

The Honors Chronicle

Volume 20, Issue 2

www.ship.edu/~honors

October 2006

Election sparks debates



Photos by Kaitlin Daley

Mike Manis and Beth Kusko argue Democratic views, while Mark Messick and Amber Noecker argue Republican views.

By Kaitlin Daley, Honors sophomore

While 2006 may not be a presidential election year, the outcome of November's Senatorial race has the power to shake the floor of Congress.

The 2006 mid-term elections will decide who controls the Senate, and with recent public disappointment in the Bush White House, the Democratic Party has the potential to take control from the Republicans.

On Sept. 12, four Shippensburg University students turned on their political fires and brought this national issue a little closer to home.

The first election series debate, sponsored by the Honors Program, focused on the highly contested Pennsylvania Senate race between the incumbent Republican senator Rick Santorum, and Democrat Bob Casey Jr., who is the current state treasurer.

The debate series were coordinated by Mark Lehman, a senior history and political science major, and by political science professor Dr. Alison Dagnes.

"An important part of the Honors Program's mission is to increase civic engagement across campus. We hope that the Election 2006 Debate Series will raise students' awareness of the congressional and gubernatorial races, educate them about the important issues, and inspire them to vote on Election Day," said Dr. Kim Klein, Honors Program Director.

Junior Beth Kusko and senior Mike Manis represented Casey's political platform, while junior Amber Noecker and freshman Mark Messick represented Santorum's views. The SU students tackled both domestic and foreign policies, debating issues such as gas prices, abortion, North Korea, and the war in Iraq.

"The goal (of the debate) is for students to become eager to vote and to make an informed

decision," Dr. Alison Dagnes said.

The debate, moderated by Lehman, began as Kusko and Manis itched at their opponent by noting that Santorum voted to increase his pay three times, that he was in favor of lowering minimum wage, and that he votes with Bush 98% of the time.

In response, Noecker and Messick asserted that Rick Santorum has plans for the future, not just ideas.

"Bob Casey only has promises and ideas — no plans," Messick said.

The debate then shifted to the domestic issues surrounding Santorum, stressing his strong sense of family and outlining his many accomplishments.

Noecker and Messick noted that Santorum has helped secure fire department funding, improved military bases and has helped to protect Pennsylvania farmland.

Things really heated up as the debate moved into its foreign policy phase, with this portion of the debate centering mainly on issues in Iraq.

Both sides agreed that at the heart of this election is a choice; whether to withdraw from Iraq, or stay the course.

Following the debate, Lehman encouraged students to vote. He stressed that the college age group voting numbers are low, and that the only way to change is to vote.

"Bush won Florida by 300 votes- that's not even a fourth of our campus," Lehman said.

"It's important to advocate political participation and make people aware of how important voting is, because many people don't understand (the candidates') platforms," Lehman said.

So, who won the debate? The answer to that question will be revealed Tuesday, Nov. 7 at the polls.

Calendar

October

16-17 - Honors Scheduling for Spring 2007

See p. 6 for more information.

17 - HSO meeting

8:00 p.m., CUB 217

19 - Pizza with a Prof: Dr. Michael Coolsen and Dr. Ronald Taylor, Management/Marketing Department

10:30-4:15 p.m., GRH 203

24 - Pizza with a Prof: Dr. Suzanne Morin and Dr. Denise Adkins, Psychology Department

5:00-5:45 p.m., FSC 118

November

1 - Uncommon Conversations: Robin Wright, journalist

Time and place to be announced

Contact Sharon Poe at x1604 or sapoe@ship.edu for more information.

4 - Study Abroad Dinner with Visiting Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Abou-Bakr

Time and place to be announced

Dr. Sabrina Joseph, History Department, will host a dinner for students who are interested in learning about or studying abroad in Egypt. If you would like to attend the dinner, please contact Sharon Poe at sapoe@ship.edu by October 20.

15 - Deadline for Submitting Proposals for NE-NCHC Conference, Providence, Rhode Island

March 29-April 1, 2007

The NE-NCHC 2007 conference theme is "Legacies."

