

# The Honors Program Newsletter

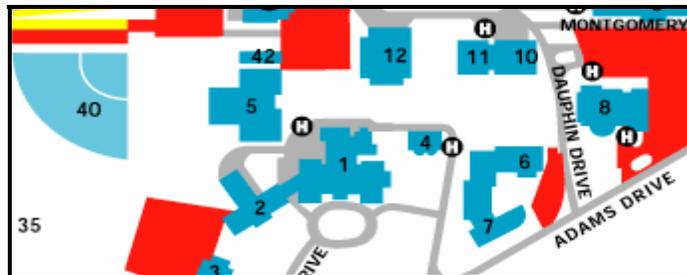
VOL. 17, ISSUE 1

FROM THE HONORS OFFICE, HORTON HALL 104

SUMMER 2004

## Welcome freshmen! Orientation begins Aug. 27

Honors Freshmen Orientation will begin on Academic Day, August 27, from 11:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The Honors Director, Dr. Kim Klein, and upperclass Honors students will lead the orientation. The program includes a meeting with the Honors administration, a tour of the Honors office, the student convocation luncheon, and the Honors discussion sessions. Honors freshmen should meet in the first floor lobby of Horton Hall at 11:15 a.m. Honors Freshmen Orientation will continue with a mentor-mentee picnic on August 29 and a series of five panel presentations and dinners in August, September, and October.



Horton Hall (2) is next to Old Main (1) and Henderson Gymnasium (5), and is near Kriner Dining Hall (12). Meet in the lobby.

## CALENDAR

### August

**27— Academic Day/Freshmen Orientation Begins**  
*11:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Meet in lobby of Horton Hall*

**29— Mentor-Mentee Picnic & Hike**  
*4:30 to 6:30 p.m., place TBA*

**31— Freshman Orientation Session and Dinner:  
Honors Student Organization**  
*5:30 to 6:25 p.m., DHC 151*

### September

**2 — Honors Fall Reception & General Meeting**  
*3:30 p.m., Tuscarora Room*  
See old friends, meet new students, and learn essential Honors information for the 2004-2005 year.

**13, 21, & 27— Election 2004 Debate Series**  
*7:00 p.m., Old Main Chapel*  
See the article on page 2 for more information.

**14 — Applying to Law School Workshop**  
Hosted by Dr. Stephanie Jirard, Criminal Justice Dept.  
*5:00 p.m., Shippen 300*

**14 — Freshmen Orientation Session and Dinner:  
Undergraduate Research Opportunities**  
*5:30 to 6:25 p.m., DHC 151*

**16— Pizza with a Prof**  
Hosted by Dr. Alison Dagnes, Political Science Dept.  
*5:00 to 5:45 p.m., place TBA*

**28— Freshmen Orientation Session and Dinner:  
Honors Curriculum and Scheduling**  
*5:30-6:25 p.m., DHC 151*

*For updates to the calendar, please visit our Web site, <http://www.ship.edu/~honors>.*

## Letter from the Honors Director and HSO President

We would like to welcome the incoming Honors freshmen and the returning Honors upperclassmen. We hope that everyone has had a relaxing and fun summer and is ready for another challenging school year.

The Honors Program will offer a more diverse schedule of classes in 2004-2005 than ever before and will continue to expand the opportunities it offers to enrich students' undergraduate experience outside the classroom. Many special co-curricular opportunities are available to Honors students—from Honors Abroad programs and scholarships to internships and service learning projects. More information about these opportunities, including the Honors Abroad summer 2005 programs in Spain and Italy, will be provided at the Fall Reception and General Meeting on Thursday, September 2.

There are numerous opportunities for Honors students to become actively involved in the program's service and recreational projects this year. Successful past projects like Excitement in Education, the International Textbook Project, Uncommon Conversations, and Pizza With A Prof will continue in 2004-2005. We will also initiate several new programs, including an Election 2004 debate series and "Honors Read," a monthly book discussion group (see the articles on page 2).

