

# The Honors Chronicle

Volume 19, Issue 3

November 2005

## “Gateway to Exploration and Discovery” at NCHC Conference

By Michelle Baker, Honors sophomore

The National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) held its annual conference this year in St. Louis on October 26-30. Senior Erin Harmon and sophomores Ryan Blackman, Ashley Cayless, and I represented Shippensburg University’s Honors Program along with Honors Program director, Dr. Kim Klein.

The conference theme was “Gateway to Exploration and Discovery.” As always, the conference was full of great workshops. Erin Harmon and Ashley Cayless attended several workshops about service learning and picked up some great tips for their new Honors class, the Honors Seminar in Service Learning. Freshmen recruitment and orientation were common topics discussed at the conference, and we all picked up some helpful ideas for the coming years. Ryan Blackman’s favorite workshop focused on interdisciplinary Honors classes.

My favorite workshop was about applying to graduate, medical and law schools. It broke down the application process and gave me some wonderful ideas on how the Honors Program can help students looking for graduate programs. It showed how to make what can be a very overwhelming process, organized and effective.

One of the great parts of the conference was

meeting people from different schools. Some workshops seemed to not apply to Shippensburg at first. Our size, budget or facilities were different from the schools we were talking with, but in the end, we found many common threads with these schools and learned how to modify their ideas for our program.

The trip wasn’t all business either. We went to the zoo, where I fed a giraffe, and Ashley was attacked

*See NCHC*

Page 5

Right: Students had opportunities to visit tourist attractions in St. Louis including the Gateway Arch. Below: Sophomore **Ryan Blackman**, senior **Erin Harmon** and sophomores **Michelle Baker** and **Ashley Cayless** represented the Shippensburg University Honors Program at the NCHC conference.

*Photos submitted by Michelle Baker*



## Calendar

### November

#### 17 - Honors Read, Dracula

5:00 p.m., CUB 215

Dr. Carla Kungl and Jennifer Bly will lead the book discussion.

#### 19 - Honors Hike

1:00 p.m., Pole Steeple

Students will be able to carpool. Meeting place on campus is TBA.

### December

#### 3 - Excitement in Education

9:00 a.m., Shippen Hall

#### 14 - Honors Student Organization (HSO) Meeting

8:00 p.m., CUB 219

### January

#### 31 - Honors Spring General Meeting

3:30 p.m., place TBA

## Service Learning Seminar teaches outside of class

By Jenn Bly, Honors sophomore

This year’s International Partnership for Service Learning and Leadership (IPSL) conference was held in Rapid City, South Dakota. Dr. Gene Fiorini, Emily Cisney, Tyler Miller and I attended the conference to present the foundations of our Honors Seminar in Service Learning.

We created a PowerPoint that detailed the outline of the course, its origins, challenges we’ve faced, specifics of the textbook collection and redistribution project we are forming and our goals for the future. Fiorini discussed how his experience sending textbooks to the Philippines and Dr. Denise Anderson’s similar undertaking in Thailand eventually led to the conception of our class. Emily, Tyler and I each discussed various

aspects of the class, from our mission statement to the one of the many difficulties of creating a non-profit organization. As we presented our project specifics (to collect textbooks here at Shippensburg University and then send them to an under-resourced university in Kenya as well as a tribal college in the U.S.), no one seemed to have heard of a project quite like ours. This encouraged us that there is a real need for the resources we will be providing to these universities and for an organization such as ours to be developed.

The representation at the conference was extraordinarily diverse and this provided us the realization that service learning is taught in univer-

*See SERVICE LEARNING*

# Students eat up Pizza with Profs this semester

By James Dibble, Honors junior

Each semester, the Honors Program hosts a series of Pizza with a Prof sessions. Led by one or more faculty members in a particular department, these sessions provide informal grounds for students to ask a variety of questions. Commonly, sessions have dealt with providing information related to careers, including opportunities, requirements and expectations. This semester, three sessions were hosted, with one from the Speech, Teacher Education and Physics departments. Each session was well-attended and according to a number of students,

quite entertaining.

