

# The Honors Chronicle

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November 2008

## Don't Mess with Texas!



### Honors Program Represented at National Collegiate Honors Conference

By Amy Harmon, Emily Jung, Valerie Koontz, and Emily Sattler, Honors seniors



Honors students Amy Harmon, Emily Jung, Valerie Koontz, and Emily Sattler and Honors director Dr. Kim Klein represented the University Honors Program at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in San Antonio, Texas from October 22-26. The students and Dr. Klein all made invited presentations at the conference. The students' reflections on their conference experience follows.

As we were sitting in the Atlanta airport waiting for our flight, we looked back on our amazing trip to San Antonio. The weather was warm and not a cloud in the sky the entire trip. We ate outside for almost every meal.

The first thing we did in San Antonio was go see the famous Riverwalk. We ate at a Mexican restaurant along the river. The next morning, we attended a conference sessions to learn about other Honors Programs' initiatives. At a break, we visited the San Fernando Church at the market square. The heroes of the Alamo, Crockett, Bowie, and Travis, are buried there.

After lunch, we returned to the conference for a few more panel presentations on topics such as strengthening leadership in the HSO, engaging students in the HSO, and engaging students in the sciences and professions in the Honors Program, creating an Honors Program/HSO Constitution, and innovations in Honors mathematics courses. The rest of the evening we were free to do some sightseeing.

We all decided to walk to the Tower of the Americas. This structure is the second tallest observation needle in the United States, next to Las Vegas. After getting a panoramic view of the city, we took an exciting 4-D tour of Texas.

Later that night, we attended the conference gala at the Institute of Texan Cultures with Dr. Klein, which featured Tex-Mex food, cowboy hats, and line dancing.

The museum was truly interesting, and we were surprised to discover all of the diverse cultures that are represented in Texas! On the way back from the dinner, we took the opportunity to stop at the Tower of the Americas to again view San Antonio, only this time at night.

The following day was the day of our presentations. Prior to giving our presentations, we took a boat ride tour on the river. We learned a little about the history of Texas and the Riverwalk from a tour guide who made everything fun and interesting. This tour gave all of us the opportunity to take some amazing pictures.

After the tour, we walked along the Riverwalk to the site of the Alamo. We walked through the last remaining building, learned a little about the history of the battle and saw several interesting artifacts. We then walked back along the Riverwalk to the County Line, a Texas barbecue restaurant, for lunch.

After lunch, we gave our presentations. Emily and Valerie went first. They spoke on Excitement in Education. They gave information on planning the event and what exactly happens that day in order to allow other Honors Programs to try to duplicate our EE program. There were a few people who asked some ques-

## Calendar

### November

**18 - Honors Read: *Into Thin Air***  
4:00 p.m., CUB 316

**19 - Celebration of Student Writing**  
12:00 to 2:00 p.m., CUB 226 B & C

**27 - Happy Thanksgiving!**

### December

**1 - HSO Meeting**  
8:00 p.m., CUB 217

**8-12 - Final Exams**

**13 - Commencement**  
*Congratulations to our December graduates!*

### January

**20 - Deadline for Submitting Applications for 2009 PASSHE Summer Honors Program**

Applications are due by 11:45 a.m. to Sharon Poe in the Honors office, Horton Hall 104.

**22 - Honors Spring General Meeting**  
3:45 p.m., place TBA  
All Honors students must attend.



See NCHC

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Top left: The Honors Program's representatives—Amy Harmon, Emily Sattler, Dr. Kim Klein, Valerie Koontz, and Emily Jung—before the conference gala at the Institute of Texan Cultures.  
Bottom right: The students prepare to fly into Texas from the airport in Atlanta.

# Faculty Spotlight

By Christina Shirk, Honors senior



Professor Janet Ruby has been a part of the Shippensburg University Art Department for 16 years and has been teaching the Innovation and Invention Seminar for many years. She enthusiastically calls the class an amazing opportunity for learning and stresses that it is “all about the students.”

Students from all areas of study take the course and must learn to work together to develop new ideas and solve problems. At the beginning of the course, Professor Ruby divides the class into groups of three or four students. The groups are balanced both by gender and major and are called “E-Teams” (teams of excellence). These groups then act as a mini-business with Dr. Ruby as the CEO.

