Honors at Home
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Cover Photo: Honors Orientation volunteers ready to welcome our new students.
Photo Credit: Mackenzie Longworth, Honors Sophomore
How am I already halfway through with my undergraduate degree? Like they say, "time flies when you're having fun." I constantly push myself to try new things and put myself out there, even if it seems intimidating at first. Shippensburg University has become a place where I feel like I fit in and where I belong. Students on campus, and specifically in Honors, show how much they have to offer to the university inside and out of the classroom throughout the semester. Students in Honors this past semester participated in making a SUPER Map that made local headlines, planned a Day of Service in which they gave back to the community, attended a regional conference where they presented research that they completed with Shippensburg faculty, presented their Capstone projects, and more. Honors students also stay busy during summer break by doing summer research, studying and traveling abroad, taking summer classes, completing internships, and planning an Honors orientation in which we welcome new first-year Honors students. I had the privilege to volunteer with orientation this summer. It is a super exciting feeling for me when I get to show new students what Honors is all about and how I take every opportunity presented to make the most of my college experience. Honors gives students the opportunity to achieve new things while also giving back at the same time. I often question where I would be in my college career if it wasn’t for the Wood Honors College. I truly consider it a second home where everyone is constantly willing to lend a hand and give back to those who gave to them.

**Mackenzie Longworth,**
**Sophomore Exercise Science major**

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Home is often a place where we feel the most confident and relaxed, surrounded by people who we can trust and believe in. It is often the town or house where we grew up, but it can be any location that we settle into this level of comfort. The Wood Honors College, with its diverse student body and committed faculty, works hard to help students feel this level of calmness even in a new environment. It offers students the chance to be part of a passionate, zealous group that actively promotes self-reliance, dedication, knowledge, and maybe most importantly, collaboration. We reflect on this Honors team and its impact here at our home away from home, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. One can bear witness to the power of this team through participation in the Honors Day of Service, through attending the Honors Spring Celebration, or simply through engaging in an Honors class. At the Honors Day of Service, students were encouraged to use their strengths and compassion to help the surrounding community. Supporting others is a hallmark of defining a new "home" as we will all surely need such guidance even if the timing is yet unknown. The Honors Spring Celebration allowed seniors to look back at their capstone projects and the individual dedication, as well as the collaboration it required with faculty mentors and students from Ship and universities around the country. It shows the best of ingenuity and innovation often comes from not only maximizing one's personal abilities, but relying on input from others with their unique skills.

The Wood Honors College has helped me foster a new home, allowing for self-awareness and allowing me to gain the wisdom of when to ask for help from others and learn from their ideas.

**Alyssa Roadcap,**
**Sophomore Biology major**
Inside an Honors Classroom: SUPER Map
by Hannah Cornell, Honors Junior and
Jenna Cornell, Honors Sophomore

When we walked into Dr. Alison Dagnes’ Pennsylvania Elections Seminar class in the fall, we were unsure of what to expect. As an English major (Hannah) and a Communications, Journalism and Media major (Jenna), neither of us had a background in Political Science that we felt would prepare us adequately for what this class would aim to achieve. This class, which is usually taught during most midterm election years, had in the past been focused on learning about Pennsylvania elections and watching the outcomes of the midterm elections.

This year was different because Dr. Dagnes had come up with an idea to expand the boundaries of what had been done in the past by asking students to work together to create an innovative presentation of Pennsylvania voter data. Instead of simply learning about elections and observing them, the goal was to have us utilize data from previous election years to create a display of voting trends in our state.

“This was a lofty task, but from day one, Dr. Dagnes’ passion and determination to teach us the concepts necessary to understand elections within Pennsylvania was incredibly successful.”

By the third week into the class, we had come up with the concept of the Shippensburg University Pennsylvania Election Research Map or SUPER Map, which was to be an innovative, one-of-a-kind project that would help us to determine how Pennsylvanian voters participate in elections and the manner in which they vote. This was notably important due to Pennsylvania’s political power as a swing state. While the project experienced a few kinks along the way, we had an amazing group of people dedicated to seeing it through from the students who were divided into the Public Relations, Data Collection, and GIS Mapping teams, to Dr. Dagnes who led us fearlessly. At times it became daunting, because there was a lot of raw data to look at and analyze, as well as many critical thinking sessions which required us to look back on elections that we were too young to have voted in ourselves. Our data spreadsheet was perhaps one of the biggest challenges because we had to enter raw numbers from government databases and create equations for calculations that were necessary for what our project analyzed, from voter participation to rural-urban divides.