The speech session, held on September 29, was hosted by Professor Kara Laskowski. At the session, some important details related to the speech field were addressed. In addition to being an excellent stand-alone career, a focus on speech complements nearly every career. Several students have mentioned they found the session worthwhile. Junior Cella Sum said that Laskowski did “an excellent job of making the subject matter both interesting and informative.”

On October 20, the Teacher Education Department hosted another session led by Dr. Kim Bright and Dr. Cheryl Zac-

cagnini. Bright and Zaccagnini discussed the education program at Shippensburg, including the addition of a new special education minor coming next fall. Also discussed was the State Board of Higher Education’s new regulation regarding dual certification for special education in the future; students learned the significant effects of the new regulation. The session also detailed the premise of the department. The overall goal of the department, according to Bright, is to “elevate our field by producing highly qualified individuals to teach our children and youth.”

The final Pizza with a Prof session for the fall semester was held by the Physics Department on November 3 in the Dibert Planetarium. Hosted by Dr. Allen Armstrong, this session took a slightly different format, featuring an overview of some of the concepts related to the field. Students were treated to extraterrestrial imagery, a mini-presentation of the stars, a couple demonstrations and a trip to the telescope on top of Franklin Science Center. During the session, Armstrong spoke of different career demands and opportunities; physics, for example, generally requires some graduate work to obtain a good position.

The general consensus for the sessions is that the students enjoy the laid-back, casual atmosphere. Students appreciate the opportunity to ask about career specifics from real-world professionals who know about the field. Look for more Pizza with Profs in the spring semester.



Photo by Jordan Cupelli

Freshman **Stephanie Wroblewski**, sophomore **Beth Kusko**, freshman **Christina Shirk**, Professor **Kara Laskowski** and daughter Emily, junior **Becky Fowler** and freshman **Allison Jackson** talk about speech at September 29’s Pizza with a Prof.

# Reds vs. Blues: Moral values major focus of campus debate

By Chris Voss, Honors junior

On October 18, students went to Memorial Auditorium for a political debate focused on moral issues in today’s America, “Reds vs. Blues.” Speaking for the liberal side was Peter Beinart, while representing the conservative viewpoint was Jonah Goldberg. The debate format was based upon questions asked by an informed panel, including students Eric Donson and Megan Moriarty, professor Allison Dagnes and County Commissioner Gary Eichelberger.

The typical morality issues of family values and business dealings were the first to be discussed. As the debate continued, the topics became even more interesting, as morality was brought into question on subjects outside that realm.

Among the most notable issues of the debate was one over the morality of the war in Iraq, where Beinart and Goldberg went into discussion as to whether this was a dictatorial move by Bush. While Beinart tended to sway towards the idea that Bush was not considering thoughts about placing power limits on former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, Goldberg cited the “popularity of bashing Bush” by the liberal front. Both sides also analyzed the possible presidential candidates for 2008 and how moral values could impart on that election year.

There were senses of tension throughout the debate, as the personal opinions of such figures as Hilary Clinton and Kanye West were addressed. The greatest part of this, however, came at the very end, as both Beinart and Goldberg agreed that “opinion journalism” is the most representative form of tackling issues in today’s society. While a moral agreement was not provided, spectators were able to walk out weighing major concerns from an ethical standpoint.

# Poet Michael Ryan shares his view on life at Uncommon Conversations

By Sam Levy, Honors freshman

Those who attended the Uncommon Conversation with Michael Ryan on Wednesday, November 9, were given a look inside the mind of a highly accomplished poet.

Ryan shared the story of his career, and then offered tips for young writers among those who came.

It was at the age of 19 that Ryan began to write poetry. He was an engineering student at Notre Dame University, but realized that an engineering career was not where his heart was.

After starting on a Ph.D. degree at Clairmont Graduate University, he decided to enroll in a creative writing school in Iowa.

Ryan filmed movies among other things before poetry

became his one and only interest.

