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Cover Photo by Madison Cosey, Honors Sophomore
As someone who began my undergraduate career studying Songwriting and then transferring a thousand miles to Shippensburg to study English, I’m no stranger to the “concerned-adult hairy eyeball.” You know what I’m talking about, right? It’s that sideways glance that a grownup will give a young person when they doubt the legitimacy of the whippersnapper’s life plan but don’t feel close enough to the situation to pass verbal judgment. The look is usually accompanied by a long “ohhhhh” that rises the octave and falls in a grand glissando of uncertainty. If you don’t believe that this phenomenon exists, then at your next family reunion, tell your dad’s third cousin that you’re getting a degree in Interdisciplinary Arts, and wait for their brow to furrow.

At this point, I’m sure I’ve spent 4% of my waking life responding to the question: What will you do with that degree?

Americans love consuming the fruits of the humanities (I mean, think about all the Interdisciplinary Arts degrees that went into creating your favorite Netflix show), but they oft become a little leery when they find out that one of their kin has devoted their existence to the humanities. The “success” of an artist in our nation is inextricably linked to economy, which is perhaps the antithesis of art. And on our research-focused public university campuses, creative projects sometimes aren’t seen as being as serious or professional as research about, let’s say, erectile dysfunction in Pennsylvania snapping turtle populations. I know I’m speaking in generalities unbacked by statistics, but this stigma is a thing that I feel.

I’ll jump off my soapbox now.

In my four years as part of the Wood Honors College, I’m proud to report that my artsy approach to scholarship has never felt secondary to “traditional” modes of research. In fact, in this community, my creative impulses have been encouraged more than ever.

You really haven’t lived until you’ve received an email from Dr. Klein that says, “Luke, I think you should apply for this storytelling competition,” or “Luke, do you have any interest in presenting your noise rock album at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference?” Well, I did present that noise rock album at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Boston in 2019. It was such an eye-opening experience to be able to mesh this weird, emotional thing I made in my bedroom with the elevated dialogue of a professional conference. I believe it forced me to get better at talking about my art, which artists are usually bad at for a long time.

I was also able to make a “novalbumcast”—a mix between a novella, an album, and a podcast—for my Honors capstone. I didn’t look at JSTOR once during the creative process, and in the novalbumcast, I talk at length about drugs, I curse like a sailor, and I cry on the mic (typical artist stuff, ya dig?). Where else but in the Wood Honors College would I receive support for completing a goofy project like that?

Scholarship is alive in the Wood Honors College; you don’t need me to tell you that. I’m convinced we’ve got some of the greatest young minds in the country among our ranks. The caveat I’ll add is that diverse scholarship is alive in the Wood Honors College. Some of us may go on to cure cancer, others to find long-buried pieces of history, and others still to create weird, emotional things in our bedrooms. I hope this newsletter stands as a testament to that diversity.

Please read on to find out the plethora of ways that Honors students, faculty, and alumni are working to make their mark on the world of scholarship.
Over the years, the definition of Honors scholarship has expanded beyond the traditional Honors thesis.

As I write this reflection, our Honors seniors are putting the finishing touches on their presentations for the Spring 2021 Honors Symposium, the formal forum where students present their Honors capstone research, creative, and service-learning projects. 2021 marks the fifteenth anniversary of the Honors Symposium, the event that represents the culmination of our students’ Honors academic experience. Since Jessica Krout made the first Honors Symposium presentation in 2007, more than 300 students have participated in the Honors Symposium.

Over the years, the definition of Honors scholarship has expanded beyond the traditional Honors thesis. As we strive to prepare our students for their professional lives beyond graduation, we encourage them to align their Honors capstone projects with their scholarly and personal interests and their post-graduation goals. Our Honors students’ diverse interests and goals means that their scholarship, as represented by the listing of this year’s Honors capstone projects on page 3, includes not only traditional research papers but also software, business plans, collections of poetry and short stories, curriculum manuals, documentaries, albums, and more.