We were extremely grateful to be a part of such a unique, forward-thinking project, especially having never participated in something of this academic caliber before. Most rewarding about this endeavor was the impact it had on both our understanding as students and Pennsylvania voters, but also the impact it had on our local community. We gained media attention from local news stations, we had people who were working in political campaigns reach out to us, and we even visited high schools to share our work. Ultimately, this project proved to be one of the most influential and impactful experiences of our time in the Wood Honors College at Shippensburg University.

When asked about leading the students in her Honors Pennsylvania Elections Seminar Class to successful culmination of the project, Dr. Alison Dagnes, professor of Political Science, emphasized its rigor and applicability:

"In 2022, the midterm elections were incredibly important. The statewide Pennsylvania elections got a great deal of attention because of our open Senate and Governor’s seats. Because Pennsylvania is so closely divided, I knew that we would have to keenly understand the complexities of the Commonwealth. To help make sense of the different voting behaviors among our 67 counties, Honors students and I created the Shippensburg University Pennsylvania Election Research Map (SUPER Map) to present voting statistics and changes in voting patterns over time.

This was a first-of-its-kind project, using government election data and GIS programming to get into the vital details of Pennsylvania, a vital election swing state. The students worked together, learned about GIS technology, researched the voting statistics, and presented their work to our surrounding communities. It was fun, educational, and demonstrated the very best of Ship Honors!"

To view the Honors students’ work, please visit https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5ef6396ed2364cc79b04c04c22b16b5a .
We hosted our annual Honors Day of Service on Saturday, April 22. Approximately 75 Honors students participated in three service projects, including boxing food donations for the Hound Packs Program, cleaning trash around Shippensburg University and Dykeman Park, and hosting a Dollar Tree fundraiser for Reach Out, our service-learning project in the Dominican Republic. It was great to see that the number of students involved grew from last year, allowing us to have an even bigger impact on the community. Many Honors students played roles in organizing the event, and their efforts paid off as all of the projects were successful!

~Jamie Smith, Chair, Honors Student Executive Board

"This year, a group of 10 Honors students volunteered at Hound Packs, an organization that collects and donates food to children in the Shippensburg Area School District who are experiencing food insecurity. Honors students donated and packed up bags of food, which were then distributed to students in the school district. The event was a huge success, and we hope to work with Hound Packs in the future to continue bettering the lives of children in our community!"

~Ashley Unger, Coordinator, Hounds Pack Project

"The trash cleanup during the Honors Day of Service was a great experience for all of us involved. As a senior, I was able to connect with other Honors students while helping clean around the community. Overall, this was a great activity that allowed Honors students to give back to Shippensburg while also giving us a chance to take a break from classes and become closer as an Honors community."

~Casey Platts, Volunteer, Trash Clean Up

"I enjoyed the chance to participate in the 2023 Honors Day of Service through the Reach Out supplies drive at a local retail store. It was a great opportunity to meet current students and learn how the Reach Out program has evolved since I was part of the original cohort. I was also impressed by how many customers stopped to donate money or merchandise to the cause."

~Tyler Miller, Honors ’06, Reach Out School Supply Drive
I now understand why they call Pittsburgh the City of Bridges. No matter where you look, there is always another bridge to cross, but be careful because one wrong turn and you just extended your five-minute drive to your destination into a thirty-minute adventure. The Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC) Conference, held in Pittsburgh on March 30 - April 2, 2023 was a great opportunity to see Honors students present their research and creative projects.