15-19 - National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Philadelphia

Honors students Ryan Blackman, Ashley Cayless, Jessica Krout, Mark Lehman, Heather Palmer, and Honors Director Dr. Kim Klein will make presentations at NCHC.

SideNotes

By Stacie Wight

"What is up with Honors classes?"

As scheduling approaches, many students begin to wonder about how many honors classes they are required to take and which courses should be the least painful. Are honors classes really that horrible? Absolutely not!

The courses offered by the Honors Program are not meant to lower GPAs but to make us think outside of the box. Honors professors are hand-selected and asked to teach Honors courses that are different from the run-of-the-mill general education class.

In addition to having class with some of Shippensburg's finest professors, the class is made up of Shippensburg's finest students...us! The small classes provide an incredibly fun and engaging environment to learn in.

My first Honors course was World History I with the incredible Dr. Christine Senecal. Unlike her



regular classes, Dr. Senecal added an extra element to the curriculum just for Honors students. We read a textbook that was in the process of publication and focused on women's changing roles through history amongst different cultures. Her history class was by far one of the most unique history courses I have taken.

In addition to having an excellent professor, it was a small class of about 20 Honors students that I knew from Honors events and meetings. The classroom atmosphere was light, as we all felt comfortable sharing thoughts and ideas, as well as joking around.

I have had similar experiences in all of my Honors classes. There is a reason that the classes are called Honors, so don't expect the course to be an entire cake-walk, but it sure will beat out every other general education class offered. Don't limit yourself to just taking what is required, but schedule as many honors classes as you can over the next four, three, or two years you have left at Shippensburg.

Honors reads are lining up

By Jenn Bly, Honors senior

Have you ever read a great book, but didn't have anyone to discuss it with?

Have you ever read a novel for class, but the discussion was boring since you and the professor were the only ones who actually read it?

Well, fret no more, Honors Read book discussions are opportunities to connect and share literary insights with fellow students.

This fall semester, the Honors Program is hosting two sure-to-be-interesting book discussions.

On Thursday, October, 12 at 7:00 p.m in CUB 216 Beth Rauch and Dr. Michael Bibby will be discussing *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck.

On Tuesday, November, 14 at 5:30 p.m, in CUB 215 Danielle Geller and Dr. Rich Zumkhawala-Cook will be discussing *The Dew Breaker* by Edwidge Danticat.

All honors students are invited to attend.

Books can be picked up in the Honors office, Horton Hall 104.

Don't forget that each Honors Read boasts of free food, four participation points, and lively conversations.

Serving up service ideas

By Emily Cisney, Honors senior

The goal of the service committee is to try to reach out to the campus and community with a variety of activities.

There have been many ideas suggested by your peers as to what the service committee should do. We will be doing Rails to Trails on Saturday, October 14, with the Volunteers Club, and pizza will more than likely be provided by the Honors Program for lunch.

Another activity that may be interesting is reading to elementary students at either Nancy Grayson or James Burd elementary schools. Children in these schools do not get as much hands-on attention as the Grace B. Luhrs students, so it would be rather fun to share some time with these students.

Another exciting activity is Dash for Drew, a type of fundraising race in memory of a small child from the area who tragically died in a car accident. The family members and friends of Drew Taylor have set up a 2-mile run/walk race at Greencastle-Antrim High School on November 11. All proceeds go to the Drew Taylor Foundation.

There will be more details later concerning this event, so be sure to attend the HSO and service committee meetings to get the 411 on all of these great events!

"I'm really looking forward to Quiznos and Chick-Fil-A to open up. But, the prices of the food also increased, and it seems like my flex is going a lot faster than last year."



Allison Jackson
Sophomore

Speak Out!

By James Dibble, Honors senior

What do you think of the changes made to the dining system at the university this year?

"I feel that while the food prices have gone up, the quality has just stayed the same."



Corey Alexander

"The new food service seems expensive. I could get at least five Taco Bell burritos for the price of one at Zona Mexicana."