He is now a full-time poet and teaches poetry workshops as a side job.

“Writing is hard,” he admitted. “It’s hard to try to make words say both what you want them to say and what they want to say.”

Ryan believes that everybody has an amazing story if they are willing to tell it. He has chosen to tell his story through poetry.

His encouragement for those who dream of writing: “Any artist is not the best at what they do because they have any more gifting than others, but part of their gift is the desire to know more.”



Photo by Kazim Ali

Junior **Heather Palmer**, junior **Beth Skiles**, freshman **Sam Levy** and junior **Shannon Connor** pose with poet Michael Ryan, who began his writing career when he was 19 years old.

## Undergraduate Research, Study Abroad, and Internship Opportunities

### Shippensburg University awards Honors students with grants to further research

The Institute for Public Service at Shippensburg University has announced the recipients of this year's undergraduate research grants. A total of approximately \$34,500 was awarded to undergraduate students. Congratulations to the following twelve Honors students who earned undergraduate research grants for 2005-2006:

- Jenn Bly— "Applying Service Learning Concepts Toward Development of Non-Profit Organizations"
- Caitlin Burger— "Design, Fabrication, and Characterization of Organic Light Emitting Diodes (OLEDs)"
- Emily Cisney— "Applying Service Learning Concepts Toward Development of Non-Profit Organizations"
- Stephanie Ficiak— "Personality, Music and Problem Solving Ability" and "Predictors of College Academic Achievement"
- Ronald Hopkins— "No Gun Ri and My Lai: A Comparative History of Leadership"
- Amanda Johnson— "Applying Service Learning Concepts Toward Development of Non-Profit Organizations"
- Beth Kusko— "Behavioral Entrain-

ment in Computer-Mediated Communication Background and Significance"

- Michael Manis— "...end of the Zealot Revolt"
- Tyler Miller— "Applying Service Learning Concepts Toward Development of Non-Profit Organizations"
- Beth Skiles— "Writing Contest for Shippensburg Area High School Students"
- Derek Wolfe— "The Development of a Front-End GUI for Molecular Modeling Software on Single CPU and Clustered Macintosh Systems"
- Denise Yarwood— "Homesickness and Cultural Adaptation: A Phenomenological Investigation"

The University-wide undergraduate research grant program has supported laboratory research, field activities, art projects, written works and computer applications. The program is funded by the Shippensburg University Foundation, and applications for the grants must be written by the undergraduate student (s) and have the approval of a faculty mentor.

For more information on undergraduate research grants, check out the program's Web site at <http://www.ship.edu/~ipssp/Undergradres.html>.

### SSHE Summer Honors Program 2006

Cheyney University of Pennsylvania Presents

#### Kingdoms, Nation Building and Democracy: A Journey to Ghana



May 15–June 3

Travel to Ghana on a full scholarship covering the cost of tuition, room and board, travel and daily meals while taking two three-credit courses. With emphasis on Pan African culture and Ghanaian history, course content will explore the economic history of Ghana, the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and women's roles in African development. Destinations include The National Museum of Ghana, Aburi Botanical Gardens, The Academy of African Music, Cape Coast Castle, a canopy walk about the rainforest in Kakum National Park and National Culture Centre, just to name a few.

Two students will represent Shippensburg University at the SSHE Summer 2006 Honors Program. Honors students in good standing who will have earned at least 30 credits by the end of 2005-2006 and who will return to Shippensburg University in fall 2006 are eligible to apply.

For more information, contact Dr. Klein at [kmklei@ship.edu](mailto:kmklei@ship.edu). Applications are available in the Honors Program office, Horton Hall 104.

*Applications are due on Friday, January 20, 2006.*

## Live. Learn. Intern. DC Internships



Choose between an 8-week summer program or 15-week option for spring and fall semesters at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. The 8-week program offers 9 credits, including two academic courses in the field of your study and an optional Leadership Scholars Program. You will also intern approximately 30 hours a week in your chosen career path. The summer institutes offered from June 10-August 5, 2006 include Engalitcheff Institute on Comparative Political and Economic Systems, Institute on Political Journalism, Bryce Harlow Institute on Business and Government Affairs and Institute on Philanthropy and Voluntary Service. To find out more, or to apply, check out: [www.dcinternships.org](http://www.dcinternships.org).

