

THE HONORS CHRONICLE

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Upcoming Events

October 26: Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest
2:00-3:30 p.m., Student Rec Pavilion
Hosted by the HSO Activities Committee

October 27: Priority Registration for Spring 2015 Begins

October 29: Honors Alumni Panel: Education Majors
6:00 p.m., Honors Seminar Room, Presidents Hall

November 3: Deadline for applying for Honors independent capstone project grants for projects to be completed in Spring 2015.

November 5: HSO Meeting
6:30 p.m., Presidents Hall MPR

November 11: Movie with a Prof: *An Inconvenient Truth*
6:30-9:00 p.m., First-Floor TV Lounge, Presidents Hall

November 12: Honors Read: *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn
6:45 p.m., Honors Seminar Room, Presidents Hall

November 14: Deadline for applying for the Honors Study Abroad Scholarship for students who plan to study abroad in Spring 2015.

November 14: Deadline for submitting a proposal for the North East Regional Honors Conference. For more info, please go to www.NRHChonors.org.

Research and Experience

Kelsey Mengle, Honors Senior

This summer, I spent ten weeks at the University of Cincinnati for a chemistry Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF). I was mentored by a graduate student, Behzad Karimi, in the lab of Dr. Bill Connick. My research was an inorganic project focused on investigating the vapochromic behavior of platinum(II) terpyridyl salts. These salts, when exposed to particular volatile organic compounds (VOCs), change color from yellow to dark orange/red. Due to this visual change, the platinum(II) salts can be used in future sensing applications for various organic solvents.



Graduate student Behzad Karimi and Honors Program student Kelsey Mengle

Over the ten weeks, I lived in a newly renovated dorm (for free) with one other chemistry REU student. There were eleven students in the REU program, and we attended professional development sessions accompanied by a lunch twice a week. We grew to know each other well throughout the summer. It was nice to meet other chemistry students from around the country and compare our college experiences.

Every day, I went into lab from about 9:30 a.m. to 3 or 4 p.m. and had lunch with one of my REU friends (Natalie) either at the dining hall or with my graduate student mentor and his friends (who ended up becoming my friends as well). As an REU student, I was given 65 free meal swipes and free access to the gym. We were also paid a \$5,000 stipend by the NSF for the summer.

My weekends would be spent in various ways, but I tended to go out with Natalie to the Clifton area of Cincy where we would get the famous

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We Come From The Land Down Under

Lara John, Honors Junior



Lara John with one of Sydney's most famous sites: The Sydney Opera House

In the past two months since I've been home from Australia, I've been asked about my trip by practically every person that knew I was going. It is always the same question, "How was Australia?" I know that these people mean well, but that is a very difficult question. I know they want more than "oh, it was great" but I don't know what story to tell. How do I define the best four months of my life with one story? There were definitely moments that stood out as very "Australian" that I could tell. There was the beautiful view of the Sydney Opera House from literally everywhere you stood (seriously, I think I have a picture from every fraction of an angle I could find). There was also the time I went to the Australia Zoo and watched the crocodile show with Terri, Bindi, and Robert Irwin. There was getting to see kangaroos and their joeys every time I walked on campus. But there were also moments that could have happened at home, like the time I went to the beach with all of my roommates and friends or the day I learned how to jump-start a car. It's hard to limit my trip to one moment that could describe it all. I am not saying that they were all good days and that if you travel abroad, your life will be perfect. There were some hard moments, and there

were some days that were far from perfect. No matter how bad, or good, the days got though, they were mine. It was the first time in my life that I was completely alone and in charge of myself. It was terrifying, and I missed being with my family and being comfortable, but there was no moment where I regretted my decision.

Going to Australia changed me in ways I could never describe but will always be thankful for. There is no way to repay the Honors Program for my study abroad scholarship, Shippensburg University for the opportunity, or all the advisors in the international office for putting up with all of my questions and visits. I will remember my trip forever and I could never thank my parents and family enough for supporting me in my own little adventure. My semester in Australia has sparked a love of traveling I never knew I had but am excited to explore. My trip was intimidating and scary and difficult and more than I imagined, but, more than anything, great.