Honors students Adam Haertter, Garrett Funk, Juliana Baumgardner, Brighid Cantwell, Megan Gardenhour, along with Dr. Klein, and I, first met together for the conference banquet late Friday night. As we looked forward to the conference in its entirety, we all shared our excitement for that weekend. The keynote speaker, Tony Norman, was inspiring as he spoke about gun violence in America, and more specifically, in Pittsburgh. His speech connected to the theme of the conference, “Understanding Hate, Loss, Violence, and Reconciliation.” Due to the complex, thought-provoking nature of speech, students utilized the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about his experience with this topic.

With Megan, Garrett, and Adam presenting early Saturday morning, we went to bed promptly. Before the presentations, Megan and I had the opportunity to try Pittsburgh coffee at Yinz Coffee; 10/10 cold brew if you ask me. I enjoyed listening to our presenters while also learning about other Honors students’ projects. Some students had posters to present their research while others had an open session to discuss their projects. I attended a health professionals sessions since I want to work in the health care field in the future. All of the students presented fascinating information that excites me to prepare for my career.

After the poster presentations and sessions, we had free time to see the city. Megan, Brighid, Juliana, and I decided to tour part of the city together. We rode the Monongahela Incline to get an overview of the city. We visited a local bakery and spent time taking in all of the beautiful scenery. We ended Friday night by getting dinner at Hard Rock Café and attending the conference’s Red Carpet Gala. It was a lot of fun to get dressed up, dance to music, and spend time with other Honors students.

On Sunday morning, Juliana and Brighid presented their poster project. Brighid said, “It was a great experience to present my research with Juliana and see research done by other Honors students”. After the morning presentations, we wrapped up the conference by attending the awards ceremony and hearing closing remarks from the president of the NRHC.

Providing additional insight into the student perspective, Megan reflected on her experience at the conference, stating, “During my time in Pittsburgh at the Northeast Regional Honors Conference, I was stuck by how welcoming it truly was. There were countless students wandering the halls and talking about their projects, and they were so forthcoming in asking where we were from. Even though I was one of the very few English Literature students, I still had others walking up to my poster and gushing over my research. It was inspiring to hear them thank me for bringing queer theory into the space of an Honors conference, because they had never gotten the chance to bring their own identities into their studies. It opened my eyes up to the impact of my research on others, even if they were not from a literary background. My experience in Pittsburgh at the conference was fun with all of the events and sightseeing I did, but those students who felt comfortable enough to talk to me about their connections to my topic meant more than anything I witnessed during my trip!”

Adam also reflected on his positive conference experience. “When I started working on my software engineering capstone, I never thought about getting the opportunity to present it at this scale. I loved getting to connect with students from other schools and learn about all sorts of new topics. Getting to explore Pittsburgh during the downtime was a ton of fun as well!”

The regional Honors conference in Pittsburgh was a memorable opportunity. I look forward to completing my own research project and applying to present at a future conference, too!
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 April 19-20, 2023.

Ozha Aziz, Chemistry Major
“Cu(II)-12-MC-4 and DNA Binding Study”

Juliana Baumgardner and Allison Zaremba*, Biology Majors
“Studying the Linkage between Autophagy and Apoptosis”

Isabella Brignola, English Major
“The Severing of the Pentangle: Gender and Sexuality in Sir Gawain and the Green Knight”

Jessica Blick*, Psychology Major
“The Need for Critical Incident Stress Management for First-Responders: Creating the Franklin County CISM Team”

Hannah Bucher, Biology Major, Pre-Veterinary Concentration
“Speciation of Rickettsia Isolates Identified in Ticks Collected from Didelphis Virginiana”

Scott Bucher, Computer Science and Software Engineering Major
“Neural Networks to Predict NFL Match Results”

Clairanne Chairs*, Teacher Education (PreK-4/Special Education) Major
“Transforming Paper into a Garment with Historical and Sustainable Perspectives”

Amanda Consylman, Chemistry Major
“Functionalization of Iodo-substituted Chalcone Dibromides”

Madison Cosey, Teacher Education (4-8) Major
“Teaching Beyond the Content: A Curriculum Manual for Social-Emotional Learning in the Dominican Republic”

Cheyenne Cravener, Psychology Major
“Attachment Quality and Satisfaction in Psychology Major Mentoring Relationships”

Tara Czekner, Political Science Major
“Saving the Final Frontier: Seeking Legal Solutions to the Political Problem of Space Debris”

