



Honors *Opportunity*



**Spring/Summer 2022
Newsletter**



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The Newsletter of The Wood Honors College at Shippensburg University
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Cover Photo by Alyssa Roadcap, Honors Freshman

Letters from the Editors

I'm writing this from Detroit, Michigan, the first of a few cities I'm visiting to celebrate the conclusion of my college experience. It's been a whirlwind of a semester--actually, a whirlwind of 8 semesters--and the finality of graduation was bittersweet. But, much like the city of Detroit, Ship is in a state of renaissance; the university and life as we knew it before the pandemic are being reborn into bigger and better things. In preparing for my next phase as a solution analyst at Deloitte, I'm grateful to have been a part of Ship and the Wood Honors College before, during, and following the pandemic, and I'm so excited for the current and future generations of students who will continue to impress and improve the world.



~ Madeline Cardinale, Senior Software Engineering Major

Wow! What a first year of college this has been! I'm not sure what I expected, but it definitely exceeded my expectations. I was so worried about going to real, in-person classes relevant to my future, making brand new friends, and just trying to adapt to this new lifestyle. Through all of my experiences thus far, I have to give credit to the Wood Honors College for helping my transition into this new world. In addition to meeting the majority of my friends here, I have been presented with several opportunities because of the Honors College. Who would have thought that I would be writing a newsletter when I want to be a physical therapist? I certainly didn't think so. But that's the whole point of opportunities: to be presented with something that can enhance your experiences even if it's out of your comfort zone.



~ Mackenzie Longworth, Freshman Exercise Science Major

When I started my freshman year this past fall at Ship, I was dealing with a burnout and languishing problem. World events outside of anyone's control had me rethinking many decisions from did I pick the right major to should I have taken a gap year. But, with reflection, I realized that I overlooked one key aspect - life is full of uncontrollable and unexpected twists and turns that, if approached properly, can lead to endless opportunities for self-exploration. The Wood Honors College has been vital in this realization as I learned that I did not have to be confined to just one program or one friend group. I have met amazing people, both professors and students alike, who are dedicated to helping others, whether that be with personal growth or with continued opportunities for future success.



~ Alyssa Roadcap, Freshman Biology Major

International Honors Opportunities



Reach Out: Service-Learning in the Dominican Republic

Reach Out is the Wood Honors College's service-learning partnership in the Dominican Republic. After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, ten Shippensburg students and faculty involved in Reach Out traveled to Santo Domingo from May 8-16, 2022 to work with students and teachers at our partner school. Honors senior Shelby Williams reflected on the opportunities that Reach Out offers. "As my Honors capstone project, I chose to write and implement the Reach Out curriculum manual. It was a great opportunity, and I was able to make strong connections with the students at the school in the Dominican Republic as well as my fellow travelers. We brought many school supplies, children's books, and research-based lessons to our partner elementary school. My perspective has changed in many ways as I have gained

a strong sense of gratitude and a deeper appreciation for using the resources that I have to help others. The trip was full of joy, laughter, and learning. I believe this opportunity greatly increased my Spanish-language skills and bettered me as an educator and as a person. I will use what I have seen and experienced to continue advocating for education and service."

Knowledge Café: A Global Discussion on Intercultural Communication

On April 21, Wood Honors College students participated in their first "Knowledge Café" on Zoom with students from Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences and the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Knowledge Cafés bring together Honors students and professors from around the world to discuss compelling issues and problems. The topic of this Knowledge Café was intercultural communication. Conversing in small groups, students compared their cultural values, recognizing the importance of understanding other cultures as well as their own in order to collaborate effectively with others all over the world. After the discussion, Honors sophomore Gabe Stotler noted, "I personally had a fantastic time with this experience. I feel like I made a few new friends from the Netherlands, which is so awesome! It was definitely so cool getting to talk to people from different cultures!" Honors junior Jack Schrock commented, "I really enjoyed participating in the Knowledge Café! It was very nice to have conversations with students from across the world. In my groups, everyone else was from the Netherlands. I was able to get an insight into their culture, values, and personal lives. As I reflect on this event, I am grateful that I attended. I believe that this experience should continue to be offered to our Honors students as it allows for great cultural and personal connections to be made. When I experience other cultures, whether through events like this or travel vlogs on YouTube, I commonly see how most people are good and want the same things out of life. I believe that this is something other students should see, to have a more accurate world view and to break their predetermined beliefs of other cultures." Based on students' overwhelmingly positive feedback, the Wood Honors College plans to co-host another Knowledge Café with Amsterdam University on October 6, 2022.