Many of these projects, like Excitement In Education and the International Textbook Project, are sponsored and coordinated by the Honors Student Organization. The Honors Student Organization's purpose is to complement the academic side of the Honors Program and to provide opportunities for students to take an active role in managing the program. The HSO is student-run and its success depends on the active involvement of Honors students. We encourage you to get involved in the programs that interest you and to help make a difference at Ship.

We look forward to working with you to build an even stronger Honors Program in 2004-2005. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and we will see you at the Fall Reception and General Meeting on September 2!

Dr. Kim Klein  
Director  
Honors Program

Stephanie Rush  
President  
Honors Student Organization

## Gay marriage, the U.S. in Iraq: Honors Election 2004 debates

BY DR. ALISON DAGNES, POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPT.

The Honors Program is sponsoring four political debates this fall that are designed to engage voters and educate them about the issues. Each debate focuses on consequential topics facing the presidential candidates this election season, with both sides well represented by Honors students from relevant academic fields. Dr. Alison Dagnes, assistant professor of political science and member of the Honors Steering Committee, is coordinating the debate series.

The first debate, on Monday, September 13, will address the Environment, and concerns the role of the federal government in environmental regulation. Our second debate, set for Tuesday, September 21, looks at the topic of Women and the Family, and asks the question: What responsibility does the government have in regulating family life? We anticipate a heated debate on such matters as gay marriage, abortion, and federal funding for child-care. On Monday, September 27, the subject is Foreign Policy. Here the dispute concerns multilateralism versus unilateralism: In other words, how much should the United States moderate its foreign policy to accord with world opinion? Considering the issues surrounding war in Iraq, we expect this to be a lively and particularly prescient debate. And finally, on Monday, October 4, we turn to economic matters, to debate the direction and health of our economy and again examine the regulatory role of the government.

Each debate will be held in Old Main Chapel at 7 p.m. and the entire Shippensburg community is welcome to attend. Voter registration materials will be provided after each debate, and refreshments will be served following the debates to encourage people to stay and discuss the issues.

If you would like to participate as a debater, or have any questions about the debate series, please contact Dr. Dagnes at [adagn@wharf.ship.edu](mailto:adagn@wharf.ship.edu). We hope to see you there!

## Enjoy a free "Pizza with a Prof"

The Honors Program will again sponsor four Pizza with a Prof sessions in 2004-2005. Pizza with a Prof gives Honors students the opportunity to talk with professors about graduate and career opportunities while enjoying a free pizza dinner.

In fall 2004, the Political Science and Sociology/Anthropology Departments will host Pizza with a Prof. On Tuesday, September 14, Dr. Alison Dagnes of the Political Science Department will lead the dinner discussion at 5 p.m., and on Thursday, November 4, Dr. Chad Kimmel will lead a discussion of the opportunities available for students who major or minor in sociology.

## THE HONORABLE MENTION

Congratulations to the students who were named "Outstanding Honors Student Organization Members, 2003-2004" at the annual Honors Program Spring Banquet: **Florida Cimino, Megan Werts, Rebecca Kreider, and Jessica Kreger.**

**Jessica Kreger and Amanda Perry** returned safely from their SSHE Summer Honors Program trip to Costa Rica in June. Expect reflections from them in the next issue of the newsletter, coming in early October.

## Honors sponsors book club

BY ANNA CARLEN, HSO VICE-PRESIDENT

The Honors Student Organization is adding a new activity for Honors and non-Honors students who enjoy reading. Students who want to squeeze in some reading for fun will enjoy the new monthly book discussion group. There will be a new book discussed each month and each discussion will be led by an Honors upperclassman and professor.

At the beginning of each month, that month's book will be announced, and the actual discussion will be held at the end of the month, allowing students enough time to read the literature and prepare for the discussions. Students may choose which discussions they would like to attend and have no obligation to attend them all, unless they wish.

