educate girls in Kante will have the most impact in the short amount of time we have.

In Kante, several years ago, the girls were expected to pay eight dollars per semester to attend high school. They are now expected to pay nine dollars and twenty cents per semester, or eighteen dollars and forty cents a year. That may not seem like much money to the average American, but in Kante, it is a significant sum. Sadly, if one cannot pay the fee for school, one does not have the opportunity to attend. There are four grades in the Togolese equivalent of



Photo Courtesy of Krista Bussewitz

Krista Bussewitz hangs flyers advertising the Charity Ball.

high school, also known as a "lycee." As a first- and second-year student, each girl must pay the enrollment fee of eighteen dollars and forty cents for the year. However, if the students are to continue their education for a third year, they have to pay an additional six dollars for exam fees. Furthermore, fourth-year students must pay an additional twenty dollars for their exam fees, on top of the enrollment fee. a total of thirty-eight dollars for senior year! To give us a perspective of how much money that actually is in Kante, Mary told us that living in the nicest house in town costs approximately forty dollars a year to live in the nicest house in town!

The Charity Ball Planning Committee has set the date of the ball for Friday, March 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the CUB MPR. The ticket price is fifteen dollars if you pay in advance. Fifteen dollars will provide almost two semesters of schooling and cover exam fees for a Togolese girl. Tickets will be twenty dollars at the door, and two tickets will be twenty-five dollars. The theme for the ball is Masquerade/Black Tie Affair, meaning attendees should dress in semi-formal and festive wear. More details will be available in the "Ship News and Events" email, the weekly updates, the *Slate*, and around campus. We will be posting flyers soon!

You are cordially invited to our...

Midnight
Masquerade

Charity Ball:

Educating Togolese Girls

When: Friday, March 23rd

Where: CUB Multi-Purpose Room

Preregistered
\$15

Single Guest
\$20

Couple
\$25

Hosted by the Honors Student Organization of Shippensburg University
--For more information, please contact Chelsea Meier (cm4994@ship.edu)--



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