Throughout the semester the teams must work on creating an invention around a given topic. Last year, Professor Ruby challenged her students to create a sustainable invention that would answer a need, change the world, and could be mass produced for less than \$50 per unit.

## Dr. Janet Ruby

The inventions also had to be patentable, and the teams had to be able to prove it. This required extensive research on both the parts of the students and Professor Ruby, to ensure that the inventions created were original.

This process allows students to experience what it is really like to create a new product. They must craft a marketing plan, a logo, and brochures, make a working prototype, present everything at the end of the course, and even apply for a temporary patent! Professor Ruby also invites several distinguished guest speakers to share their areas of expertise and to advise students through the process.

Professor Ruby points out that the course is challenging, but says that the creativity of the course requirements allows bright students to make something unique using all of the knowledge they have.

She received her bachelor of fine arts from the Pratt Institute and later went on to a graduate program at the Rochester Institute of Technology. She enjoys continuing her education and takes classes such as Chinese Paint-



Photo Courtesy of Sara Shin

ing, Printmaking, and Contemporary Mental Health Issues. Participating in think tanks and workshops often gives her ideas that she can incorporate and use in the classroom. Honors Seminar: Innovation, Invention, and Creativity will be offered next semester.



# Speak Out!



By Elisabeth Davis, Honors freshman

Did you expect the outcome of the presidential election?

No. I was in denial because I wanted to believe McCain would win, but I knew Obama would. He had so much more support than McCain had.



Katie Kitner  
Sophomore

I did not know what to expect with this election. I actually thought that it would be a lot closer than it was, like the last few elections have been.



Valerie Koontz  
Senior

Oh yeah. My government class has been following the current events, so it was no surprise.



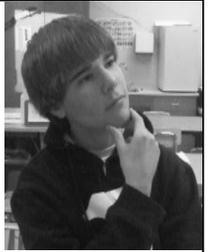
Kara Bushman  
Junior

Yes. I've been following the polling process. I also read a lot. I got feedback that we were ripe for change. I'm in close contact with the young generation; they have an amazing amount of energy.



Dr. Pablo Delis  
Honors Professor

Yes. Americans seem to really want 'change.' Barack Obama has promised them 'change.' Americans also love it when someone else does their job for them.



L. Scott Karper  
Freshman

## Undergraduate Research, Study Abroad, and Internship Opportunities

### Bonjour à tous: Jamie McNulty studies abroad in France



By Jamie McNulty, Honors junior

Bonjour à tous! Greetings from France! This semester I have had the opportunity to study abroad in Grenoble, France, and so far, the only thing I regret is not staying longer! I would highly recommend to anyone thinking about studying abroad to definitely pursue it; the amount of knowledge you gain from living in another country surpasses any classroom learning experience I have had.

Grenoble is a beautiful city which is situated in the French Alps, located in the southeastern part of France. There are three mountain chains that encompass the city: Chartreuse, Vercors, and Belledonne. Even though it is just hitting the fall season peak in Pennsylvania, the mountains here are already snow-capped and skiing season has begun. Grenoble's low elevation and flat area don't give way to much snow though, because it all gets caught in the mountains. I'm

looking forward to a mild winter, but filled with lots of skiing and hiking!

With only about two months left, I can't believe how quickly time has passed and how much I've been able to do in such a short amount of time. I am attending an international language school within the University of Grenoble, and the activity club has been keeping us all very busy. I've had the opportunity to spend the weekend in Nice, France, as well as Monaco. I even swam in the Mediterranean Sea! I have gone hiking in the Vercors Mountains and tried a beginner rowing class along the Isère, the river that runs through the northern part of the city. Traditional festivals are also quite popular in France, and I have been to a few. While there, I've gotten to try local foods and wine while experiencing true French culture. I'm hoping to make it up to Paris in the coming weeks, because like any other American in France, I feel like I couldn't leave the country without having been to the top of the Eiffel Tower.

Despite common stereotypes, the local people here have all been very welcoming and friendly—especially

as I struggle to use proper grammar. I have also met numerous other international students, mainly other Europeans, who are all very nice and eager to help. I know that from this trip I will take away many memories and skills that I wouldn't have been able to achieve in the United States. I encourage everyone to contemplate a semester abroad; it has certainly been such an eye-opening and humbling experience.