The global pandemic created significant challenges for our students as they prepared their Honors capstone project proposals and implemented their projects this year. I have been continually impressed by how our students have adapted to this year’s challenges and produced some of the very best Honors scholarship ever. For example, Honors Biology majors Nishi Natalia and Julia Sendatch could not engage in traditional laboratory research this year so they completed a retrospective analysis using archived databases to study tick-borne disease, an increasingly important public health issue. The quality of their project was recognized with invitations to present their findings at five conferences, including the National Conference on Undergraduate Research and the Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference. Even though the students involved in our Reach Out service-learning project could not travel to the Dominican Republic this year, they continued their efforts to enhance teaching and learning at our partner school. Honor senior education and business majors Emily Slothower and Morgan Landman applied their disciplinary knowledge and skills to develop curricular materials and raise needed funds for the school. The stories of alumni Olivia Turner and Rachael Rudis on pages 4 and 5 demonstrate how these scholarly activities prepare our students for their professional careers and provide a springboard to national and international opportunities.

Honors alumni and friends have provided critical funding for our students’ expansive scholarly efforts. Dr. Vera Reber and Dr. John Offner endowed the Reber-Offner Summer Research Grant, which is highlighted on page 10 of this issue. The grant, which supports students in STEM fields, is a model for the type of scholarly opportunity that we ultimately hope to provide for students in all majors. To those who have supported students’ scholarly development, I extend my heartfelt thanks.
The Honors Symposium is the formal forum where students present their Honors capstone research, creative, and service-learning projects. The following Honors seniors presented their capstone projects at the Honors Symposium on May 3-4, 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kaitlin Bigham</td>
<td>Special Education and Early Childhood Education Major</td>
<td>“Impact on Student Learning Project”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Bruno</td>
<td>Marketing Major</td>
<td>“Athletaverse: Refining an NCAA College Athletics Recruiting Service and Developing Exploratory Research”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Cook</td>
<td>History Secondary Education Major</td>
<td>“The Influences on the Evolution of Stoicism”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colten Drawbaugh</td>
<td>Marketing Major</td>
<td>“Exploring the Antecedents and Consequences of Flow Process in One-on-One Personal Training”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erica Franta</td>
<td>Criminal Justice Major</td>
<td>“Misconceptions in Fictional Criminal Justice Entertainment”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrea Kling</td>
<td>English Secondary Education Major</td>
<td>“Redwoods: A Confession”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaylyn Lampel</td>
<td>Early Childhood Education Major</td>
<td>“Reflective Teaching: How Can We Grow as Teachers”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morgan Landman</td>
<td>Accounting Major</td>
<td>“Reach Out Fundraising Project: Amazon Wishlist”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brianna Miley</td>
<td>Psychology Major</td>
<td>“‘Chrow Me Da Bawl!: A Comprehensive Guide to Teaching English in Cambodia”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lindsey Neidinger and Alexandra Spease</td>
<td>Marketing/Entrepreneurship Majors</td>
<td>“Aloe &amp; Ivy: Greenhouse and More Business Plan: Methodology for the Successful Launch of a Small Business”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Parsons</td>
<td>Accounting Major</td>
<td>“Tax Internship: Development of Skills and Use of Accounting Knowledge”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellie Piper</td>
<td>Mid-Level Teacher Education Major</td>
<td>“ESTEEM Regional Impact Study”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl Potter</td>
<td>Biology Major</td>
<td>“Molecular Detection of <em>Anaplasma Phagocytophilum</em> in Ticks to Assess the Effects of Burning”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malayna Rowe</td>
<td>Exercise Science Major</td>
<td>“NSAID Usage Patterns and the Possible Negative Side Effects in Shippensburg University Student Athletes”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Slothower</td>
<td>Spanish Secondary Education Major</td>
<td>“Languages without Borders: Constructing and Reimagining the 2019 Reach Out Manual for a Secondary Spanish Classroom”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Sterner</td>
<td>Mathematics Major and Creative Writing Minor</td>
<td>“A Study in Homographs”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Wagner</td>
<td>Finance Major</td>
<td>“Political Ethics in Social Media”</td>
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I have had some amazing adventures since graduating from the Wood Honors College and Shippensburg University. From spending days on the muskegs of Alaska and the alpine slopes of Idaho’s Lemhi Mountain Range to trekking across the brittle Mojave Desert, life has been good. And the best part is that it all revolves around plants. I started at Shippensburg as a business major, but after taking an elective biology class and meeting the amazing faculty, I quickly switched majors. It was my best decision ever. I proceeded to fall head over heels in love with my botany course, and I quickly followed it with plant taxonomy and every single ecology and environmental class offered. I also participated in the Partners in the Parks program offered by the National Collegiate Honors Council. Through Partners in the Parks, I spent a week in Mt. Rainier National Park in Washington State, learning all about the natural history of the volcano and soaking up days in the sun. I recommend Partners in the Parks to all Honors undergraduates because that experience deeply inspired me to invest in a curious and wonderful relationship with nature. Before I knew it, I was diving head-first into research on the most precious dwarf iris species (native to Pennsylvania!), spending my free time out in the woods collecting data and back in the lab working science magic.