Notice: Apple Pie with Alumni

The Honors Program is excited to announce that its very first Alumni Panel will be on October 29 from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. in the Honors Seminar Room! This is the first panel of a series that will serve as a way for current students to connect with alumni in an informal, interactive setting. Each panel will be focused on either an interest group or major area of study, with the first focusing on Teacher Education. Each panel will have accomplished alumni of the Honors Program present to share their experiences in the major and career while also answering any topic-related questions students may have. Each panel will be capped at 20 participants, so look out for an email inviting you to attend and reply as soon as possible! If you have any questions, email us at honors@ship.edu.

Graeter's ice cream or try out a new restaurant such as Skyline. We also explored downtown Cincy. We spent one afternoon walking to Kentucky across a pedestrian bridge, and I was able to see the Bengals' stadium as well as the Cincinnati Reds' stadium. The Chemistry Department paid for us to see a Reds game while we were there.

At the end of the REU, we presented posters on our research at a poster session along with the psychology and biology REU students. I was voted to have the best poster/poster presentation, so I was awarded the John Alexander Award by the Chemistry Department. Because I received this award, I was nominated to present my research at the Council on Undergraduate Research's (CUR) REU symposium this October and will also be presenting my poster at the American Chemical Society (ACS) conference in spring 2015 in Denver, CO, all expenses paid. Behzad and I hope to publish the work that I did this summer after he finishes another aspect of the project.

Overall, I had a wonderful experience that I would encourage any STEM major to participate in. REUs are available for many STEM majors. More information can be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/>. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

Escape to New York

John Watts, Honors Senior

To be entirely honest, I hate mornings; so when I woke up early to catch the bus to New York City on Saturday, October 4, I felt like an incredibly accomplished human being. However, my morning doldrums and coffee withdrawal would be erased relatively quickly.

The plan was relatively simple: half of the group went with Dr. Christine Senecal to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, while the rest of the group (myself included) explored the city and later went to see Andrew Lloyd Webber's long-lasting musical, *Phantom of the Opera*. After getting off of the bus, the



The "Phantom of the Opera" group in front of the Majestic Theater



Left to right: Honors students Eric DeMuth, Katelyn Cassano, Julie Fuhrman, Ashley Seyler, and Jenna Walton

second group dispersed to explore, and my fiancé, Maddie Moyer-Keehn, and I made a beeline for a Japanese bookstore called Kinokuniya. It was an overcast and rainy day, but the green tea and unusual pastries served in the cafe above the bookstore made the day a little brighter. After a stellar performance of *Phantom of the Opera*, starring Norm Lewis as the Phantom (the first African-American man to do so on Broadway), the groups continued to explore and it was then that Maddie and I happened to stumble upon a *Rocky Horror Picture Show*-themed performance in MAC Cosmetics in Times Square. Other groups would later recount their adventures on the bus ride back, with each story more exciting than the last.

Meanwhile, as part of her Honors World History I class, Dr. Senecal's group toured the Met. They stood inches away from displays of artifacts, such as bodhisattvas (Buddhist statues) as well as a Mesopotamian sculpture of Ashurbanipal. Later, the group journeyed to Chelsea Market for lunch, where options were seemingly endless. Their day culminated in a walk upon the High Line, allowing them to view mural art along the way and to enjoy the sights and sounds of the city.

PASSHE Study Abroad

Paula Bauder, Honors Sophomore

This past summer, Morgan Livingston and I embarked on a two-and-a-half-week journey to the Canadian Maritimes as recipients of the 2014 PASSHE Summer Honors Program scholarship. As a freshman, I was nervous about applying and thinking that I would not receive the scholarship, but I was thrilled to learn that I would at last be able to travel outside of the country along with 27 other PASSHE Honors Program students! Whether it was reminiscing about our trip at our reunion in Harrisburg at the beginning of October or coming together each night at dinner in Canada to talk about the highlights of our day, we all concluded that it was indeed the people that made each and every day of this trip such an amazing and unforgettable experience. The professors from Mansfield, the two Drs. Wright and Dr. Dodson, were not only our fearless leaders and teachers, but they explored and learned with us along the way. I love the outdoors and exploring new places so being able to say I explored sea caves in Saint Martin's, New Brunswick; went lobster fishing and steered a sailboat off the coast of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia; and went hiking on a moose hunt through the Middlehead Peninsula trail were definitely some of my favorite and most memorable parts of the trip. Along with learning about the geography and land of the Maritimes, we learned about food sustainability practices as we traveled to a seaweed factory, cranberry bog, multiple local farms, and farmers' markets. Being able to share these experiences with people I can now call some of my closest friends was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. After returning home and typing my journal from the trip, I realized how much I learned and what I brought back will not only help myself but my community as well. Being able to talk about our trip and get others excited to apply for this scholarship or just to study abroad in general was a great opportunity, and I know anyone that gets to experience what lies beyond the borders of the U.S. will bring back much more than a suitcase full of souvenirs.