A few of the books have already been chosen: Junior Katie Mayo and Dr. Stewart will present Reading Lolita in Tehran. Senior Jackie Cole and Dr. Harris will discuss An Arrow's Flight and junior Tyler Miller and Dr. Birsch have planned on Heart of Darkness. The other student-professor teams include Ashley Reppert and Dr. Horner, Emily Brooks and Dr. Sullivan, and Beth Skiles and Dr. Zumkhawala-Cook. They are all still busy deliberating what will be most interesting book for students to read.

Students will be glad to hear that they do not have to worry about buying another book from the bookstore to participate in the discussions. Books will be available for students to check out in the Honors lounge and in the Honors office in Horton Hall.

If you have any questions about the Honors Read book discussions or would like more information, please contact the coordinator Anna Carlen at [ac6363@ship.edu](mailto:ac6363@ship.edu).

## SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM OFFICE

Horton Hall 104  
(717) 477-1604

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

Web site: <http://www.ship.edu/~honors>

**Director:** Dr. Kim Klein [kmklei@ship.edu](mailto:kmklei@ship.edu)

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## HONORS STUDENT ORGANIZATION

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## Spring Banquet celebrates seniors and HSO leaders

Nearly 100 Honors students, faculty, and administrators celebrated a successful year for the Honors Program at the annual Spring Banquet on Tuesday, April 27, 2004.

Meg Dameron, president of the Honors Student Organization, opened the banquet by welcoming all who attended and introducing the distinguished guests. After the dinner, guest speaker, Dr. John Benhart, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, spoke on the value of an Honors education at Shippensburg and what it meant to be an Honors student. Dr. Kim Klein, Director of the Honors Program, and Dr. Patricia Spakes, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, recognized the graduating seniors by presenting them with gifts and the Honors cords that they would wear at graduation ceremonies.

Students were also honored for their contributions to the Honors Student Organization in 2003-2004. Dr. Klein recognized the officers of the Honors Student Organization for their outstanding leadership. The HSO officers then recognized all students who had participated in HSO service projects during the year, including Excitement in Education, the Rails to Trails Cleanup, and the International Textbook Project. They also thanked the students who assisted with the program's recruitment activities throughout the year.

Special awards were presented to one student in each class who had been the most involved in HSO activities. The award recipients were: senior Florida Cimino, junior Megan Werts, sophomore Rebecca Kreider, and freshman Jessica Kreger. The program closed with remarks by Dr. Anthony



**The graduating seniors and Shippensburg administrators—including President Ceddia, Provost Spakes, and Dean Benhart—who attended the Spring Banquet are pictured above.**

Ceddia, President of Shippensburg University. Dr. Ceddia complimented the contributions that the Honors Program had made to the university. Thanks to the Spring Banquet Committee—chair Denise Yarwood and members Meg Dameron, Christopher Voss, and Jessica Kirkwood—and to Honors secretary Sharon Poe for their hard work in making the evening a great success!

## Experiencing world history at the National Holocaust Museum

"It's one thing to read about the Holocaust in textbooks, but it's a completely different experience to see the faces of those who were actually there." This was Honors freshman Jessica Kreger's reaction after touring the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. Jessica was one of 34 Honors World History II students who visited the museum on Friday, April 16, 2004 as part of a class exploring the consequences of World War II. The Honors students were led by their World History professor, Dr. Betty Dessants, and Dr. Mark Spicka, the SU History Department's expert on 20th-century Europe.

In preparation for the field trip, Dr. Dessants's students had read *This Way to the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*. The author, Tadeusz Borowski, spent several years in various concentration camps, including Auschwitz. The students toured the museum for two hours. One of the most moving exhibits was an actual railroad car used to transport people to the camps. One student commented that the experience of standing in that wooden car made the Holocaust more real than any intellectual understanding gained from her reading. After the tour, students had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Severin Hochberg, a Holocaust Museum scholar. Students and professors engaged in a lively question-and-answer session that touched on a range of topics, including the question of U.S. knowledge of and reaction to extermination camps before and

during World War II.