As diverse as my positions have been, in all of them I had to pull from the toolbox I developed during my time as an undergraduate researcher, forever flexing my time management, hyper-attention to detail, and data management skills. Lots of data management. Whether it be geographic or other, the value of understanding how to collect and process data is straight gold. My experience in the field and in the lab helped me to navigate the diverse scientific tasks I was responsible for during my positions. I am often taken back to the moments spent developing and executing my Honors capstone project research, which focused on those beautiful dwarf irises, and send up some gratitude for my past self and the professors who guided me along my research journey. To this day, I have continued to reap the benefits of engaging in undergraduate research at Shippensburg University. It has been an essential element of my professional experiences in plant conservation.

As diverse as my positions have been, in all of them I had to pull from the toolbox I developed during my time as an undergraduate researcher, forever flexing my time management, hyper-attention to detail, and data management skills.
If you had asked me what my first year of teaching would be like, I certainly wouldn’t have told you it would begin and end in the midst of an international pandemic. The past year has challenged me in ways I could never have dreamed of, and yet my four years at Shippensburg prepared me in so many unique ways. My education through the Wood Honors College, especially, has prepared me for my role as a middle school history teacher.

As a student at Ship, I majored in history education and minored in political science. My Honors capstone project, “Founding American Diplomacy: Balance, Precedence and Transcendence in John and Sarah Livingston Jay’s Mission to Spain, 1779-1782,” explored the shaping of the American approach to diplomacy. I was given the opportunity to present this research at the National Collegiate Honors Council conference in New Orleans during my senior year. These experiences helped to shape me into the teacher I am today.

First, my capstone project taught me to persevere, challenge myself, and believe in myself more than I thought was possible. The research and writing process took a year and a half, and there were times when I was not sure if I could finish. At each step, I had to push myself to continue working harder than I had ever worked before. As a teacher, I need to do the same. My students regularly challenge me to create new and innovative lessons that spark their creativity and interest. This has been especially difficult during remote and hybrid learning, when I cannot physically be with students to guide them through the learning process.

My research also taught me how important it is to seek feedback and guidance from others. My capstone adviser, Professor James Greenburg, played a major role in editing each chapter of my paper, as well as talking through my ideas and helping me plan my research travel and presentations. Teaching is not a profession you can do alone. Having a strong community, both with colleagues and your students, is imperative. Becoming comfortable seeking feedback has helped me in so many ways as an educator. As often as possible, I ask students to provide comments on my lessons and teaching style. If they have an idea for an activity, we meet over lunch to plan it together. If they have ideas for how I can become a better teacher, I am all ears. The research and presentation process taught me how important it is to be open to growth.

Finally, my Honors capstone process showed me that there is a much larger world available to me that I thought. I conducted research for my project at Columbia University’s archives in New York City—only my second time in the city and my first time ever travelling alone. Presenting at the 2019 national Honors conference in New Orleans was also a big step for me. I learned so much about myself and the world around me, and I want to share this world with my students. I aim to expand their worldview and creativity as much as possible through project-based learning, primary source analysis, and discussions. Most of all, I want to teach them to believe in themselves as much as I believe in them—as much as the community I found in the Wood Honors College believed in me. The adaptability, perseverance, and growth mindset that I developed through my capstone project was instrumental in shaping who I am as a teacher, and I will always be thankful to the Wood Honors College for providing me with such a life-changing experience.
Nishi Natalia and Julia Sendatch, Biology Majors
"Understanding Pennsylvania Tick Population and Tick-Borne Disease Dynamics: A Retrospective Analysis of Archived Databases from 2008-2020"

Ticks are important worldwide as vectors of disease. Despite the potential severity of tick-borne disease, the distribution of ticks in Pennsylvania is understudied. Our research analyzed dynamics of tick populations in Pennsylvania between 2008 and 2020 via examination of tick population data collected by the Department of Biology. The results of this study will improve public health awareness, contribute essential information for disease prevention, and provide the foundation for future research.

