

# The Honors Chronicle

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February 2009

## Writing a Way to Wisconsin Students to present research at national conference

By Allison Morgan, Honors junior

Three Honors students have been selected to give presentations at the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, April 16-18.

The students selected for the conference—freshmen Lexi Wellington, Tracy Migliori, and Eric Hofmann—were given a chance to devise their own research projects as part of Dr. Laurie Cella’s Honors Writing Intensive First Year Seminar last semester. Through this course they were guided in research skills, while given the independence to think creatively.

The Honors Writing Intensive First Year Seminar (WIFYS) was designed as a way to encourage students to develop research that could be presented at conferences, while also

improving their writing skills. Dr. Cella has seen these students progress throughout the semester in both writing and research. “I am very proud of my students’ achievements,”

*“I can’t wait to come together with my peers to discuss and present our research.”*

notes Dr. Cella. “Again and again, I find that Ship students, and Honors students in particular, push themselves to achieve great things.”

The National Conferences on Undergraduate Research began in 1987. The event has since grown into the premier conference for students to present research while learning about interesting topics from their peers. This conference is “dedicated to promoting undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity in all fields of study.”

As such, it is an honor for a student to be accepted to such a prestigious event.

See NCUR

Page 2

## An Amazing Opportunity Abroad Students Headed to Europe for PASSHE Summer Honors Program

By Allison Morgan, Honors junior



Congratulations to Anthony Comegna and Elisabeth Davis, who have been chosen to represent the Shippensburg University Honors Program in the 2009 PASSHE Summer Honors Program sponsored by Shippensburg University!

Anthony and Elisabeth will spend three weeks participating in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. They will begin by spending a week at the Shippensburg University campus, where they will meet students from other PASSHE schools.

While at Ship they will take two courses. The first, European Politics and Society: Identity and Integration, will be taught by Dr. Cynthia Botteron, associate professor of political science, and Dr. Mark Sachleben, assistant professor of political science. The second course, Northern European Identity from Medieval to Modern, will be taught by Dr. Christine Senecal, associate professor of history.

The students will travel to Brussels, Belgium, where they will spend a week before traveling to sites in France. While overseas they will

continue their courses and gain first-hand knowledge that will contribute to their overall understanding of European unification.

“This is a fantastic opportunity to expand my knowledge of centralization-decentralization patterns and understand the workings of history,” comments Anthony. “I hope to gain a keen insight into the art of comparative history and a wonderful mixing of viewpoints from my fellow Summer Honors Program members. This is the absolute best that the Honors Program has to offer, and I hope that I have been able to and can continue to reciprocate.”

“Without the Honors Program, I would never have had the chance to study medieval history and European politics and identity and to see Belgium and France like this,” says Elisabeth. “I can’t thank the Honors Program enough for giving me this chance!”

Anthony and Elisabeth will begin their summer program on May 10. We look forward to hearing about their experiences upon their return!



## Calendar

### February

**24 - Honors Read: The Glass Castle**  
Led by Dr. Sue Morin and Mary Dell  
8:00 p.m., CUB 315

**25 - Faculty Karaoke Showcase**  
9:00 p.m., CUB MPR

### March

**10 - Freshmen Advising and Scheduling Meeting for Fall 2009**  
3:30-4:15 p.m., SPH 224

**10 - Sophomore Advising and Scheduling Meeting for Fall 2009**  
4:30-5:15 p.m., SPH 224

**12 - Mentor/Mentee Game Night**  
8:00 p.m., Place TBA

**16 - HSO Meeting**  
8:00 p.m., CUB 317

**16-17 - Honors Scheduling for Fall 2009**

Contact Sharon Poe at [sapoe@ship.edu](mailto:sapoe@ship.edu) with the classes you would like to schedule

**17 - Jeopardy!**  
7:00 p.m., CUB MPR

**18 - Pizza with a Prof: Dr. Allison Watts, Marketing and Management Department**  
6:30 p.m., GRH 203

**21 - Excitement in Education**  
9:45 a.m.-3:00 p.m., SPH 224

**26 - Uncommon Conversation with author and actress Angela Shelton**  
4:00 p.m., Mark Room, Old Main

**26-29 - Northeast Regional Honors Conference in Annapolis, MD**

**28 - HSO Field Trip to Pittsburgh**  
Departure time and place TBA

**Week of March 30 - Applying to Graduate and Professional Schools Workshop Series**

### April

**1 - Deadline for applying for Honors capstone grants**

# The Tony's

## Featuring: *Gran Torino*

By Tony Blair, Honors sophomore



4 out of 5 thumbs up!