After the tour, Honors freshman Martin Rodriguez noted, "The museum was an enlightening experience as to the true horrors of the Holocaust. The museum truly shows the horrors of ignorance and hate, and should remain as a memorial to prevent these events from happening again."



**The Honors World History II students are pictured in front of the Holocaust Museum before their tour.**

## October application deadline for Undergraduate Research Grants

If you are required to complete a research project for your major, or if you would simply like experience in preparation for a research-oriented field, why not let Shippensburg pay the bill? This fall, students may apply for project funding through the Undergraduate Research Program. The application deadline is early October.

The program is managed by the Institute for Public Service in Horton Hall 207, and is funded by the Shippensburg University Foundation. In 2003-2004, the university awarded a total of \$35,750 in grant money to over 90 projects. Sixteen Honors students received grants of between \$75 and \$600.

Funding is available for all types of research. According to the institute, the Undergraduate Research Program "has supported laboratory research, field activities, art projects, written works, and computer applications."

Honors students who benefited from the program appreciated the opportunity. Gwen Umbreit, a junior who is majoring in citizenship education, received a grant for her research project, "The History of Book Arts: The Integration of Book Arts into the History Curricula." Gwen noted, "Working with Professor Ruby and Meg on our research project has significantly enhanced my experience at Shippensburg. I was given the means to further my knowledge of a topic I love and benefit from the talents of my team. I had an opportunity many don't have in their undergraduate experience: to grow professionally before graduation. I know my grant experience and research will be useful in a variety of ways as I approach graduation and the interview process, as well as extending into my career as a teacher."

A freshmen orientation session on undergraduate research opportunities will be held on Tuesday, September 14 at 5:30 p.m. in DHC 151. Interested students may pick up an application from their faculty adviser in the fall. For more information, visit the program's Web site at [www.ship.edu/~ipssp/Undergradres.html](http://www.ship.edu/~ipssp/Undergradres.html).



**Photos from Undergraduate Research Day 2004.**

**Above:** Honors student Stephanie Ficiak (second from left) displays the conclusions of her research project, "Getting There by Accident: An Assessment of Student Perceptions of Liability."

**Below:** Honors students Meg Dameron (left) and Gwen Umbreit are pictured with their research, "The History of Book Arts: The Integration of Book Arts into the History Curricula."



## Honors students abroad: "Across the pond" & "Down Under"

BY MIKE ANGSTADT, HONORS JUNIOR

"...and where are you staying?" The British customs officer at Heathrow International Airport asks the last of a long string of questions, probing for information on everything from my birth date to my financial status. After I answer, she hands back my passport and lets me through. The seemingly endless months of waiting and preparation had finally paid off. I was in England. Along with three other students from Ship, I collect my baggage and start my semester abroad at the Leicester Semester program. I meet up with the other American students (from Ohio, New York, and Kansas), and we wait for the coach to arrive, which will take us to our London hotel and begin our weekend-long introductory excursion of the capital. The coach finally arrives and we are herded out of Heathrow International and onto the coach (which, much to my disappointment, was not double-decker). After seeing a reconstruction of the Globe Theater, Buckingham Palace, and of course, Big Ben, we made our way to the city of Leicester where we were to begin our semester.

After several days running around the small, compact campus of over 19,000 students to find classes to fill my schedule, I began going to classes, or lectures as they are called there. I ended up taking a computer science class for my major and psychology and astronomy classes for the gen-eds. Students there start taking courses knowing their major from the start of their first year, so nothing like general education really exists. As a result, the expectations for the essays and papers I was given (as part of the course and as a replacement for the exams I didn't have to take) exceeded anything I've ever done at Ship. Luckily for me, my credits transferred as pass/fail, so I didn't have to worry about getting the best grade.

While they have their fair share of alcohol-related problems too, alcohol is more or less part of the culture in England. Hundreds of years ago, the water in wells and streams was cleaned little or not at all. Water in beer, however, is purified somewhat through the brewing process making it a much safer bet when looking for something to quench your thirst. Since then, the tradition has stuck and it is common to go to the pub at the end of the day to relax with your mates while sipping a pint.