Malayna Rowe, Exercise Science Major
"NSAID Usage Patterns and the Possible Negative Side Effects in Shippensburg University Student-Athletes"

Many college athletes utilize Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs), such as Ibuprofen, to assist them through their sports seasons. Athletes may rely on them to treat pain, control swelling, and help with muscle soreness. However, recent studies have shown NSAIDs can cause cellular injury and gastrointestinal disfunction. This escalates the concern that athletes are misusing or overusing NSAIDs. My research surveyed Shippensburg University athletes to investigate their use of NSAIDs. The research gathered valuable data to share with the university’s sports medicine staff and increase NSAID education for student-athletes.

Matthew Zemba, Communications/Journalism Major
"The Zemba Family Story: A Documentary on the Impact of Slovak Immigration in Pennsylvania"

The United States is a country founded on immigration, and that foundation has shaped America’s economy, society, and culture. At the beginning of the 20th century, thousands of Slovaks immigrated to the United States seeking jobs and a better life. Slovak immigration had a massive impact on Pennsylvania. My research focused on my family history as a lens to explore this broader topic. Utilizing newspapers, interviews, church records, and secondary research, I produced a 24-minute documentary that illuminates the causes of Slovak immigration to the United States, the lives Slovak immigrants built, and the impact of Slovak immigration. My documentary highlights the impact of Slovak immigration on Pennsylvania’s labor, society, and culture.

Matthew’s documentary is available for viewing at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mt7HUlrHOWQ.
Outstanding Honors Capstone Project Award

Congratulations to Luke Hershey, who was recognized with the Outstanding Honors Capstone Project Award at the Honors Spring Celebration on May 12, 2021! Luke's creative project, "The Novalbumcast: An Experiment in Form," combines components of novella, album, and podcast traditions. It's a memoir with fictional passages that occasionally breaks into song, all presented in the style of a short story podcast and packaged like an album. Listen to Luke's fascinating project at the following link: https://linktr.ee/youngstersflying.

Outstanding Honors Mentor Award

Congratulations to Honors junior Maddie Reuther and Honors sophomore Megan Gardenhour, recipients of the Outstanding Honors Mentor Award!

"As a first-year student, I was often confused about different courses I would have to take, which professors I should try and connect with, and how to handle all of my school work. My mentor did everything that she could in order to help get me through these challenges. . . . Maddie Reuther wasn't just a mentor to me, she was an extremely kind friend who was willing to do anything to help make my first year at Ship be wonderful. Maddie deserves this award because she was more than outstanding."
~ Seth Pearson's nomination of Maddie Reuther

The Spirit of Honors Award is presented to the graduating seniors who exemplify the Wood Honors College’s commitment to excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service. The 2020-2021 recipients of the Spirit of Honors Award are Luke Hershey, Andrea Kling, and Nishi Natalia. Luke, Andrea, and Nishi compiled outstanding records of academic achievement, served in important Honors leadership roles, and represented the Wood Honors College at state, regional, and national Honors conferences. Congratulations!

"Megan Gardenhour should win this award because not only did she provide incredible advice and help in a comfortable manner, but she also was real and genuine about the experiences that college would bring . . . I appreciated her genuine desire to be truthful with me, and her desire to help me succeed and provide great advice and encouragement."
~ Hannah Cornell's nomination of Megan Gardenhour
Spring Semester Highlights

Reach Out

“Reach Out’s goal this semester was to provide The Pathways of Learning School with the materials they needed to have a safe and effective school experience. We were able to provide them with 12 laptops, 100 masks, around 15 tablets, and various other school supplies and toiletries.”
~ Kyrsten Mahoney, Reach Out Co-Chair

Commuter Committee

“From shoe donations to sushi to ghost searching, the committee always had something up their sleeves, even during the compromised conditions of the pandemic.”
~ Ashleigh Kennedy, Commuter Committee Member, Blogger, and Blog Editor