*Gran Torino*, a new film directed by and starring Clint Eastwood, is the story of widowed Korean War veteran Walt Kowalski (Eastwood), who struggles with loss, loneliness, and his own mortality.

Kowalski is a retired autoworker who has watched as his Michigan neighborhood has filled with the unfamiliar faces of immigrants.

This moving film also stars upcoming actor Bee Vang, who plays Thao, a troubled teenager with no one to turn to. This teen finds himself at a crossroads in which he must choose the violence of gang membership or must find the courage to become a

man.

The on-screen relationship between Eastwood and Vang shows the growth of the bond between the two men as they help each other find their true selves.

Eastwood delivers an excellent performance in which he reminds us all that it is possible to heal even after great trauma.

This film deserves four thumbs up out of five. It epitomizes the capacity of humans to move past their demons and help those in need. It shows us all that it is possible to be better than we ever thought we could be. Kudos to Eastwood!



# NCUR, Cont'd

Dr. Cella's guidance heavily influenced the students' decision to participate in the conference. "I think the main reason I decided to submit to NCUR is because Dr. Cella believed it would be a good place to present for the first time," comments Lexi. "Without her encouragement, I probably would not have submitted the work."

The students will be presenting on a variety of topics. Eric is studying his grandfather's World War II journals to research how he coped with trauma. Tracy is analyzing various horror films to discover why humans are drawn to such plots. Lexi will be presenting on how Civil War politics affected Union family ties.

While the students are excited to present their findings, they are also excited to see what is new in undergraduate research. Lexi explains, "I'm excited about attending the conference because there will be a multitude of interesting people to meet who will be talking about research in many different fields. I should be able to learn a lot."

"I am honored to have been selected to participate in this conference," says Tracy. "I believe it will be a rewarding experience, and I can't wait to come together with my peers to discuss and present our research."

The students will be presenting between April 16 and 18 and will return home eager to share their experiences. We wish them the best of luck with their presentations and look forward to a follow-up.



# Speak Out!



By Elisabeth Davis, Honors sophomore



I can honestly say that I don't really get the winter blues. Winter is my favorite season! I often find myself checking the forecast and hoping for a snow day!



Amy Harmon  
Senior

Running. I like to jog. I definitely like to hang out at Starbucks, getting the new Thai tea infusion and the peppermint hot chocolate.



Kristen Imboden  
Sophomore

I buy a big bag of Dove chocolate.



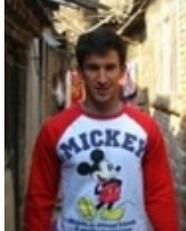
Kristin Collyer  
Freshman

I go skiing. I love to ski, so there is no way for me to be bored.



Dr. Allen Armstrong  
Professor of Physics

I shake away the winter blues by hiking. Moving around always cheers me up!



JohnPaul Bennett  
Junior

# HONORABLE ALUM: DEBRA RAHN

By Angela Darosh, Honors sophomore



A 1991 graduate of Shippensburg University's School of Business, Debra Rahn identifies herself as a proud alumna of the Honors Program. Her hard work ethic and determination have taken her down a career path which peaked with the establishment of her own telecom company.

It was after having attended Shippensburg University for approximately one year that Rahn decided upon an emphasis in finance. She had originally planned on becoming a stockbroker. "I envisioned that with this career I could 'get rich,'" Rahn remarks. Upon graduation from Shippensburg, Rahn worked over the summer for an advertising agency. The job involved promoting new products coming out on the market and sparked her love of marketing.

Rahn was later accepted into the MBA

program at San Diego State University. "I knew the Honors Program was a big plus for being accepted to graduate school," she comments. While a main factor in her decision to attend SDSU was its AACSB accreditation, she was also motivated by other positive aspects. "Let's face it, it was in California!" Rahn explains. "Warm weather, beaches, and a different culture."

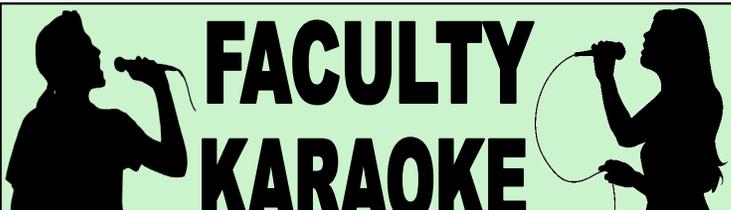
Following her move to San Diego, Rahn attended SDSU part time with her specialty for the MBA program in marketing. Her reasoning for going to school part time was that she was faced with SDSU tuition as well as paying off her student loans from Shippensburg University. Rahn offers words of encouragement: "For all poor college students out there, you can do it!"