## The 2006 Blues Terrains: Memphis and the Mississippi Delta NCHC Honors Semester



Immerse yourself in the living history; connect to the past as you experience the present. Discover what was lost and what is left of this place that gives America the blues. Blues Terrains: Memphis and the Mississippi Delta is a project of The National Collegiate Honors Council and Southwest Tennessee Community College from May 31- June 29, 2006. Each student will carry an 8-hour load. All students will enroll in the Integrative Seminar (4 hours), and each will choose one of the other related elective classes (4 hours). Courses include Integrative Seminar: Delta as Text, Lyrics and Literature on Location, The Muddy Waters of Science and Sociology, Inequality and the Blues. For more information, check out [www.nchchonors.org/honors.htm](http://www.nchchonors.org/honors.htm) or contact Dr. Klein at [kmklei@ship.edu](mailto:kmklei@ship.edu).



# Halloween hayride haunts Honors students

By Beth Kusko, Honors sophomore

Halloween is the holiday for trick-or-treats, bobbing for apples and green-faced witches. However, as we grow older, it becomes a time of innovative costumes, fun parties and unmercifully exposing ourselves to gory movies and haunted houses.

On October 29, as one of the HSO Recreation Committee's fall events, Nikki Theirwechter, Beth Kusko and Nicole Jacobs ventured to the Field of Screams to experience that indescribable feeling of fear.

Anxiously sitting in the wagon of hay, these three students traveled through a psychocircus, witnessed executions and fought off numerous crazy masked killers.

Ending with a



Photo submitted by Beth Kusko

Nicole Jacobs, Beth Kusko, and Nikki Theirwechter still smile after the heart-racing hayride at the Field of Screams. Kusko and Theirwechter organized the hayride as an HSO recreational event.

luminescent, swirling green tunnel, the Field of Screams proved to successfully terrify the poor girls as their heartbeats ran out of control.

Hence, as Halloween once again passes by, we cherish those childhood memories of buckets full of candy and "scary" ghosts and ghouls when we do not voluntarily seek the "thrill" of being completely horrified.

The next HSO Recreation activity planned is a hike on Saturday, November 19 at Pole Steeple. Pole Steeple is not a difficult trail for those who consider themselves inexperienced hikers. Students will meet on campus and then carpool to the trail.

To sign up, e-mail Nikki Theirwechter at [nicole\\_theirwechter@yahoo.com](mailto:nicole_theirwechter@yahoo.com) or Beth Kusko at [ek4832@ship.edu](mailto:ek4832@ship.edu).

# Hurricane bracelets sell

By Beth Kusko, Honors sophomore

Imagine: the house you grew up in is absolutely destroyed, only the rooftop of your three story high school remains visible, and the overwhelming feeling as you join your family and countless others in exhaustion, starvation, and hopelessness. Fortunately, these are only heart wrenching scenes from the latest newspapers and television broadcasts, easily wiped from reality as you turn the page or channel. As college students sleeping in warm beds at night, sheltered between stable walls we cannot fathom the absolute destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina. The victims are now left homeless and confused, forced to start their lives completely over. Honors students helped the hurricane victims by selling Hurricane Katrina Relief bracelets in October. The funds raised were donated to the American Red Cross. Thanks to Honors junior, Nikki Theirwechter, for chairing the HSO's Hurricane Relief Committee, and to the Honors students who sold the bracelets.



# Speak Out!



By Naomi Creason, Honors junior

"There should be more diversity in ethnicity, race and gender. Since O'Connor is resigning, there should be female representation."



Allison Jackson  
Freshman

With the recent battles over Supreme Court nominations, what do you think the President should be looking for in a Supreme Court justice?