Photos Courtesy of Jamie McNulty



Top left: Jamie McNulty stands in front of a French neighborhood.

Top Right: Jamie admires the French scenery.

Bottom right: Jamie photographs an amazing view while in France.

### Undergrads Receive Grants for Research

By Tyler Miller, Honors graduate assistant

Eight students in the Honors Program have received undergraduate research grants totaling more than \$7,800 for the 2008-2009 academic year. The awards were recently announced by the university's Institute for Public Service.

The research will involve such fields as nanotechnology, ecology, chemistry, criminal justice, and book publication and will take multiple forms, including laboratory research, field work, and artistic projects. Funding is provided by the Shippensburg University Foundation.

"The students who have received grants submitted outstanding proposals," said Dr. Kim Klein, Honors Program director. "One of our goals as an Honors Program is to expand students' intellectual horizons beyond the classroom by promoting participation in undergraduate research, and these projects will allow the students to delve into areas of specialized study."

Each of the grant applications was selected by the university's Research Advisory Com-

mittee based on relevance and significance of topic, adequacy of design and feasibility, likelihood for success, and potential for learning.

The Undergraduate Research Program provides financial support to undergraduate students for research or scholarly activities related to their programs of study to enable them to better understand the scientific process, experience discovery, and develop their analytical and communication skills. Honors Program grant recipients include:

**Marie Hathaway**, \$1,200, "Shifting the Campus Literary Journal from Margin to Center," to present on a panel for undergraduate literary journals at a national writing conference, and \$800, "My Father's Stories," to design and produce a handmade book of her late father's short stories.

**Allison Jackson**, \$400, "Student Victimization Survey," to study whether official counts of campus crimes systematically underestimate the actual number of violations.

**Breann Kunkle**, \$800, "Behavioral Mimicry during Computer-Mediated Interactions," to study the chameleon effect in an AOL chat pro-

gram and whether behavior imitation occurs subconsciously.

**Ashley Martin**, \$1,600, "Elucidating the Role of Apg5 Autophagy Protein in SNB19 Brain Tumor Cells," to study a specific gene mutation.

**David Miller, Jr.**, \$400, "Determination of Source Waters and Flowpaths to Limestone Springs in Cumberland County, PA, with Fluorescent Dye Tracing," to study contributing areas to Big Spring, Newville supply, and surrounding springs and identify threats to water quantity and quality.

**Katelyn Moore**, \$750, "Synthesis of a Lanthanide Double-Decker Metallocrown Single-Molecule Magnet," to synthesize a molecular complex that would potentially enhance the storage capacity of computer hard drives.

**Paul Rutledge**, \$1,000, "A Nanoelectronic Current Carrying Array of Gold Interconnects Grown after a Low Pressure Plasma Deposition over Top of Nanospheres," to build a microfluidic filtering device that can manipulate its contents.

**Jordan Shick**, \$925, "Cytotoxicity of Mesoporous Organosilicates in IEC-18 Cells," to study drug delivery systems and the relative toxicity of nanoreservoirs.

Undergraduate Research, Study Abroad, and Internship Opportunities

# Culture to Culture: Studying Abroad in South Korea

By Kaitlin Klinger and Neil Lennon, Honors sophomores

Thirteen hours of flying, a couple hours of waiting, and a two-hour bus ride finally landed us at Soonchunhyang University in Asan, South Korea. For the next four months, we will be living here with about 40 international students from our program, a couple hundred Chinese students, and thousands of Korean students.

Altogether, the people we will interact with on a daily basis come from at least 10 different countries. The first few days were spent acclimating to the time difference and change of scenery. Then the flood gates opened,

all of the Korean students arrived, and it was time to start classes.

From that time on, everything has become a blur. We are taking Korean language classes, a cultural experience class, and Korean and international business classes. We also do several English exchanges with Korean students every week. We were even fortunate enough to attend the Yesan Festival, visit Independence Hall in Cheonan, and tour one of the Hyundai factories with the university.

With the help of the wonderful public transportation, we also visited numerous cities on our own during the weekend. These travel experiences have let us see and try new things such as: visiting the Korean Electronics Show, the International Film Festival in Busan, chowing down on octopus that is still squirming, and one humorous motel room.