In 1995, Rahn graduated from SDSU. She ended up meeting her husband in San Diego through acquaintances in Mexico who provided Operator Assisted Telephone Services to U.S. tourists in Mexico. The couple enjoyed the business and subsequently set out to establish their own company. They relo-

cated to South Florida, where they provided telecommunication services to tourists in the Caribbean.

Over the course of 12 years, the company worked with various businesses, among them many hotels and airports. By installing Wi-Fi services and internet computers, opening telecom retail stores, selling prepaid cards, and providing operator services to tourists, the business became a success. Rahn and her husband sold the company in 2006 while it was still in its prime.

Currently, Rahn is enjoying a mini-retirement. She is considering going into teaching and would eventually like to work on a Ph.D. The majority of her spare time is spent reading and playing sports with her three boys. Rahn, who is no stranger to a successful career, leaves us with these words: "I truly believe that you need to follow a career path that you love. Being successful takes a lot of work and commitment, so you must do what inspires you. You want to wake up every day and be excited about what you are doing."



## FACULTY KARAOKE SHOWCASE

By Kristen Beddia, Honors junior

The Honors Program is hosting a Faculty Karaoke Showcase at 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 25 in the CUB Multi-Purpose Room.

Throughout the night, there will be performances by some favorite professors, including José Ricardo, Lynn Baynum, Mike Long, Todd Whitman, and Stephanie Jirard, among others.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to watch your professors sing and dance on stage!

There is still a lot to do to prepare for this, so if you are interested in helping plan or put on the show, please contact Kristen Beddia as soon as possible.

We are also looking for one more emcee, so if you think you have what it takes, sign up! Also, if you would like to see one of your professors singing on stage, we want to hear from you.

E-mail Kristen at [kb3443@ship.edu](mailto:kb3443@ship.edu) if you have any suggestions or wish to help.

### HONORS PROGRAM OFFICE

Horton Hall 104 (717) 477-1604

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Friday, 8:00 to 11:45 a.m.

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**Graduate Assistant:** Mr. Tyler Miller [tm0041@ship.edu](mailto:tm0041@ship.edu)

### HONORS STUDENT ORGANIZATION (HSO)

#### Officers, 2008-2009

**President:** Amy Harmon [ah9172@ship.edu](mailto:ah9172@ship.edu)  
**Vice President:** Tony Blair [tb9177@ship.edu](mailto:tb9177@ship.edu)  
**Secretary:** Stacie Stuart [ss6857@ship.edu](mailto:ss6857@ship.edu)  
**Treasurer:** Kristen Beddia [kb3443@ship.edu](mailto:kb3443@ship.edu)

### THE HONORS CHRONICLE

**Editor:** Ally Morgan [am6890@ship.edu](mailto:am6890@ship.edu)

Please submit any story ideas for The Honors Chronicle to Ally.



By Katie Kitner, Honors sophomore

One of the many fundraising opportunities the Honors Program has planned for the spring semester is a tournament based on the popular television show Jeopardy! The event will be held at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 17 in the CUB Multi-Purpose Room. Everyone is encouraged to attend or participate, and don't forget, there will be prizes for the winning team! If anyone has any questions or would like to help, please contact Katie Kitner at [kk2370@ship.edu](mailto:kk2370@ship.edu).

## REMINDER: Vote for HSO officer candidates week of April 6

All Honors students will be able to participate in HSO elections during the week of April 6. An electronic survey will be mailed out at that time with candidate statements of why they are interested in running. The 2009-2010 HSO officers will be announced during this year's Spring Banquet!



## From the President's Desk



By Amy Harmon, Honors senior

Welcome back for the spring 2009 semester! The Honors Student Organization has some great events planned, some classics, as well as some new ones.

This semester, the HSO will travel to Pittsburgh on Saturday, March 28 for a cultural field trip. We will be visiting the Pittsburgh Zoo and the Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History. You will be seeing more information about the trip in the weekly e-mail updates.

One very important change that will occur for the beginning of the next academic year will involve the HSO meeting participation policy. Each Honors student will be required to attend at least one HSO meeting per year in order to remain in good standing with the Honors Program. Students will receive two participation points for attending. HSO meetings are an important forum where students can voice new ideas, opinions, and suggestions.

HSO officer elections are quickly approaching. If you would like to run for president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer, please submit a statement to me via e-mail ([ah9172@ship.edu](mailto:ah9172@ship.edu)) by Monday, March 31.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about running for any of the officer positions. Best wishes for a great semester!