Honors Conference Opportunities

The Northeast Regional Honors Council hosts an annual conference where Honors students from across the northeastern United States present their research and creative projects. Six Wood Honors College seniors presented their Honors capstone projects at this year's conference in Philadelphia on April 9-10.

Haley Jordan and Shelby Williams, Teacher Education (PreK-4) Majors

“Problem Solving: Teaching Inquiry and Innovation as Cross-Curricular Skills in the Dominican Republic”

In 2009, Shippensburg University Honors students formed Reach Out, an organization that strives to improve the quality of education and educational infrastructure in the Dominican Republic. To achieve its goal, Reach Out partnered with a school that serves low-income children in the Dominican Republic. Each year, students involved in Reach Out create a curriculum manual to address the current needs and interests of the teachers and students at our partner school. This year's curricular manual focused on teaching problem-solving as a cross-curricular skill. This manual aims to teach problem-solving skills in a broad sense across many subject areas. After researching the benefits of explicit problem-solving instruction, we have created a resource that will assist educators in teaching and modeling problem solving skills across multiple disciplines.



Meg Thompson, Biology (Pre-Pharmacy) Major

“Prevalence of *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* at Letterkenny Army Depot”

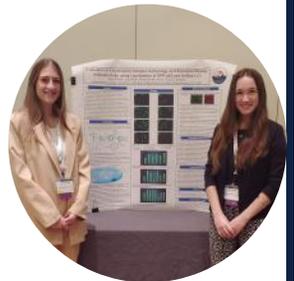
Ixodes scapularis is a notable vector of zoonotic pathogens in the United States. As *I. scapularis* populations increase, so does their transmission of Human granulitic anaplasmosis, the second-largest tick-borne disease in the United States. My research assessed the prevalence of the causative agent of HGA, *A. phagocytophilum* in selected tick and white-tailed deer populations in central PA. Using deer harvested from Letterkenny Army Depot in 2021 and 2022, the seasonal distribution of tick species, life stages, and molecular presence of *A. phagocytophilum* in ticks and white-tailed deer were assessed. In 2022, DNA from the ticks was isolated and tested for the presence of *A. phagocytophilum*. Positive samples were sequenced and amplified to identify the strain present. The population dynamics of tick species and prevalence of tick-borne disease aides in proper assessment of pathogenic risk, so appropriate responses can be enacted for human and wildlife health management.



Hope Shearer and Lydia Maier, Biology Majors

“Evaluation of Coordination between Autophagy and Exosome Release in Glioma Cells”

Expanding our understanding of how the processes of autophagy and exosome release manage the buildup and spread of unwanted or toxic proteins can lead to better tools to treat neurological degenerative diseases, including Parkinson's and Huntington's diseases. Autophagy is a key component in the progression of these diseases and exosomes may also be an important factor. We focused on dissecting the relationship between autophagy and exosomes to determine if/how they are coordinately regulated. Protein and RNA samples were collected from treatment groups for quantitative RT-PCR and Western blotting. Analysis of regulatory genes can show how the autophagy pathway influences exosomes through signaling, control of gene expression, fusion with multivesicular bodies and transfer of exosome cargo.