Traveling the country is always fun, and we plan to do as much as we can before we leave, but some of the best moments come from exchanging culture with everyone. Each student here brings a different perspective to this university, and it is so interesting to



Photos courtesy of Kaitlin Klinger and Neil Lennon



Bottom left: Traditional Korean musical performance at Yesan Story Festival. Top right: Beomeosa Temple in Busan.

see these perspectives shared and cultures collide when everyone is hanging out. For example, we just opened the Korean students' eyes to our celebration of Halloween and had a great turnout to one of the best Halloween parties we have ever attended. To see so many different people come together to celebrate this holiday

widened our own curiosity of the traditions and ways of life all over the world. The diversity of our group, combined with the experience of living within another culture, has really opened our eyes and given us a new perspective of the world.

## NCHC, cont'd

tions after the presentation and seemed genuinely excited to try the program out on their own and even gave suggestions on how we might improve our own program.

Amy and Emily presented the orientation program of our Honors Program. They spoke on the first weekend of orientation activities, mentors and mentees, the college life sessions, and some of the other activities the orientation committee plans. After their presentation, which lasted about 30 minutes, there were many questions from the audience of Honors faculty and students about our orientation program.

We were pleased to hear that many people were impressed by the great success we have had with our Honors orientation program through student involvement and leadership. We are very satisfied with how our sessions went and the interest we received in our programs. The presentations were a very rewarding

time to be able to talk about the programs that we have put so much time into in the past.

After our presentations, Dr. Klein took us out for dinner at Paesanos on the Riverwalk. We had delicious Italian food and then were able to walk along the river again, stopping at some candy and souvenir shops. Since we needed to be up at 4:20 the next morning to make it to our plane on time, we decided to go pack and end our sightseeing for this trip. We had such a wonderful time looking around this beautiful city that it was hard to go inside so early for the night.

Overall, we had a wonderful experience at the NCHC in San Antonio, Texas. We had a very rewarding trip between such a great response to our presentations and being able to see and learn so much about San Antonio.

Next year's NCHC Conference will be held in Washington, D. C. If you are interested in attending the conference, talk with Dr. Klein about submitting a proposal. The proposal



Above: The Shippensburg students visited the Alamo in San Antonio as part of their NCHC conference experience.

All photos courtesy of Valerie Koontz.

deadline is usually in mid-February. We would highly recommend this conference to any undergradmen for next year!

# HONORABLE ALUM: JAMES RUDA

By Angela Darosh, Honors sophomore



Photo Courtesy of James Ruda

For James Ruda, a 2000 graduate of Shippensburg University and an alumnus of the Honors Program, a career in medicine has always been his goal—and it's a goal he has worked hard to achieve. Ruda is currently in his

fourth year of a six-year residency in the Head and Neck Institute of Otolaryngology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Otolaryngology is, by definition, a medical field concerned with the ear, nose, and throat.

While attending Shippensburg, Ruda majored in biology with a pre-med concentration. The decision to go into health care was fairly easy for him to make. He has always had an interest in the field and had volunteered since age 10 at a state nursing home. Ruda has since volunteered at such

places as the Chambersburg and Waynesboro hospitals. These experiences, among many others, allowed him to observe different types of surgery. This exposure aided him in the decision to pursue surgery instead of anesthesiology.

The residency program that Ruda is currently enrolled in accepts only three residents per year.

A typical day at the hospital involves working closely with a team of these fellow residents. Their workday begins upon arriving at the hospital around 5:45 or 6:00 a.m. At 7:30 a.m. the team starts their surgical cases in the O.R.

Depending on how complicated of a case is at hand, the workday could last until 11 or 12 o'clock at night. Most days end up being 12- or 13-hour days. In addition to this, Ruda is required to go on call four to five times per month where he is in the hospital from 5:00 p.m. at night until 8:00 a.m. the next day.

Ruda comments that one of the favorite parts of his job is getting to meet with patients. He finds excitement in applying the things he has learned

over the years to his cases: "It is still the patient care why most people go into medicine." Ruda finds it rewarding as a surgeon to interact with patients and develop relationships with them.

Moreover, Ruda credits Shippensburg University in preparing him very well for life after graduation. This became evident to him in his

***"Shippensburg teaches you a lot of ways to succeed in life, and if you can take that with you and continue to learn, you will be better off."***

first semester at Penn State College of Medicine, where he and two other students from Shippensburg University were among the highest scoring medical students in their anatomy class.