"I would like a moderate candidate. I feel the court has shifted too far right, and it would be nice if it could move a little to the left."



Melissa Ford  
Junior

"We should look for a balanced court. Otherwise, we are just biasing the court to what we want."



Heather Palmer  
Junior

"We should be looking for people who are capable of the job and who are qualified. Period."



Jim Redington  
Freshman

"I think President Bush needs to make his decisions independent of everyone's opinions. I can see him making wrong decisions for popularity's sake."



Erika Englehart  
Senior

# SideNotes

By Stacie Wight

## "Diversifying the Education Program: Reaching Exceptional Students"

Shippensburg University is home to one of the top teacher education schools on the East coast. It is one of the last remaining universities that has a lab school on campus, but it does lack in one aspect. Shippensburg does not offer a special education program to undergraduate students. This, however, is about to change. In the fall of 2006, Dr. David Bateman (education professor) and the rest of the education department will be jump-starting the new special education minor.

The doors will open to a select 15 students who will pilot the program while the education department continues to work out the kinks for the change in teacher certification, occurring over the next two years. Pennsylvania will soon require dual certification; meaning that incoming education majors of 2006 will have to be certified in special education in addition to their elementary or secondary certification. These fifteen students will be selected based upon their desire to be part of this new endeavor, what they plan on doing post-graduation with a special education minor and their GPA.

Bateman describes the program as one that trains teachers to be specific and direct with students. The program also emphasizes direct, or teacher-centered instruction, which professionals find to be a more successful approach when working with exceptional students. The classes will be a mix of both undergraduate and graduate students, who will cast a new light onto the world of teaching as undergraduate students work with today's teachers.

This "real-life quality" and additional field experience in special education classrooms will equip undergraduates with the experience to tackle everyday challenges in the classroom, both regular and exceptional. In today's world, with the encouragement of full inclusion, all teachers will have exceptional students in their classroom. Having a special education minor will only better you as a teacher as you begin to understand the world's largest minority.



# NCHC (cont'd)

by a squirrel (yes, there is a story there). The conference even arranged for the arch and the historic courthouse to be opened specifically for the conference attendees. Seeing the St. Louis Gateway Arch was especially exciting because it was celebrating its fortieth birthday.

We also got to see Busch Stadium, home of the St. Louis Cardinals, before it was torn down on November 7 to make room for the new stadium. The walls and posts of the stadium were covered in signatures and memories written by fans dating back to the 1960s.

Overall, the conference was informative and a lot of fun for all those who attended. Next year's NCHC conference is in Philadelphia, PA, and I would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to attend.



Photo submitted by Michelle Baker  
Conference attendees sophomore **Ryan Blackman**, senior **Erin Harmon** and sophomores **Michelle Baker** and **Ashley Cayless** sit inside the St. Louis Gateway Arch, which was constructed between 1961 and 1965. At 630 feet above ground level, the arch is the nation's tallest memorial.

# On the Other Hand

By Ashley Gross

## "Love Your Body"

Everyone take a moment to think back to your first week of college. I'm hoping that you were excited to start classes, enjoying the great social atmosphere, or glad to have some freedom from your parents, but were you nervous, anxious, or a little scared about moving out, classes and college life? Or were you only nervous about gaining the dreaded freshman fifteen and not fitting into your favorite mini-skirt? If this was your biggest concern—and I'm a little surprised to find out that it might be for some people—perhaps you need to re-evaluate your circumstances.



Look around you and you will see a socially acceptable body presented in the media. He's muscular and lean. She's thin with amazing curves. If you pair them up, you'll have the perfect all-American couple.

Now look around you again. How many real people can actually live up to these standards? A disproportionate amount of young Americans center themselves upon the goal of the perfect physique—often leading to excessive dieting, anorexia, bulimia, binge eating, compulsive exercising, and the abuse of steroids. The American obsession with the perfect body is destroying the human need for a healthy body.

