

The Honors Chronicle

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February 2007

New courses offered in Fall

By James Dibble, Honors senior

In fall 2007, the Honors Program will boast an assortment of course offerings, from a variety of concentrations.

Now more than ever before, the courses offered will span both general and specialized areas, providing courses that will interest many groups of students.

As usual, the Honors Program will offer several general education courses, including a communications class, advanced writing and history. Courses in geography, chemistry, and sociology will be offered as well. And, for education majors, the American School course will also be offered in the fall.

As in the past, students taking Honors general education classes can expect unconventional forms of learning.

For example, the Honors sociology course taught by Dr. Barbara Denison of the Sociology Department will "abandon" traditional textbooks, using research journals and concepts from classical and contemporary sociologists to drive the class. As such, the sociology class will be "much more didactic, interactive, collaborative and discussive than introductory courses usually are."

The Honors offerings next fall will once again go beyond general education courses. Continuing from a successful pilot program, the Honors Program will again offer the service-learning seminar with Dr. Gene Fiorini of the Mathematics Department. The seminar will fulfill Honors students' capstone project or interdisciplinary seminar re-

quirement. The course will consist of organizing and executing a major service project as a group, using the knowledge and skills that students bring from their different majors.

Other seminars being offered during the fall include a weekly seminar on law and a seminar on the ethical and societal implications of genetics.

The seminar on legal issues, "Law in Black and White," will be taught by Dr. Stephanie Jirard of the Criminal Justice Department and will include examination of original slave documents, voter registration, and participation in mock trials.

For the genetics seminar, Dr. Jennifer Clements and Dr. Sherri Bergsten, of the social work and biology departments respectively, have proposed to "explore how social issues and basic genetics are intertwined," through topics such as stem cells, cloning, GM foods, and genetics of gender and behavior. The topics will be approached from a number of viewpoints and expressed in a number of ways, through debates, discussions, and research projects.

So, whether students are looking to satisfy general requirements in an enriching environment, or to stimulate and expand their minds in specialized seminar topics, the Honors Program has a variety of options coming up in the fall of 2007, with offerings for everybody in the program.

The Honors Program will host a scheduling information meeting on Tuesday, February 27, at 4:30 p.m. in CUB Room 219. At the meeting, professors teaching Honors courses in fall 2007 and Dr. Klein will be available to answer students' questions regarding the courses and scheduling.

Dr. Alison Feeny's "Pirates" seminar, an interdisciplinary seminar, was the first to be offered in the new four-year Honors Program. The class met on Monday nights in fall 2006. Students not only learned about the geography, history, and economics of piracy, but also how to use cutting-edge technology, such as handheld GPS units.



Photo courtesy of Kaitlin Daley

Calendar

February

27 - Information Meeting for Fall 2007 Scheduling

CUB 219, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

March

19-21 - Honors Scheduling for Fall 2007

21 - Honors Read: *Bait and Switch: The (Futile) Pursuit of the American Dream*

CUB 215, 6:30 p.m.

Discussion to be led by Corey Alexander and Dr. Chad Kimmel.

28 - Uncommon Conversation: Nadine Strossen, President, American Civil Liberties Union

Place TBA, 4:00 p.m.

April

3 - Applying to Graduate Programs in the Humanities

Place TBA, 5:00-5:45 p.m.

4 - Alumni Mentoring Program Workshop

MCT 158, 5:00-5:45 p.m.

For more information, see p. 3

9-13 - Elections for HSO Officers, 2007-2008

11 - Applying to Graduate Programs in Business

Grove Hall 203, 5:00-5:45 p.m.

12 - Applying to Law School

Place TBA, 5:00-5:45 p.m.

16 - Honors Read: *The Hot Zone*

CUB 215, 5:00 p.m.

Discussion to be led by Nicole Thierwechter and Dr. Sherri Bergsten.