In his spare time, Ruda loves to mountain bike, run, exercise, and spend time with his fiancée. His advice to Shippensburg students is this: "Life doesn't end after college. Much of the struggles that you have on a day-to-day basis in college will carry over into the rest of your life, especially once you leave Shippensburg. Shippensburg teaches you a lot of ways to succeed in life, and if you can take that with you and continue to learn, you will be better off."

## Service with a Smile!



Photo Courtesy of Megan Veazey

Above: The Rails to Trails group strikes a pose after a day of hard work!

The Service Committee started off with a bang this year by picking up trash for Rails to Trails on October 18 and is planning to work at the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter once a month through the 2008-2009 school year.

This service committee is highly dedicated to making a difference on campus, in the community, and around the world. They've already begun to plan activities that will help them to reach these goals.

Next semester they will be working with a textbook drive for Kenyan students. They will also be

continuing their Relay for Life efforts and starting a new program that would allow students to adopt a person in the armed services overseas.

Service is a very important part of the Honors Student Organization. All students need three of their participation points to be service related. As such, all Honors students should strive to get involved with these great upcoming events. For more information or to get involved with the Service Committee, contact Megan Veazey at mv7192@ship.edu.

### HONORS PROGRAM OFFICE

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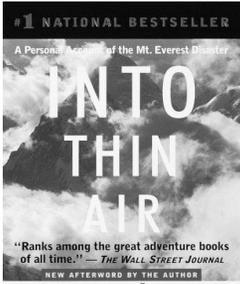
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**Editor:** Ally Morgan [am6890@ship.edu](mailto:am6890@ship.edu)

Submit story ideas to Ally at [am6890@ship.edu](mailto:am6890@ship.edu).

# Honors Read: *Into Thin Air*

By Annamarie McCormick, Honors junior



*Into Thin Air* is a personal account of the May 1996 ascent of Mount Everest that has gone down in history as one of Everest's greatest disasters. Chronicling Jon Krakauer's personal quest to climb the famed Everest from base camp to the summit, and the stories of the two most famed climbing guides of the day, *Into Thin Air* is a riveting and honest account of the completely preventable disaster. A fast and action-packed read, I highly recommend *Into Thin Air*. The Honors Read of *Into Thin Air* will take place at 4:00 p.m. November 18 in CUB 316. Come prepared to discuss a great read!

**Jon Krakauer**  
AUTHOR OF INTO THE WILD AND EIGER DREAMS

## Reminder:

### Honors Spring General Meeting

January 22, 2009 at 3:45 p.m.

Place to be determined

All Honors students must attend.



## THE HONORABLE MENTION

Congratulations to our December 2008 graduates: **Andrew Cornell, Kaitlin Daley, Jason Hornberger, Emily Jung, Breann Kunkle, and Joseph Livingston.**

Special thanks to **Tracy Migliori** for editing the articles for this month's *Chronicle*!

Thanks to the students who represented the Honors Program at the University Open House on October 18: **Elisabeth Davis and James Redington.**

Kudos to all of the students who helped with Rails to Trails on October 18: **Jennifer Coccagna, Elisabeth Davis, Kelly Dirks, Jason Hornberger, Kate Ibbetson, Tracy Migliori, Derek Robertson, Emily Sattler, Alexa Sleeper, Kady Taylor, Umobong Ubokmfon, Todd Vargson, Megan Veazey, and Justine Wnuck.**

Thanks to all of the students who helped with Excitement in Education on November 8: **Maddie Alger, Jessica Barben, Amanda Benedict, Lisa Brehm, Grace Burkholder, Angela Darosh, Elisabeth Davis, Kate DiNolfi, Samantha Dougherty, Tiff Frazier, Andrea Hanlon, Kristen Imboden, Kelsie Irons, Emily Jung, Scott Karper, Valerie Koontz, Annamarie McCormick, Katelyn Moore, Ally Morgan, Michele Muenker, Jessica Rossi, Emily Sattler, Stephanie Savarese, Diana Schneider, Christina Shirk, Alexa Sleeper, Shaun Thompson, Nicole Tucker, Kayse Vernon, Sara Wlazelek, and Justine Wnuck.**

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