“Although we didn’t see ghosts, we saw our friendships blossom to new heights. These peeps always had fun activities lined up that made me glad I joined.”
~ Jeremy Satyawan Putra, Commuter Committee Member and Blogger

Environmental Committee

“This semester the Environmental Committee held events to safely connect Honors students with the environment, including a Rail Trail cleanup and Earth Day event.”
~ Haley Jordan, Environmental Committee Co-Chair

Honors Ambassadors

“One of the great things about being a part of Honors Ambassadors is getting to network with potential new students and discuss the advantages of joining the Wood Honors College. Being able to promote the Honors College while building community is a pretty awesome experience!”
~ Keegan Fonder, Honors Ambassador

Students at Reach Out’s partner school in the Dominican Republic with their donated masks.

Honors students after another successful Rail Trail cleanup.

Overlooking Harpers Ferry, WV, during the Commuter Committee’s spring field trip.

Honors Ambassadors Keegan Fonder and Spencer Hood representing the Wood Honors College at Admitted Students Day.
Drs. Vera Blinn Reber and John L. Offner taught in the Shippensburg University History Department for 37 and 32 years, respectively. Dr. Reber's area of expertise is Latin America, while Dr. Offner's is United States Diplomatic History. Dr. Reber also served as Director of the Honors Program from 1991-95.

Vera and John are particularly committed to encouraging young women to succeed in the physical sciences. They would like Shippensburg University women to have experiences that will help them prepare to enter Ph.D. programs at leading universities. Summer research experiences at both Shippensburg and at a major Ph.D. granting institution or government organization will support a student's application for advanced graduate education. This passion to help Shippensburg University students is what inspired Drs. Reber and Offner to endow a fellowship to annually support a Wood Honors College student majoring in Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science or Mathematics.

To date, grants of $5,000 have been awarded to five students for summer research in their respective fields. The first recipient of the grant was Rachel Shaffer, Honors '18, a Chemistry major who is currently pursuing her M.D. at Drexel University College of Medicine. In her 2016 reflection on how the grant shaped her undergraduate education, Rachel wrote, “This experience gave me a different outlook on my major in all aspects. It's one thing to take classes or labs and to excel at them; it's a completely different experience when you are trying to generate an unknown result while finding solutions for problems along the way.” She recommended that all eligible students consider applying for the grant, “especially [those] who see research as a potential career option” after college.

### 2021 Reber-Offner Summer Research Grant Recipients

Congratulations to Ozha Aziz and Emily Ernst, the recipients of the 2021 Reber-Offner Summer Research Grants!

**Ozha, a sophomore Chemistry major, will research the intracellular pathways of G protein-coupled receptors with Dr. Thomas Frielle.**

**Emily, a first-year Math major, plans to conduct her research project, “Probability with Matrices Using Markov Chain Theory,” with Dr. Doug Ensley.**

### Consider a Gift to Support Wood Honors College Students

Please consider making a gift in support of these important funds. To make a gift, visit the SU Foundation website at [http://www.sufoundation.org/initiatives/academics/honors/](http://www.sufoundation.org/initiatives/academics/honors/).

- Wood Honors College Endowment: Supports Honors students’ undergraduate research and creative projects, participation at national and regional conferences, and other educational opportunities that are central to the Wood Honors College experience.
- Wood Honors College Scholarship Fund: Supports merit scholarships for incoming Wood Honors College students
- Wood Honors College Colloquium Fund: Supports Honors interdisciplinary service-learning projects around the world
- Wood Honors College Study Abroad Scholarship Fund: Supports students who desire to expand their academic experience and cultural horizons by studying abroad
- Wood Honors College Associates Fund: Supports the most urgent needs of the College

**Thank you for your generosity!**
Congratulations,
Spring 2021 Graduates!

Stephanie Barnett
Jonathan Benner
Kaitlin Bigham
Rachel Bruno
Matthew Cook
Colten Drawbaugh
Erica Franta
Luke Hershey
Tobias Hodges
Andrea Kling

Kaylyn Lampel
Morgan Landman
Brianna Miley
Nishi Natalia
Lindsey Neidinger
Megan Parsons
Ellie Piper
Carl Potter

Mari Reott
Malayna Rowe
Julia Sendatch
Gianna Sigado
Emily Slothower
Alexandra Spease
Emily Sterner
Alec Stimson
Ashley Wagner
Matthew Zemba