Jess Krout
Junior

"The food quality overall is better, but the rearrangement of the CUB could use improvement."



Chris Voss
Senior

Undergraduate Research, Study Abroad, and Internship Opportunities



Photos submitted by Tasha Alligood and Nikki Thierwechter



Above: Nikki Thierwechter and Tasha Alligood are shown amongst children of Ghana and fellow SSHE students.

Left: Nikki and Tasha are pictured in Ghana. Ghana is a “world not set up for tourists,” Nikki said.

By Tasha Alligood, Honors senior

I felt very fortunate to have been accepted into the 2006 PASSHE Summer Honors Program, but reality did not set in until I was packing my bags for the three week adventure.

The majority of coursework took place during our first week at Cheyney, the hosting university.

Although the classes and assignments seemed endless that week, the precious fruits of our labor became evident from the minute we stepped foot in Ghana.

It was hard to believe that we were actually in Africa, the birthplace of humanity.

To our north was the Sahara Desert, to our south was Ghana’s tropical coastline. I was never so excited in my life!

We began our journey in Accra, Ghana’s bustling capital city. Accra was not the “Africa” that we had all envisioned. I was more than ready to get out of this modern city full of high rises, traffic, and street vendors.

We then moved to my favorite part of the country, Elmina and Cape Coast.

Elmina is the site of the first European structure in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Elmina Slave Castle. To stand in this place, with its blood-stained dungeons and hypocritical biblical inscriptions, was to stand where the darkest chapter in human history took place.

It was an amazing experience, perhaps even the defining experience of my college career. Prior to applying for the program, I never had intentions of traveling to Africa, but now I am constantly looking for the chance to go back.

By Nikki Thierwechter, Honors senior

My favorite place was the market. Some smiles, some stares, some eyes simply cast away; it is there that I learned the meaning of my presence in Ghana.

In downtown Accra, beyond the hawkers aggressively trying to sell a souvenir or two, the true life of Accra began to unfold. It is here the Ghanaians would buy and sell their bread, their vegetables, their shoes, their cloth.

I had entered into a world not set up for tourists. This market was something theirs. It was their livelihood, and so, in a way, it was them. It was if I had lifted a curtain and peaked through the window of someone’s private life.

To them, I was white (i.e. a Westerner and a tourist). They knew, almost as well as I, that there was an entirely different reality waiting for me at home. And so some would stare, some would look away.

But there were always smiles. Everywhere in Ghana there were smiles — brilliant white smiles against the most beautiful dark skin.

In spite of the racial diversity of the U.S., I found myself wanting to reach out and touch the deep

ebony skin much the same way they wanted to touch my blonde hair, to see if this someone half a world away felt the same even while looking so different.

It is true that there were scenes of heartbreak — scenes of poverty beyond what I had imagined. These were the times when I left with a gnawing feeling in my gut, the times when I pushed my expense-paid dinner aside.

And then, there were the times of extreme joy. For example, learning a bit of African drumming and dancing from a group of children whose talent and enthusiasm put my dancing to shame. (And I thought I could dance!) When the sun went down, we stopped dancing and began drumming the most simple of Ghanaian rhythms in the dark.

A ring interlaced of African children dance, because they cannot afford school, and we beat on the drums and let our music rise into the night. In every way, we were learning from them.

There was the canopy walk through the rainforest,

See SSHE

Undergraduate Research, Study Abroad, and Internship Opportunities

Mentors and Mentees share some quality time together

Mentee

By Grace Burkholder, Honors freshman



I was thrilled when I received an email regarding the mentor/mentee program for the Honors students.

I immediately thought of the advantages to having a friend in the curriculum who had already experienced scheduling, classes, and other activities.

I knew a sophomore, my roommate

actually, who was in the Honors Program and who was planning to be a mentor for an incoming freshman.

I had the fleeting thought, "Wouldn't it be funny if she were my mentor?" When I received an email from my mentor, guess who it was? ... My roommate, Valerie Koontz.

Because we already knew each other, we got together a few times before school started. I had numerous questions to be answered as well.