Spring banquet announced

By Naomi Creason, Honors senior

Free food has always been a motivation for students to attend events. For the Honors Program Spring banquet, the awards and recognition are just an added bonus to the catered menu.

The banquet, which will be held on Tuesday, April 24 at 6 p.m. in the Tuscarora Room of Reisner Hall, is free to all Honors Program students. The event will be catered by Chartwells and promises to provide food that will go beyond the regular pizza-and-soda parties.

The Spring Banquet committee, chaired by Kelsey Klunk and Amy Harmon, work on everything from

the menu, to the invitations, to the decorations.

All students will be sent an invitation through the mail, which will provide further instruction on how to RSVP for the event.

Along with food, the banquet will also host awards, such as the Spirit of Honors awards, and official recognition for graduating seniors.

Each senior will be recognized individually and will be given their cords for graduation as well as a small gift from the Honors Program. All seniors will also pose for a picture that will be printed in the Honors newsletter and kept as a record of the graduating class.

Recreation is ready to ski

By Beth Kusko, Honors junior



On Feb. 6, the Honors Student Organization's recreation committee held its first meeting of the spring semester. With the massive amounts of great ideas from one-of-a-kind minds, there will be many upcoming events to look forward to.

On Feb. 21, we are planning our annual college ski/snowboard night to Whitetail Resort; bundle up, grab a friend, and get ready to hit those beautiful slopes.

Other activities discussed included white water rafting, hiking, a bonfire endeavor, and of course, GOTCHYA. Also, the committee is scheming up some sort of alliance with both the fundraiser and service groups to coordinate a few more exciting events.

In order to raise money, talk of a game show has been proposed - something along of the lines of Fear Factor, meets Double Dare, meets Global Guts, meets Miss America- just to get you intrigued.

So get pumped and come hang out with some crazy fun HSO kids!

Vote for the HSO officer candidates on April 9

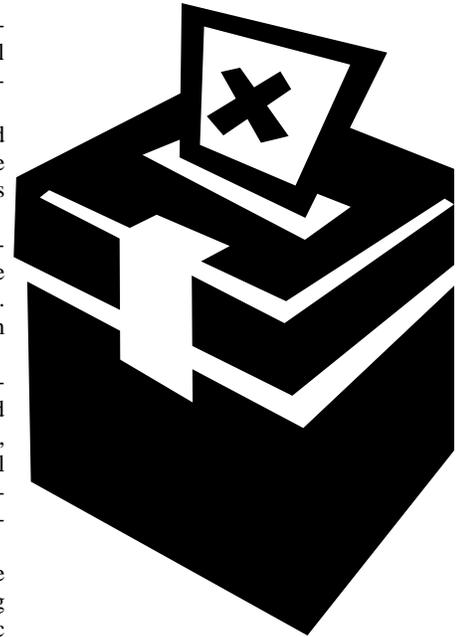
On Monday, March 19, all Honors students will receive an e-mail calling for 2007-2008 HSO officer applications.

Many students have displayed leadership abilities throughout the academic year, and all students are encouraged to apply.

All officer positions are available including president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Current officers are eligible to run for next year.

After March 19, interested students will be encouraged to send their applications to Jess Krout, current HSO president, by e-mail at jsk2223@aol.com. Applications are due no later than Monday, April 2.

All Honors students will be able to vote in HSO elections during the week of April 9. An electronic ballot will be mailed out at that time, including the names and descriptions of each candidate.



The 2007-2008 officers will be announced at the Spring Banquet on April 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the Tuscarora Room.

Service will help Bridge for Kids and Relay for Life

By Megan Veazey, Honors freshman

Last semester's suggestions, along with great ideas from the service committee meeting on Jan. 31, have combined to form a semester that guarantees rewarding Honors service projects in spring 2007.

In February, two activities are planned so far. The first is aiding the Bridge for Kids club on campus by helping collect and package toys for children.