Madison Dzurko, Accounting Major
“Impacts of CPA Certification on Career and Employment Prospects in Accounting Careers”

Emily Ernst, Mathematics Major
“Myocardial Infarction Relapse”

Garrett Funk, Civil Engineering Major
“Innovative Infrastructure Design of Roadway Water Collection System Using Permeable Concrete Pavers in Rapid Urbanization”

Megan Gardenhour, English (Secondary Education) Major
“The Monster in the Closet: Hideosity and Queer Fear in Lesbian Horror”

Darin Gregas, Mechanical Engineering Major
“Design of a Tensile Tester to Obtain Material Properties”

Olivia Gregory*, Teacher Education (PreK-4/Special Education) Major
“Does Phonics Intervention Help Struggling Readers?”

Trevor Grohowski and Christopher Higgins, Electrical Engineering Majors
“Remote Weather Data Probe Project”

Adam Haertter, Computer Science and Software Engineering Major
“The Limits of Automatic Music Genre Classification Using a Neural Network”
Laura Hecker*, Psychology Major
“Satisfaction with Social Support Offered in Supportive Housing Programs for Individuals with Serious and Persistent Mental Illness”

Spencer Hood, Accounting Major
“Energizing the Future: The Causal Link Between Energy Tax Credits and Sustainable Behaviors”

Elise Hutzell, Chemistry Major
“Characterization of Four Substituted Pentylones via NMR Spectroscopy”

Ashleigh Kennedy*, English/Literacy Studies Major
“Studies // Show”

Maria Maresca, Political Science Major
“White Paper on Fiat Money and Cryptocurrency as a Solution”

Hannah Moats, Computer Science Major
“Modeling Artificial Life with a Genetic Algorithm”

Brennan Mulligan, Software Engineering Major
“Ampli Calendar”

Ashlee Newton, Biology Major, Pre-Medicine Concentration
“Comparison of Flea Haplotype among Rickettsia asembonensis- and Rickettsia felis-positive Fleas Collected from Wild Canids and Opossums”

Riana Peters, Mathematics (Secondary Education) Major
“Playing with Pyramids: Comparative Analysis of Pre-Service Elementary and Math Secondary Teachers’ Geometric Spatial Visualization Abilities”

Samuel Pittenger, Psychology Major
“Feelin’ Lucky? An Examination of Anxiety, Intolerance for Uncertainty, and Perceived Luckiness”

Casey Platts, Management Information Systems Major
“No Phishing Allowed: Analysis of Phishing Cybersecurity Awareness at Shippensburg University”

Shianne Reaves, Teacher Education (4-8) Major
“Practicing Democracy: Engaging in Controversial Topics in the Classroom”

Joseph Royle, Entrepreneurship Major
“New Venture Creation and Business Plan”

Payton Sampson, Teacher Education (PreK-4) Major
“Reflecting on Word Work and Student Data”

Chase Slenker, Accounting and Supply Chain Management Major
“Ammutative Industry’s Key to Success: Achieving Competitive Advantage through Supply Chain Integration”

Jamilyn Smith, Entrepreneurship and Marketing Major
“Going Green Consulting”

Alyssah Watson, Biology Major
“MiRNA Response in Coordinated Regulation of Autophagy and Exosome Biogenesis”

Riley Weller*, Accounting Major
“The Influence of Culture on the Resistance to International Financial Reporting Standards Adoption in the United States”

Vincent Wijaya, Political Science Major
“Invisibility and Identity in Forcibly Displaced Persons”

Kristen Zellner, Management and Marketing Major
“Deciphering the Destructive Leadership of Travis Kalanick and Elon Musk”

*Indicates December Graduate
Honors Awards, 2022-2023

Outstanding Honors Mentor Award

Congratulations to Megan Gardenhour and Garrett Funk, who were recognized with the Outstanding Honors Capstone Project Award at the Honors Spring Celebration on April 26, 2023! Megan's Honors capstone project was “The Monster in the Closet: Hideosity and Queer Fear in Lesbian Horror.” Garrett's Honors capstone project was “Innovative Infrastructure Design of Roadway Water Collection System Using Permeable Concrete Pavers in Rapid Urbanization.” Honorable Mentions were awarded to Tara Czekner, “Saving the Final Frontier: Seeking Legal Solutions to the Political Problem of Space Debris” and Casey Platts, “No Phishing Allowed: Analysis of Phishing Cybersecurity Awareness at Shippensburg University.”