Members of the PASSHE Summer Honors Program at Terra Beata Cranberry Farm in Nova Scotia

Oh, Canada!

Morgan Livingston, Honors Senior

It seems impossible to summarize all the highlights of my whirlwind trip through the Canadian Maritimes. As part of the PASSHE Summer Honors Program, I received a full scholarship to travel to the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, (PEI). Although I did get to experience some truly amazing things, it was not the places, but the people that impacted me the most. From day one of our trip, I got to travel with a group of 28 amazing students from the 14 PASSHE Honors Programs. I also benefited from the influence of three professors from Mansfield University, Dr. Lee Wright and Dr. Kathy Wright, and Dr. Russell Dodson. In addition to organizing a remarkable trip, these professors taught engaging courses on food sustainability and geography, and their passion for these subjects was contagious. Coming from a farming background, I was particularly interested in learning about food sustainability practices that I might be able to apply to my family's farm in Pennsylvania. The trip far exceeded my expectations; where else could I have the opportunity to wander through the oldest indoor farm market in the world, watch seaweed become processed into animal feed and fertilizer, and jump on a cranberry bog? What struck me the most as I met other farmers and food producers was their passion for making healthy, delicious food. During our fishing trip on a working lobster boat, it struck me that the fourth-generation fisherman I was talking to was not unlike many farmers; although his business is labor intensive, he perseveres because he is passionate about keeping the lifestyle he loves and producing good food while doing it. Looking back on our trip, there are many other people that stick out to me; the generous woman who shared an abundant feast and her culture with us, the old fisherman who urged me to try on his St. Francis Xavier alumni ring (the 3rd most recognizable ring in the world), the former miner who kept us laughing with his true stories of life in a Canadian coal town. Yes, Canada has countless breath-taking places to offer, but its people are beautiful, too. Before this trip, I had heard that traveling abroad makes you realize that people across cultures can be very different, and yet much the same. Now I know this is true. If you ever get the opportunity to travel abroad during your time at Ship, here's my advice: just go. The experience will change you forever and make you a better student and human-being as a result.

Looking Back: October 1984

The following article is the Director's Update, reprinted in its entirety from the very first Honors Program newsletter. The article is an important part of our 30th Anniversary Series, written by the first Honors Program Director, Dr. James Payne. In the article, Dr. Payne details some events surrounding the early history of the Shippensburg University Honors Program, as well as the motion put forth in a committee meeting to create the first newsletter. We at the Honors Chronicle hope you enjoy this look back into our history. Next issue will feature another reprinted article, so stay tuned!

“This first Newsletter of the Shippensburg University Honors Program is a historical event. It signifies three years of effort by a committee of dedicated persons encouraged by the University President. Faculty members from each of five divisions of the University plus administration and support faculty together with student representatives have developed the structure for a successful Honors Program. Two years were spent studying programs of other institutions, discussing Shippensburg University needs and developing a proposal for an Honors Program suitable for Shippensburg. The proposal submitted to the College Faculty Curriculum Committee in March, 1983 suggested a preliminary structure which was evolutionary in nature and which would be developed and implemented by an Honors Committee and an Honors Director. Flexibility within the financial constraints of the University was recommended. Direction in helping high potential students normally enrolling at Shippensburg University to realize their potential and to learn to achieve excellence was provided. The College Faculty Curriculum Committee and the Administration approved the guidelines of this proposal.