Madeline Cardinale, Software Engineering Major

“Fueling Friendships: The Creation and Expansion of the Honors Commuter Committee”

In early 2020, I founded the Honors Commuter Committee to bridge the gap between commuter and resident students. The committee's goals were twofold: first, to provide specialized resources and support for commuter students, and second, to leverage commuters' local expertise to support resident students who were new to the Shippensburg area. By drawing on commuters' experience maintaining off-campus academic and social success, the committee sought to provide a welcoming network of peers and creative ways for Honors students to connect with each other. Through the committee's blog, *The Dorm-less Diary*, as well as meetings, events, and road trips, the Commuter Committee continues to form lasting bonds between Honors students, demonstrating that community is not solely found on campus.



Opportunities to Serve the Community

Honors Day of Service

"The Honors Day of Service on Saturday, April 23 was a great success! Approximately fifty Honors students participated in four community service projects, including boxing up food for the Hound Packs Program, collecting school supplies for Reach Out, cleaning up Memorial Park, and planting trees. It was great to see this in-person event return and have a large group of Honors students come together to serve the local community, especially after the pandemic curtailed this program last year. The efforts of the students who organized the event paid off, as it was a rewarding day for all involved."

~**Jamie Smith, Chair, Honors Student Executive Board**



"The Wood Honors College emphasizes service, especially to the local community. Partnering with Hound Packs on the Honors Day of Service gave us the opportunity to provide food for children who are experiencing food insecurity and show our commitment to the Shippensburg community. The Honors Day of Service offered Honors students a meaningful way to support those around us."

~**Casey Harper, Coordinator, Hounds Pack Project**



"Planting trees during the Honors Day of Service was a great opportunity for Honors students to make a difference in our local community. This event combined my commitment to environmental conservation and service while being an active steward of Shippensburg. By planting trees as a riparian buffer, we helped to ensure the local watershed would be preserved for and enjoyed by future generations."

~**Jacob Shiber, Coordinator, Tree Planting Project**

"Collecting school supplies for Reach Out at the local Dollar Tree provided an opportunity to contribute to our community here at Ship and in the Dominican Republic. Interacting with the Ship community was rewarding, and people were extremely generous. Even those of us not traveling to the Dominican Republic this year were able to make a difference in the Pathways of Learning School through this school supply drive!"

~**Jess Blick, School Supply Collection for Reach Out**



Spring Semester Highlights



Activities Committee

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Honors Activities Committee hosted the annual egg dyeing event on April 4 in the Harley MPR. Committee co-chairs Brigid Cantwell and Regina Yeung prepared 72 boiled eggs for students to dye, and the event was a great break for students as the final month of the semester began. Sophomore Jenna Walmer said, "It was lots of fun to spend time with other Honors students outside of the classroom! I really enjoyed being able to take a break from schoolwork and do an activity that I haven't done for a long time." Junior Riana Peters commented, "I really enjoyed egg dyeing considering this is the first time our junior class had the opportunity to participate in this annual spring event." The Activities Committee was glad to have a great turnout and hopes even more students participate next year.



Honors Read

"Honors Read is more than just the official book club of the Wood Honors College. Our committee provides numerous opportunities for students to expand their minds, have fun, and destress through literature. When creating our events, we incorporate different types of literature like novels, short stories, and poetry, as well as different activities, including fun, literary-themed events like book bingo, book trivia, and book Jeopardy. This semester we hosted Book Charades, a Wattpad Discussion, and a Poetry Picnic. Our varied events allow Honors students to explore different styles of literature, enjoy open discussions, and learn about literature in ways they may never have encountered. Honors Read also gives students a way to connect with other members of the Honors community in a relaxing environment." ~ **Riana Peters, Honors Read Co-Chair**