Valerie had answers for almost everything from dorm life and going to dinner to Honors courses. She told me about the fall orientation weekend that all the freshmen attended.

We also participated in the scavenger hunt that first weekend. We walked into town following the directions and answering questions with another mentor/mentee pair. I learned about different places in Shippensburg; it was like a mini-walking tour that made my new surroundings more familiar.

Then, we enjoyed a pizza dinner with the mentors and other freshmen.

It is great to have a companion for the Honors activities like the HSO and general meetings.

Having a mentor gives me the advantage of having someone to ask about how to schedule, who to contact, and where to find information.

I feel more comfortable knowing I can get an honest account of what to expect in the Honors Program and in college in general.

I look forward to participating in other planned events with Valerie and gaining her insight about the future decisions that I may have to make in the program.

Talking about her experiences has helped me to adjust to the new lifestyle of college, especially in the Honors Program.

Mentor

By Valerie Koontz, Honors sophomore



The mentor/mentee program is one of the best parts of the Honors Program!

As a freshman, I was so glad to have someone older who knew the ropes of college life, classes and the Honors Program.

I still talk to my mentor frequently. In fact, Michelle and I are working together this year for the Excitement in Education program.

So, as a sophomore this year, I was very excited to have my own mentee. I couldn't wait to gain a friend and be able to impart any helpful knowledge that I might have.

The mentee assigned to me just happened to be my friend, Grace, who is also my roommate. It has been fun getting to know Grace better and being able to answer all of her questions.

We got together a few times over the summer and I answered any questions, to the best of my ability.

Then, on the first Sunday at school, we went on a scavenger hunt through Shippensburg. I had a great time walking around town and meeting other Honors freshmen at the pizza party afterwards.

I have had a whole lot of fun so far being a mentor and I can't wait to be able to help more as scheduling is right around the corner.

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

Anything you want to do, we can do.

The recreation committee is planning great events for this upcoming year. So give yourself a little break from all that studying and enjoy a night on the slopes or a devastating tree seedling.

SSHE (cont'd)

the foreign food, and Elmina the slave castle.

There were nights spent, in many ways back in the first world, relaxing by the pool of a beautiful hotel discussing with other honors students and taking a rest from the emotional challenge of traveling through Ghana. Resting from what we did not know how to change and reflecting on the things of Ghana that we hoped never would change.

All things together, the trip was phenomenal. The people, both Ghanaian and American, were wonderful. The itinerary was great. But most exquisite, are the times now when I reflect on those weeks in Ghana.

I remember the moments of extreme joy and of extreme heartbreak — those are the memories I carry with me. And I remember what it means to be a citizen of the West, and more so, a citizen of the world.

In Ghana, they always called us brothers and sisters. One world. One blood. A lesson for me, and a lesson for the world. Thank you, Ghana.

Mirabile Inventu:

European Renaissance and Reformation with Antique Connections

May 19-June 17, 2007

Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, and London, England

Applications may be picked up in the Honors Program office, Horton Hall Room 104, and are due back to the office by Friday, January 19, 2007, at 11:45 a.m.

damali ayo chats

By Jess Krout, Honors junior

Conceptual artist damali ayo met with Honors, MLK, and English students Sept. 19 before her night lecture.

In the informal setting of the Old Main Mark Room, students were able to confront ayo with pressing racial issues on campus during Uncommon Conversations.

One issue raised by students was that of the Greek system at the university, and how it is so strictly defined between white and multicultural fraternities.

Another issue raised was how the cafeteria is separated by “black tables” and “white tables.”

ayo said that underlying the racial separations are friendships — people are going to be friends with the people they are most comfortable with. It’s only natural that friends will want to eat with their friends, or that brothers will want to be with brothers.

“There’s that sense of who we all are, and we just need to let that be,” ayo

said, of each person’s race.

ayo went through grade school at a predominantly white, private school in Washington, D.C. She recalled reading the book, “To Kill A Mockingbird,” in class. She felt like an outcast after reading the book and created a piece of artwork to describe how she felt.

“Art can relate to some people in some way,” ayo said.