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 2022-2023 recipients of the Spirit of Honors Award were (pictured left to right), Jamelyn Smith, Chase Slenker, and Riana Peters. The award recipients compiled outstanding records of academic achievement, served in important Honors leadership roles, and developed innovative programs to support Honors students.

Outstanding Honors Mentor Award

Congratulations to Honors senior Cheyenne Cravener, recipient of the Outstanding Honors Mentor Award! Cheyenne is pictured with her mentee, Elaina Georgelis.

"Cheyenne always made me feel so welcomed here at Ship. From just having conversation as we pass by each other, to always reaching out and answering any questions that I had. She was extremely knowledgeable about the Honors College along with the requirements needed for the Psychology Department. She also recommended on campus jobs for me to look into!"

~ Elaina Georgelis' nomination of Cheyenne Cravener
An Honors Adventure: From Ship to China to Planet Fitness

One goal of mine during my time at Shippensburg University was to study abroad. I have always aspired to travel the world and experience what every country has to offer. Thankfully, I am going to make this dream a reality this summer when I am studying abroad in Europe with the Political Science Department. I will be going to Spain, Italy, Ireland, France and the Netherlands. However, I have never been outside of the country before, so, naturally, I had many questions. Luckily, the Honors College hosted Honors alumnus JohnPaul Bennett. JohnPaul was a 2009 graduate and majored in international studies. He studied abroad in China, and during the panel, he talked about his experiences living in another country, taking language courses, packing, and undergoing culture shock. Despite the fact that I am not going to be gone as long as JohnPaul Bennett was, I still learned a lot of information that I am going to use when I am in Europe. I’m so glad to have the accessibility and the resources to talk with Honors alumni about their experiences in Honors. It’s nice knowing that I not only have Honors students to help me, but I also have the ability to talk with many former alumni.

~JaJuan Brown, Honors Junior

Ship Honors Experience Codes to the Tech World

Since joining Deloitte after my graduation from Ship last year, it’s been proven time and again that I’ve landed at the Wood Honors College of the corporate world. Between the community engagement activities provided to employees, the opportunities for mentoring and leadership, and the endless supply of educational experiences - it’s like Ship Honors: The International Tech Company Edition, and I love every second of it. The icing on the cake? Being able to chat with current Honors students—a variety of new and familiar faces, already making me feel old yet still very at home—to share some tidbits about translating college life to career life. Both Deloitte and the Wood Honors College are incredible, motivating, and engaging environments, and I am forever grateful that my experiences in Honors prepared me to thrive as much now at Deloitte as they did then at Ship.

~Madeline Cardinale, Honors ’22
Consider a Gift to Support Wood Honors College Students!

Please consider making a gift to these important funds that support the opportunities for Honors students highlighted in this newsletter. 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 Colloquium Fund: Supports Honors interdisciplinary service-learning projects around the world.
- Wood Honors College Scholarship Fund: Supports merit scholarships for incoming Wood Honors College students.
- 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 2023 Graduates!

Ozha Aziz
Juliana Baumgardner
Isabella Brignola
Hannah Bucher
Scott Bucher
Amanda Consylman
Madison Cosey
Cheyenne Cravener
Tara Czekner
Madison Dzurko
Emily Ernst
Garrett Funk

Megan Gardenhour
Darin Gregas
Trevor Grohowski
Adam Haertter
Christopher Higgins
Spencer Hood
Elise Hutzell
Maria Maresca
Aaron Mason
Hannah Moats
Brennan Mulligan
Ashlee Newton
Riana Peters

Samuel Pittenger
Casey Platts
Shianne Reaves
Joseph Royle
Payton Sampson
Jack Schrock
Seth Sjoberg
Chase Slenker
Jamilyn Smith
Alyssah Watson
Vincent Wijaya
Kristen Zellner