**30 Years of Honors
1984-2014**



**SHIPPENSBURG
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**HONORS PROGRAM
NEWSLETTER**

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During 1983-1984 a committee comprised of a student from each of the colleges of the University; a faculty member from each of the the divisions of business, education & service, humanities, mathematics and science,

The masthead of the very first edition of the Honors Program Newsletter.

and social sciences; and administrative and support staff representatives worked with the newly appointed Director of the Honors Program to make the approved proposal a reality. Following three years of discussion and planning, 1984-1985 academic year opened with thirteen Freshman and nine Sophomores enrolled in the Honors Program. These students were enrolled in the fields of Mathematics/Computer Science (6), Business (6), History (2), Medical Technology (2), Social Works (2), Elementary Education (1), English (1), Physics (1), and Psychology (1).

The Honors Program has experienced a very successful beginning. There is much work necessary to guide it to maturity as it becomes an integrated component of the University. The Honors Committee with the aid of the first Honors students will continue the effort to make the Honors Program one of excellence in scholarship, in personal development, and in cooperation.”



Honors Read Recommends

Katie Miller, Honors Junior

The Book: *Gone Girl*, by Gillian Flynn

Summary: The *New York Times* Best Selling American psychological thriller follows the suspicious main character, Nick Dunne, as he deals with Amy's (his wife) disappearance and follows clues she left for him. As you read the novel, you are left with a milieu of questions: Did Nick have something to do with Amy vanishing? How many lies did Nick and Amy tell each other in their marriage? Where is Amy? The Chicago Tribune said, "[the novel] also does much more, launching us into an unnerving dissection of the fallout of failed dreams."

Why You Should Read It: If you're looking for a novel to explore dishonesty, the deception of the media, and the complexity of relationships, then open up a copy of *Gone Girl*, and attend the Honors Read Discussion on Wednesday, November 12.

Now a major motion picture directed by David Fincher.

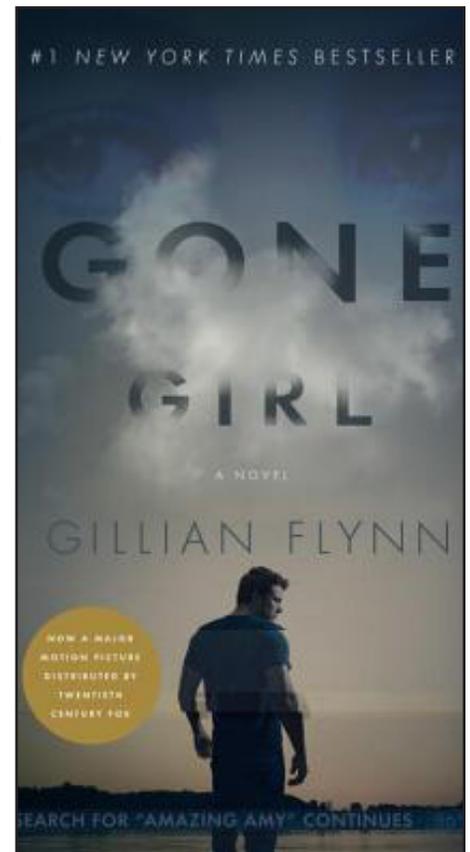


Photo courtesy of Goodreads

Editor's Corner

Hello, boys and ghouls! Pretty scary masthead, huh? Yeah, I didn't think so either. At any rate, welcome back for the latest edition of *The Honors Chronicle*! This is our flagship issue for the 30th Anniversary Series, and as such, we've reprinted an article from a past edition for your enjoyment. I recently had the privilege of archiving past issues of Honors Program newsletters, and boy have we gone through some changes. We've been called *Honorable Intentions*, *The Honors Program Newsletter*, *Newsnotes*, and other names during our run. I even had the unparalleled joy of finding the very first edition of an Honors Program newsletter, printed in October of 1984. As I looked through all of the newsletters since then, I noticed that in all that time, our mission has stayed the same: To bring students, faculty, and alumni important updates about our program, and to display the accomplishments of our incredibly talented members of the past and present.

On that note, dear reader, enjoy the latest edition of *The Honors Chronicle*, and have an absolutely delightful Hallowe'en!

Trick or Treat,

John

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