Wellness Committee

"The Honors Wellness Committee is focused on providing students with opportunities to enhance their mental and physical health. We hold events, including yoga and hikes, that allow students to take a break from academics, relax, and get some exercise. The semesterly yoga event provides students with the opportunity to learn about and participate in yoga practices. Periodic hikes provide students with opportunities to explore local trails and parks. For those students who are unable to attend the scheduled events, we also include Weekly Wellness Tips at the end of the Honors Weekly Updates. We encourage students to send us any helpful tips, quotes, or information that could prove beneficial for other Honors College students." ~ **Caleb Gayman, Wellness Committee Co-Chair**



Washington, D.C. Field Trip

"On Sunday, April 3, 2022, Wood Honors College students participated in a field trip to Washington, D.C. led by Dr. Christine Senecal and Dr. Erica Galioto. The field trip provided Honors students with unique opportunities to engage with course content in ways beyond what the traditional classroom setting typically allows. Focal points were the Smithsonian Freer and Sackler Galleries and The National Museum of the American Indian. Whether students sought out additional museums, sampled new foods, or simply enjoyed the late cherry blossoms, it was wonderful to see students in an environment where they could socialize with one another and gain meaningful cultural exposure at the same time."

~ **Dr. Erica Galioto, Professor, Honors Intro to Literature and Society**



Honors Symposium, Spring 2022

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 April 19-20, 2022.

Veronica Best, Biology/Secondary Education Major

“Impact of Autophagy on Cancer Cell Migration”

Jody Boyer, Finance Major

“Financial Analysis Report”

Ashlyn Browning, History Major

“The Concern for Human Rights: Capital Punishment in the French Revolution and the U.S.”

Nicole Calandrelle, Accounting and Finance Major

“Businesses and Their Contribution to Food Waste”

Madeline Cardinale, Software Engineering Major

“Fueling Friendships: The Creation and Expansion of the Honors Commuter Committee”

Chase Carpenter, Accounting and Management Major

“Prevalence of Fraud and Misstatement in Two of the Big Four Accounting Firms Post-Sarbanes-Oxley Act”

Erika Ebersole, Mechanical Engineering Major

“Athletic Training Device: Designing the Optimal Machine to Help Student Athletes”

Sara Gherardi, Biology and Psychology Major

“Public Perception of Political Figures”

Cooper Grove, Biology Major

“Presence and Strain Discernment of *Rickettsia Asembonensis*, a Newly Emerging Worldwide Microbe, in Pennsylvania Ectoparasite Populations”

Haley Jordan and Shelby Williams, Teacher Education (PreK-4) Majors

“Problem Solving: Teaching Inquiry and Innovation as Cross-Curricular Skills in the Dominican Republic”

Courtney King, Accounting and Finance Major

“The Impact of Legislative Responses to the 2008 Financial Crisis and Further Preventative Measures”

Molly Lively, Accounting and Finance Major

“Understanding the Economic Impact of the CARES Act”

Kyrsten Mahoney, Marketing and Management Major

“Measuring Public Service Announcements’ Effectiveness on Changing Perceptions: Human Trafficking”

Lydia Maier and Hope Shearer, Biology Majors

“Evaluation of Coordination between Autophagy and Exosome Release in Glioma Cells”

John Nissley, Communication Journalism Major

“Our Ship is Mighty: An Investigation of the Mental Health of College Athletes”

Carson Pennings, Teacher Education (PreK-4) Major

“Impact on Student Learning Project”

Maddie Reuther, Marketing Major

“Exploring the Impact of Social Media and Influencer Marketing on Body Image: Double-Edged Sword”

Kasey Schuchardt, Psychology Major

“Undergraduate College Student Athletes: Understanding Stigma, Help Seeking Behaviors, and Mental Health Knowledge”

Matthew Seiferth, Management Major

“Coaching for Change”

Meg Thompson, Biology Major

“Prevalence of *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* (white-tailed deer and human variants) at Letterkenny Army Depot”

Trevor Woolwine, Mathematics Secondary Education

“ESTEEM: A Student Perspective”

