

The Honors Program Newsletter

VOL. 18, ISSUE 2

FROM THE HONORS OFFICE, HORTON HALL 104

OCTOBER 2004

CALENDAR

For updates, go to our Web site, <http://www.ship.edu/~honors>, and click on "Calendar."

October

4 – **Deadline for Applying for Undergraduate Research Grants**

For additional information, contact x1251.

4 – **Election 2004 Debate Series: The Economy** 7-8 p.m., Old Main Chapel

6 – **Honors Student Organization Meeting** 8:30 p.m., CUB 216

12 – **Freshmen Orientation Session and Dinner: Study Abroad Opportunities** 5:30– 6:25 p.m., DHC 151

13-14 – **Honors Scheduling for Spring 2005** All students who intend to schedule Honors courses in the Spring 2005 must email Sharon Poe at sapoe@ship.edu with the courses they would like to schedule.

20 – **Honors Student Organization Meeting** 8:30 p.m., CUB 216

22 – **Honors Bus Trip to Walters Art Museum and Inner Harbor, Baltimore** For more information, contact Sharon Poe at x1604.

20 – **Honors Student Organization Meeting** 8:30 p.m., CUB 216

26 – **Freshmen Orientation Session and Dinner: Internships** 5:30-6:25 p.m., DHC 151

27 – **Uncommon Conversations: James Carville** For more information, contact Sharon Poe at x1604.

November

3 – **Honors Student Organization Meeting** 8:30 p.m., CUB 216

4 – **Pizza with a Prof: Prof. Chad Kimmel, Soc. Dept.** 5-5:45 p.m., Grove Hall 401

6 – **Rails to Trails Clean-up** For more information, contact Jessica Kreger at jk7632@ship.edu.

9 – **SSHE Summer 2005 Program Info Session** 5-5:45 p.m., DHC 218

Honors Election 2004 Debate Series Draws Crowds

BY JESSICA KROUT, HONORS FRESHMAN
From [The Slate](#)

A capacity audience filled Old Main Chapel for the debut of the Honors Program's Election Debate Series, on Monday, September 13. The topic of the first debate was the environment. Three debates held later in September and October focused on women and family issues, foreign policy, and the economy.

The series, led by Dr. Alison Dagnes of the Political Science Department, focused on recurring issues taken from the Bush and Kerry campaigns. Each debate had a theme, and within that theme three different topics were discussed. "Our goal is not to try to persuade students one way or another, but most importantly, to try to get students to participate," said Dagnes.

Dr. Kim Klein, director of the Honors Program, and Dagnes collaborated to start the event. "We wanted to raise the students' awareness of the 2004 election," Klein said. The Honors Program chose to support the event because, according to Klein, "part of the mission of the Honors Program is to promote civic engagement."

Dagnes stresses that one does not have to be Democratic or Republican in order to come to the series. "We would love it if they didn't [know who they were voting for] because it might help them to make an informed decision," Dagnes said. "It's really more about education than trying to persuade people about stuff."

Scott Jones, an Honors freshman, attended the debate concerning the environment. While Jones believed that both were well-organized, he claimed the Republican side was "well-prepared" and equipped with "better speakers."

Dagnes encourages all students to get involved, regardless of college, major, or even gender. "Politics and this election in particular isn't just about political science—it's about science and art. It's about women and men. It's about things that happen in other countries and it's about things that happen here, in this country."



Dr. Cynthia Botteron moderates the foreign policy debate.

The November issue of the newsletter will be mailed during the week of Nov. 15. Call x1604 or stop by the Honors Office if you do not receive it.

Interning in Washington, D.C.

BY ANNA CARLEN, HONORS SENIOR

After hearing how "an internship is extremely necessary" for three years, I finally learned first-hand the truth in that statement. During my internship in Alexandria, Virginia, I had the opportunity to not only have an exceptional learning experience through my job placement, but I also learned many new things about myself, others from around America, and Washington D.C.

I applied to the Washington Center at the end of my junior fall semester, through the Study Abroad Office. The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars was established in 1975 and is located in Washington D.C. It provides undergraduate and graduate students an internship in their area of study in or close to Washington, D.C. Students can intern during the fall, spring, or summer semester and receive housing while interning. While at the Washington Center, students also have the opportunity to take a class in areas such as non-profit, journalism, criminal justice, and more. Students also have the chance to attend Presidential Lectures, and listen to speakers such as the U.S. Surgeon General. You will receive 9 credits toward your internship and 3 credits for your night class. Simply by being a student at Shippensburg, my application fee was waived and after being accepted to the program I received a \$4000 scholarship from the state to put towards the tuition bill, leaving me only with the costs of housing.