The negative effects our behaviors have on our body should raise greater concern than mere weight gain. Aside from the obvious solutions, what more can we do to help fix this problem? Awareness of both self and others is crucial. Don't see compulsive dieting or deprivation as the solution to weight issues. Don't make blanket statements about weight pertaining to things such as dining halls, alcohol, or laziness.

As Honors students, we have a responsibility to look beyond the superficial "facts" that we are spoon-fed by society and to share our awareness with others. As taught by Dr. Martey-Ochola, "Love your body." Become aware of how the factors of your lifestyle affect your body and your health. Love your body and love the diversity of bodies around you. Make health, not appearance, your first concern. Action in our own lives, no matter how small, is stronger than passive inaction. This is the type of message that we as Honors students should feel compelled to embrace, a message of health and awareness, not the propagation of unrealistic societal ideals.

### HONORS PROGRAM OFFICE

Horton Hall 104 (717) 477-1604  
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday 8 - 11:45 a.m.  
Web site: <http://www.ship.edu/~honors>

<b>Director:</b>	Dr. Kim Klein	<a href="mailto:kmklei@ship.edu">kmklei@ship.edu</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mrs. Sharon Poe	<a href="mailto:sapoe@ship.edu">sapoe@ship.edu</a>
<b>Graduate Assistant:</b>	Ms. Jordan Cupelli	<a href="mailto:jc9811@ship.edu">jc9811@ship.edu</a>
<b>Student Assistants:</b>	Ms. Shannon Connor	<a href="mailto:sc7765@ship.edu">sc7765@ship.edu</a>
	Ms. Jessica Krout	<a href="mailto:jk2223@ship.edu">jk2223@ship.edu</a>

### HONORS STUDENT ORGANIZATION (HSO)

#### Officers, 2005-2006

<b>President:</b>	Erin Harmon	<a href="mailto:eh4362@ship.edu">eh4362@ship.edu</a>
<b>Vice President:</b>	Ryan Blackman	<a href="mailto:hardlysarcastic@hotmail.com">hardlysarcastic@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Becky Kreider	<a href="mailto:yogachic@aol.com">yogachic@aol.com</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Lora Ruhl	<a href="mailto:lr5610@ship.edu">lr5610@ship.edu</a>

## SERVICE LEARNING (cont'd)

sities on an international scale.

During the conference, we had opportunities to interact with other individuals who are passionate about service learning, and we were able to engage in conversations with the people in our round-table discussion.

We had a great time at the conference, amidst the vast countryside of South Dakota, and we even made a stop at Mt. Rushmore.

Despite the thick fog that prevented us from actually seeing the faces of the presidents, we at least could enjoy the scenery while we drove through Black Hills.

Overall, I would say each of us were pleased at how well our presentation was received. Audience members actively engaged themselves by asking us questions and giving suggestions.

This dynamic interest assures us that our goals are formidable and can excite interest even among service learning veterans.



*Photo submitted by Jenn Bly*

One of the Honors Service Learning Seminar professors, **Dr. Gene Fiorini**, in addition to Honors students **Tyler Miller**, **Jenn Bly**, and **Emily Cisney** present the basics of their Honors class at the International Partnership for Service Learning and Leadership (IPSL) Conference in Rapid City, South Dakota. Dr. Fiorini, Miller, Bly and Cisney made a presentation on the Honors Seminar in Service Learning's textbook project. At the conference, they talked with others who shared the same passion about service learning, and also enjoyed some sight-seeing as they drove through the Black Hills.

## Excitement in Education (E<sup>2</sup>)

December 3

Shippen Hall

For those who signed up to help out, more information is on its way. Any questions? Contact Becky Kreider at [yogachic@aol.com](mailto:yogachic@aol.com)

## Textbook Drive

The Honors Service Learning Seminar will be holding its textbook drive during Finals Week, Dec. 12-16. They hope to collect approximately 3,000 books. For ways you can help with the drive or donate books, look for more information on the Honors Web site, <http://www.ship.edu/~honors>.



11208010  
 Honors Program  
 Shippensburg University  
 1871 Old Main Drive  
 Shippensburg, PA 17257