Honors Awards, 2021-2022

Outstanding Honors Capstone Project Award

Congratulations to **Meg Thompson** and **Bess Points** (pictured right), who were recognized with the Outstanding Honors Capstone Project Award at the Honors Spring Celebration on April 27, 2022! Meg's Honors capstone project was "Prevalence of *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* (white-tailed deer and human variants) at Letterkenny Army Depot." Bess's Honors capstone project was "Palynological Investigation of a Paleosol on the Eastern Shore, Virginia." Honorable Mentions were awarded to **Erika Ebersole**, "Athletic Training Device: Designing the Optimal Machine to Help Student Athletes" and **Haley Jordan and Shelby Williams**, "Problem Solving: Teaching Inquiry and Innovation as Cross-Curricular Skills in the Dominican Republic."



Spirit of Honors Award

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 2021-2022 recipients of the Spirit of Honors Award are (pictured left to right) **Cooper Grove, Kyrsten Mahoney, Erika Ebersole, and Madeline Cardinale**. The award recipients compiled outstanding records of academic achievement, served in important Honors leadership roles, and represented the Wood Honors College at national and regional Honors conferences.



Outstanding Honors Mentor Award

Congratulations to Honors sophomore **Keegan Fonder**, recipient of the Outstanding Honors Mentor Award! Keegan is pictured with his mentee, Jonathan Miller.

"Even though Keegan has had a very busy year he has made every effort to help me succeed as a first-year student. Anytime I had questions about scheduling, classes, professors, or any other general questions he was always ready to give me an answer. Keegan also helped me out by giving me a good deal on a textbook. Keegan greatly helped with my transition to college by telling me what I need to do in order to succeed here at Shippensburg University, and I greatly appreciate all of his help."

~ Jonathan Miller's nomination of Keegan Fonder



Seniors Reflect on Honors Opportunities

"The Wood Honors College has given me so many opportunities to expand my worldview and knowledge. Through my Partners in the Parks experience at Zion National Park in Utah, I learned about the park's geology and wildlife and connected with Honors students from across the country who share my passion for the outdoors. Through my participation in Reach Out, I learned how to increase access to education globally. I am excited to take what I've learned through Reach Out, especially the curriculum manual focused on problem-solving that I created for our partner school, with me as I travel to the Dominican Republic in May 2022. I am immensely grateful for the opportunities the Wood Honors College has given me, and I know that these experiences have helped me to become a more well-rounded and informed individual."

~Haley Jordan, Teacher Education (PreK-4) Major. Haley plans to pursue an elementary teaching position.



"I am incredibly thankful for the opportunities that the Wood Honors College offers its students. Before I attended Honors orientation in summer 2018, I was on the fence about whether the Honors College was going to be a good fit for me. It took only a few hours of actually being at Honors orientation and interacting with fellow Honors students, professors, and advisors to know that the Wood Honors College was exactly where I needed to be. I met the people who later became my roommates for the first time at orientation, and the Wood Honors College has introduced me to many other lifelong friends. I knew after my experience I wanted to be involved with Honors orientation so when I saw the opportunity to become a co-chair for the committee, I quickly took it. Since then, I have worked closely with Dr. Klein, Dr. Melara, and Cindy to plan the last three Honors summer orientations. I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to be a part of such an awesome experience. The Wood Honors College helps foster a very tight-knit community, and students' early involvement through Honors orientation helps so much to ease the tension and stress associated with transitioning to college."

~Cooper Grove, Biology Major. Cooper will pursue his M.D. at Penn State University College of Medicine.

"During my four years at Shippensburg University, I have been involved in Reach Out, the Wood Honors College's service-learning project in the Dominican Republic. I currently serve as the organization's president and fundraising chair. The decision that I made to become involved in Reach Out during my first year provided me with opportunities to hold leadership positions, make friends, and develop strong relationships with faculty. I also had the opportunity to make an invited presentation on Reach Out at the 2021 National Collegiate Honors Conference. These experiences helped me develop leadership and teamwork skills and grow as a student and individual. Now that I plan to attend graduate school, I can say that my relationship with my Honors faculty was important in my graduate decision. The support I received from Dr. Pierce, the Reach Out faculty advisor, and Dr. Klein throughout college pushed me to strive to do my best work. Dr. Klein also helped me get involved as an Honors student assistant, Honors Ambassador, and Honors mentor. These positions pushed me out of my comfort zone and helped me become a more well-rounded student."