Since I arrived, I've, of course, visited many an English pub (including university-run pubs found right next to the student dorms), sampled a traditional English breakfast (which includes baked beans and tomatoes), and had tea and scones (yes, at "tea time" which is around three or four o'clock). But apart from exploring England, I was able to mull around the continent during the span of a month-long spring break. I've climbed into ancient Roman tombs carved out of the sandstone cliffs bordering Matala, a coastal beach-town on the largest Greek island of Crete. I've hiked the remote Muster Valley in the Alsace region of France, where storks nest on the rooftops of the many small towns scattered throughout the green, picturesque valley. I've witnessed the magnificent beauty of the snow-covered mountains of Snowdonia National Park in Wales, where hikers come from all over the region to test their mountaineering skills. I've experienced the Hoffbrau House in Munich, Germany, a great place to have a beer (or three) and meet all kinds of people (like the president of a Greek rice company). I strongly encourage anyone who has the resources for such a trip to do it. It's not only a nice vacation from Ship, but also a great chance to meet people and broaden your view of the world.



Mike Angstadt poses in front of the Beatles-inspired Yellow Submarine in Liverpool, England.

BY COREY LEHMAN, HONORS JUNIOR

On June 21, I returned from my semester abroad in Australia. After nearly five months, it was nice to be home. But I was never in a hurry for any of it to end. Don't get me wrong—Shippensburg has been great for me. However, studying abroad is an adventure that everyone should experience.

Australia's different. Of course it's different, or otherwise I would have stayed home. It's also much different from what we Americans perceive it to be. Nobody says "Put another shrimp on the barbie!" If they did, they'd say "prawn" instead of "shrimp." Foster's is not Australian for beer. It's American for Australian beer, and nobody in Australia drinks it. Australia was founded as a penal colony. It's illegal to own a gun in Australia. Even if it weren't, most would be too lazy to take to crime.

I lived in Sippy Downs, Queensland. It's known as the Sunshine Coast, and I took classes at the University of the Sunshine Coast. My professors were approachable and willing to help me in any way. My favorite course was "The TeXt Files: A Cultural Studies Course." We discussed the messages of various media, including TV, movies, and music. As a marketing major, I found it extremely useful. The Australian educational structure places responsibility on the student to learn the material. Classes are held only twice a week, once in a large lecture for two hours, and once in a smaller tutorial group for an hour. My TeXt Files tutorial was incredible. My partner and I designed our own advertisement and recreated a scene from "Romeo and Juliet" using conventions of an American Western.

I had many opportunities to travel. The university's study abroad department took the students on several trips. We went to the Australia Zoo, home of the Crocodile Hunter, Steve Irwin (No, he didn't feed any crocs while holding his kid. He wasn't even there). We had an inter-semester break for a week around Easter. My friends and I flew north to Cairns and drove a rental car back down. We went scuba diving on the Great Barrier Reef. We saw Nemo! We even saw a shark. We went to Fort Douglas, Aire, and Bundaberg. To save money, five of us slept in a four-person tent all ten nights of the trip. We took hundreds of pictures and made countless memories.

I've made dozens of friends both Australian and American. All this was incredibly fun, and I earned credits for it. My friend Ryan and I would often just pause and ask, "How stupid is it to not study abroad?" It's incredibly stupid not to. The opportunity is a fleeting one. Personally, I feel it's one of the best decisions I've ever made. Pick a major later. For now, pick a country.

Thursday, September 2

The Honors Program  
Fall Reception &  
General Meeting

Tuscarora Room  
3:30 p.m.

The Fall Reception allows students to meet the new freshmen and to catch up with their old friends in Honors. The General Meeting will provide essential information on Honors curricular and co-curricular activities for 2004-2005. We look forward to seeing you there!

In this issue of The Honors  
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- What's new in 2004-2005 — Pages 1-2
- Highlights from spring 2004 — Pages 3-4
- Reflections on studying abroad in England and Australia — Page 5

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