During the spring semester I started to learn about the businesses where my resumé had been sent, and soon after I received phone calls from companies interested as having me as an intern. After making the all important decision, I set my sights on RedEye Professional Productions, a post-production house, where I would work as a marketing intern. I spent my summer working in a close-knit environment and creating promotional materials for RedEye's new business venture American Lives, a videobiography service. I also created concept ideas for a news television segment entitled, "Inside the Beltway." And quite possibly the most favorite aspect of my internship was being a production assistant for a national commercial where I had the pleasure to work with Larry Thomas, the Soup Nazi from *Seinfeld*.

After experiencing an internship for myself, I now pass on the same words of advice I heard so many times, and urge all of you to look for your own.

The Honors Program is sponsoring a Freshman Orientation session on internships on October 26 at 5:30 p.m. in DHC151. All students are invited to attend to learn more about internships at the Washington Center and the Harrisburg Internship Semester.

Enjoying Pizza with a Prof

BY JESSICA KIRKWOOD, HONORS GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Dr. Alison Dagnes of the Department of Political Science hosted Pizza with a Prof on September 16. Dr. Vernooy-Epp of the English Department and students from assorted majors attended the event. The discussion was informal and students felt it was a great chance to "get to know" Professor Dagnes.

Dr. Dagnes and the students discussed the upcoming Presidential election, the Honors Election 2004 series, and the media coverage of the election. Honors student Meg Dameron stated, "The main thing I enjoyed was the chance to speak informally with the professors about current political events." When asked about her thoughts on the event, Dr. Dagnes stated, "Pizza with a Prof is a terrific way to talk to professors about things outside of the classroom."

THE HONORABLE MENTION

Many upperclass Honors students took time out of their summers to provide guidance for incoming freshmen through the Mentor/Mentee Program. Mentors included Cory Alexander, Melissa Alwine, Nick Anspach, Caitlin Burger, Anna Carlen, Shannon Connor, Naomi Creason, Meg Dameron, Melissa Ford, Tara Fremont, Amanda Griffis, Ashley Gross, Tracey Halstead, Erin Harmon, Ron Hopkins, Ben Illig, Karen Jensenius, Ashlee Johnson, Becky Kreider, Dana Leese, Corey Lehman, Jennifer Matthias, Katie Mayo, Nicole Perugini, Krystal Ritchie, Martin Rodriguez, Jacob Rosenberry, Lora Ruhl, Stephanie Rush, Beth Skiles, Caitlin Torrens, Gwen Umbreit, Megan Werts, and Elijah Yearick.

Several upperclass students also assisted with Honors Freshmen Orientation on Aug. 27. Thanks to those who helped, including Joe Eberly, Amanda Griffis, Erin Harmon, Becky Kreider, Dana Leese, Corey Lehman, Stephanie Rush, Gwen Umbreit, and Christopher Voss.

Thanks to the students who represented the Honors Program at the Sept. 18th Admissions Open House: Stephanie Rush, Erin Harmon, and Ryan Blackman.

Rails-trails clean-up planned

BY JESSICA KREGER, HONORS SOPHOMORE

On Nov. 6, Honors students can help keep our campus beautiful through the Rails to Trails program. The Honors Service Committee will partner with the Volunteer's Club for the annual clean-up. Students will pick up trash on the portion of the Cumberland Rails to Trails path that runs along Adams Drive. After the project, a pizza lunch will be provided for all participants. Meeting time and place will be determined. Students interested in participating in this Honors community service project should contact Jess Kreger at jk7632@ship.edu.

HONORS PROGRAM OFFICE

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Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Fri. 8 - 11:45 a.m.

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THE SSHE SUMMER HONORS PROGRAM 2004

Pura vida! Rice and beans forever!

BY AMANDA PERRY, HONORS SENIOR

Every year the Honors Program of one of the 14 SSHE universities in Pennsylvania sponsors a trip/learning experience to a different country. Slippery Rock University hosted this year's trip to Costa Rica. When I first heard of this trip, I thought it would be a fantastic opportunity for two lucky people. To not apply would have been foolish, so I did apply. In February when I was sitting at my computer, I received an email from the Honors Director, Dr. Klein. This email was addressed to me alone and started with "congratulations." I kept reading, and then squealed with delight. I exclaimed, "I am in! I am going to Costa Rica!" That was only the beginning.