One day when ayo had called her mother whining about her financial struggles as an artist, her mother said, “You can’t be everybody’s rented negro.”

The phrase inspired her to create a satirical Web site, www.rent-a-negro.com, that perpetuated racial conversations across the United States.

damali ayo sits with Honors students after Uncommon Conversations Sept. 19 at 4 p.m. in the Mark Room of Old Main. ayo shared her views on race.

Front: Honors junior Amanda Johnson, sophomore Allison Jackson, guest speaker damali ayo, junior Jess Krout, sophomore Dan McClintock

Back: Sophomores Marie Hathaway and Stephanie Wroblewski



Photo courtesy of the Honors Program office

SU’s Meeting of the Minds

By Anthony Comegna, Honors freshman

Honors students and staff! Introducing the greatest forum of ideas since The Academy: Socrates Café.

What is Socrates Café?—a very poignant question. Socrates Café is the latest intellectual get-together to sweep Shippensburg University.

S.C. is a national organization began by Christopher Phillips in the mid-1990s in California which quickly spread to countless other administrators and cities.

It is a free-forum philosophical debate session consisting of an entirely open atmosphere where all participants have equal voices.

Socrates developed an entire method of teaching based around asking questions.

The ideal conclusion of an S.C. session is one in which every person present leaves knowing less about their world than when they arrived.

A group of students begin by discussing federalism. They then

launch into rights v. privileges, government spending, abortion, religion, ethics, morality, justice, and finish the session by debating the nature of beauty.

The night’s starting topic was the product of a randomly chosen topic: ballot and dozens of other topics followed.

This inevitable flow of ideas is what S.C. seeks to foster and expand.

After all, the mind *is* a sponge; and the world *is* 71 percent water.

The Shippensburg Socrates Café currently has seventeen charter members, five very interested faculty members, an official meeting place in the Honors Lounge (McCune Hall), a group on Facebook, and a TON of motivation.

For more information or to join the club, contact Anthony Comegna by e-mailing him at ac5386@ship.edu, or by calling him at (304) 279-3569. Students may also drop by McCune Hall Room 305.

HONORS PROGRAM OFFICE

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Wednesday and Friday 8 - 11:45 a.m.

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THE HONORS CHRONICLE

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Excitement in Education (E²)

December 2

Shippen Hall

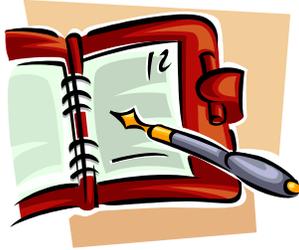
Volunteers needed

Contact Valerie Koontz at

vk0198@ship.edu

Honors Scheduling for Spring 2007

**Monday, October 16 &
Tuesday, October 17**



All students who intend to schedule Honors courses in the Spring 2007 semester must contact Sharon Poe, Honors secretary, at sapoe@ship.edu on October 16 or 17 with the Honors courses they would like to schedule. If any courses are oversubscribed, students will be given priority based on the number of credit hours they have earned. Course descriptions are available on the Honors Web site at www.ship.edu/~honors/Courses.html.

THE HONORABLE MENTION

Thanks to all of the mentors who participated in the mentor/mentee program: **Nick Anspach, Michelle Baker, Jenn Bly, Ashley Cayless, Shannon Connor, Michael Drane, Tracey Halstead, Amy Harmon, Amanda Johnson, Emily Jung, Megan Keener, Valerie Koontz, Beth Kusko, Sam Levy, Sherilyn Malloy, Jenna McCaffrey, Nicole Perugini, Emily Sattler, Katie Shultz, Matt Stern, Audrey Weeks, Stacie Wight, John Yackovich, and Beth Zucconi.**

Ashley Cayless led all of the orientation activities. **Beth Kusko** and **Audrey Weeks** coordinated the mentor/mentee program, and **Amy Harmon** coordinated the Sunday scavenger hunt.

Jenna McCaffrey, James Redington, and Kayse Vernon represented the Honors Program at the University Open House September 23.