Also, students plan to go to a local animal shelter to help with some of their everyday tasks.

March will be the perfect month for all the education majors to get involved. The event planned for March entails reading to elementary students at some of the local schools, such as James Burd and Nancy Grayson elementary schools.

April's service event coincides perfectly with the National Collegiate Honors Council's Student Ser-

vice Day, which is April 20. On that day, Honors programs across the nation take part in various service projects.

We will be taking part in the university's Relay for Life program, which is a 12-hour-walk from 6 p.m. Friday, April 20, until 6 a.m., April 21. Relay for Life raises money for the American Cancer Society. Teams from all over campus will be walking and the night's festivities include a survivor lap, holiday decorating, and a fort-building competition.

In May, Honors Program students can help with the Honors Human Communications class yard sale to raise money for the Child and Family Services Center on campus.



Excitement in Education RETURNS!

April 14, 2007

If interested in helping, contact Valerie Koontz at vk0198@ship.edu.

Undergraduate Research, Study Abroad, and Internship Opportunities

Alumni mentoring network starts soon

By Jess Krout, Honors junior

A long-term goal of the Honors Program to connect current students with alumni is becoming a reality in spring 2007.

During the spring general meeting on Jan. 31, more than fifty students indicated that they were interested in an alumni mentoring program.

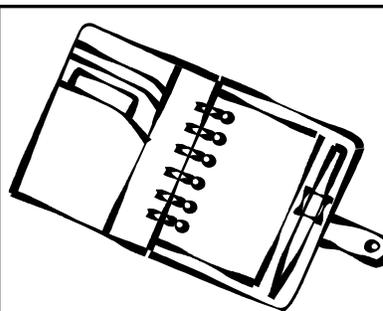
With such a program, students would be able to access information regarding graduate and professional schools, job searches, internships, and employment expectations from Honors alumni.

Recently, Dr. Klein, Honors director, developed a survey for alumni to

fill out and return to the program, indicating how they may be willing to help current students on their career path.

Once surveys are returned to the program, the results will be compiled using the Office of Alumni Affairs' alumni networking database.

An information session on how to use the new database and connect with Honors alumni will be held on Wednesday, April 4, at 5:00 p.m. in MCT 158. The session will be hosted by Melissa Bittner and Lorie Davis, assistant director of University Relations. The session is open to all Honors students who are interested in accessing the new alumni database.



Please Plan to Attend.

What: INFORMATION MEETING FOR FALL 2007 SCHEDULING

Where: CUB Room 219

When: 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Why: Honors students will have the opportunity to discuss upcoming fall semester courses with Honors professors. Dr. Klein, will also be there to answer students' questions regarding courses and program requirements.

HONORS PROGRAM OFFICE

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Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.,
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Interested in attending graduate or professional school?

COME to the graduate and professional schools workshops hosted by the Honors Program **TO LEARN** more about the application process, schools to consider, and advice **FROM PROFESSORS** who have attended schools **IN YOUR FIELD.**

- Applying to Graduate Programs in the Humanities with Dr. Betty Dessants
April 3, 5:00-5:45 p.m., Place TBA

- Applying to Graduate Programs in Business with Dr. Bill Oberman
April 11, 5:00-5:45 p.m., Grove 203

- Applying to Law School with Dr. Steven Lichtman
April 12, 5:00-5:45 p.m., Place TBA



If you plan to schedule Honors courses for Fall 2007, contact Sharon Poe, Honors secretary, at sapoe@ship.edu on March 19, 20, or 21 with the Honors courses that you would like to schedule.

Course descriptions will be available on the Honors Web site at www.ship.edu/honors/Advising.html.

A list of Honors courses that will be offered in Spring 2008 will be posted on the Web site in mid-March. Students are encouraged to plan ahead so that they do not take courses that will be offered as Honors courses in a later semester.

Make sure to contact your academic advisor to plan your entire schedule before scheduling your Honors courses.