~Kyrsten Mahoney, Marketing and Management Major. Kyrsten plans to pursue a Master's degree in Advertising at Boston University.



Newsletter Wins Awards

The Wood Honors College newsletter won top awards in the national and regional Honors newsletter contests in 2021-2022. The newsletter won first prize in the student-produced, print division of the national Honors newsletter contest, which is sponsored by the National Collegiate Honors Council, the national professional association of Honors Programs and Colleges. The newsletter also won first prize in the inaugural regional Honors newsletter contest, which is sponsored by the Northeast Regional Honors Council. Luke Hershey '21 and Madeline Cardinale '22, Editors of the award-winning newsletter, reflected on their experiences.

"In January of 2018, I'd bailed on my dreams of becoming a rock star and moved back to my parents' house to attend local Shippensburg University, which I swore I'd never do for rebellious-teen-type reasons. I walked in to Harley Hall knowing no one and feeling creatively useless. The first way I put myself out there in my new home was by interviewing for the job to make the Honors newsletter. I found an opportunity to collaborate with talented peers and let my creative energies flow in a meaningful way. In my four years working on the newsletter, I met a Pulitzer Prize winner and a famous activist/comedian, traveled to Boston and New Orleans to attend national Honors conferences, wrote several irreverent columns that (somehow) made the cut, worked with the brightest thinkers on campus, and highlighted the amazing goings-on of Honors students, past and present. Although winning the NCHC newsletter contest is very humbling, my work on the newsletter gave me more gratification than any award ever could." ~**Luke Hershey**



Editors Luke Hershey and Madeline Cardinale are pictured with the plaque they received for winning the national Honors newsletter contest.



Editor Madeline Cardinale accepts the award for top newsletter in the Northeast region at the Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference.

"While it seems a bit meta to talk about the Honors newsletter within the Honors newsletter, I don't feel I could properly conclude my time as an editor without saying how grateful I am for this experience. Serving as a newsletter editor has been an incredible opportunity for me, largely due to how it's helped me hone graphic design, communication, and collaboration skills that will be invaluable throughout my career. I couldn't be prouder of the small but mighty team of editors that works tirelessly each semester to produce this newsletter, and it's astonishing to think that our humble publication has been recognized with 1st-place regional and national awards this past year. But above all, I've thoroughly enjoyed the process of curating newsletter content each semester—it's been both inspirational and gratifying to collect the perspectives of students, alumni, faculty, and staff that form a comprehensive glimpse into the Wood Honors College, and I'm so excited to see the newsletter's future under the leadership of its amazing new editors." ~**Madeline Cardinale**

To read Luke and Madeline's award-winning newsletter issue, visit <https://www.ship.edu/globalassets/honors/newsletters/2020-2021-spring-summer-newsletter.pdf>.

Consider a Gift to Support Wood Honors College Students

Please consider making a gift to these important funds that support Honors students. To make a gift, visit the SU Foundation website at <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!

Shippensburg University
FOUNDATION

Congratulations, Spring 2022 Graduates!



Jody Boyer
Ashlyn Browning
Nicole Calandrelle
Madeline Cardinale
Chase Carpenter
Erika Ebersole
Sara Gherardi
Cooper Grove

Haley Jordan
Courtney King
Molly Lively
Kyrsten Mahoney
Lydia Maier
Brenna McKnight
John Nissley

Carson Pennings
Maddie Reuther
Kasey Schuchardt
Matthew Seiferth
Hope Shearer
Meg Thompson
Shelby Williams
Trevor Woolwine