Costa Rica, which we affectionately termed, "fat camp," was packed with adventures and new experiences including hiking volcanoes, horseback riding, climbing 1000 steps to swim at the bottom of a waterfall, white water rafting, and a canopy tour. Almost everyday we changed locations. We saw central, northern and the eastern coast of Costa Rica. It can be a little difficult living out of a suitcase

when you have to pack up again every-day. Clothing was always damp due to the humidity. This was one of the more negative aspects, but manageable when one considers where she is and how she got there.

Even as we explored Costa Rica, the learning process continued. We attended lectures, toured hospitals, met with members of Congress and a native Bri Bri shaman, visited Earth University and the University of Costa Rica and much more.



Our assignments continued while we were in Costa Rica, and we even had mandatory work times scheduled by our professors. We got to learn about the culture of Costa Rica as we were experiencing it firsthand.

My trip to Costa Rica was an unforgettable experience. I was challenged to change my way of thinking and step out of the comfortable life I had made for myself. I was challenged both mentally and physically and learned I could do things I never thought possible. I made some amazing friendships as well. All I can say to anyone who may be thinking about applying for the SSHE Honors trip in 2005 to France is DO IT! Don't put off applying or make excuses. I am so grateful to Shippensburg's Honors Program for choosing me for this program and to Slippery Rock for sponsoring, planning and running an amazing trip. I am always available to anyone who has questions or a desire to know more. **Pura vida! Rice and beans forever!**



A view of Volcan Arenal

When I first heard that the Honors Program was sending two students on a summer trip to Costa Rica, I was intrigued. I decided I had nothing to lose by applying, so I did. As I learned more about the SSHE Summer Honors Program, my curiosity grew into excitement. The day I received verification that I had been selected for the program, I was ecstatic!

Before leaving for Costa Rica, a group of 28 students (including myself) attended two weeks of classes at Slippery Rock University. There we studied maternal child health care, cultural history, and sustainable development.

Costa Rica: the experience of a lifetime

BY JESSICA KREGER, HONORS SOPHOMORE

These classes prepared us for the exciting challenges that we would face once we embarked on our journey.

The experiences we had in our two-week stay reinforced the information we learned in the classroom. We spoke with doctors, taught a lesson to elementary school children, visited the Costa Rican Congress, spoke with two of their Congressmen, heard from a Bri Bri tribe Shaman, hiked through the rainforest, swam at a waterfall, saw an active volcano, and went white water rafting. The Costa Rican people we encountered, also known as Ticos, were welcoming and very patient with our rudimentary Spanish, or in some cases, complete lack of Spanish.

This program allows two Honors students from each of the 14 SSHE schools to experience life in a different country.

The application process is easy, and I highly recommend you apply if you have even the slightest interest in studying abroad. By going on this trip, I learned about another culture, was able to visit a foreign country for the first time in my life, and made friendships and memories that will last forever. The SSHE Summer Honors Program is way more than a free trip to a foreign country: it is the experience of a lifetime!



A volcanic sand beach in Tortuguero

Don't miss your own opportunity to live, experience, and enjoy a new culture in a new country by coming to the SSHE Summer 2005 Program Information Session on Nov. 9 at 5 p.m. in DHC 218 to learn about the upcoming trip to France.

Wednesday, October 13 & Thursday, October 14

Honors Scheduling For Spring 2005

All students who intend to schedule Honors courses in the Spring 2005 semester must contact Sharon Poe, Honors Secretary, at sapoe@ship.edu on October 13 or 14 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. A list of Honors courses that will be offered in Fall 2005 will be posted on the Web site in mid-October.

In this issue of The Honors Program Newsletter:

- Election Debate Series — Page 1
- Interning in Washington — Page 2
- Rails to Trails Update — Page 2
- Costa Rica: Spotlight on the SSHE Summer Honors Program — Page 3

Freshmen! Remember to attend the Freshmen Orientation Sessions and Dinners on October 12 & 26 at 5:30 p.m. in DHC 151. The sessions will focus on study abroad opportunities and internships, and end by 6:25.

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