

The Honors Chronicle

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Summer 2006



Welcome, Class of 2010



By Jess Krout, Honors junior and HSO president

Dear freshmen: Many of you are getting ready to embark on a new journey in your lives: college.

Your fellow Honors students welcome you with an orientation program designed to help you begin your college career on the right foot.

For starters, you should have already heard from your mentor. Your mentor is an Honors sophomore, junior, or senior who

is willing to answer any questions you may have and give you helpful hints before you arrive on campus. (If you need advice on roommates, see "SideNotes," Page 2).

The orientation committee has long been awaiting your arrival and have made posters to welcome those who will be living on campus (be sure to look on the door of your dorm room when you move in!).

When you arrive on campus, you will meet some of your Honors classmates at the discussion sessions during Academic Day, Friday, August 25.

On Sunday, August 27, you will go to Henderson Gymnasium at 4 p.m. to not only formally meet your mentors for the first time, but also to partake in a scavenger hunt throughout the town of Shippensburg.

During the scavenger hunt, you will go to local businesses to find clues, and some businesses may even hand out coupons!

After the hunt, you will meet back at Henderson Gymnasium for pizza and soda from Pazzelli's.

In the event that it would rain on Sunday and the scavenger hunt could not be held, the orientation committee will bring board games.

Your orientation does not just stop there. As you continue on through the fall semester, you will attend four 45-minute sessions and dinners on the

following topics: the Honors Student Organization (HSO), Honors curriculum and scheduling, undergraduate research opportunities, and study abroad opportunities.

Each session is packed with information to help you learn more about the university, the Honors Program, and all of the many opportunities available to you.

Welcome, Class of 2010, to Shippensburg University's Honors Program!



Photo by Beth Kusko

Incoming Honors freshmen meet for the first time on June 22 for an orientation luncheon.

Calendar

August

25 - Academic Day

Time and place TBA

Honors freshmen will meet in sessions with Honors student leaders.

27 - Honors Picnic & Scavenger Hunt

4:00 p.m., Meet in front of Henderson Gymnasium

Students will meet with their mentors to hunt for clues through the town of Shippensburg. A pizza picnic will follow.

29 - Freshmen Orientation Session & Dinner: Honors Student Organization

5:00-5:45 p.m., Century Café, Old Main

September

5 - Honors Fall General Meeting & Reception

3:30 p.m., Tuscarora Room

See old friends, meet new students, and learn essential Honors information for the 2006-2007 school year. All Honors students are required to attend.

12 - Freshmen Orientation Session & Dinner: Undergraduate Research

5:00-5:45 p.m., Dauphin Humanities 318

12 - Honors Election Debate Series: Pennsylvania Governor's Race

7:00 p.m., Old Main Chapel

26 - Freshmen Orientation Session & Dinner: Honors Curriculum & Scheduling

5:00-5:45 p.m., place TBA

28 - Honors Election Debate Series: U.S. Senate Race in Pennsylvania

7:00 p.m., Old Main Chapel

Elections spark debates in the Honors Program

By Mark Lehman, Honors senior

In 2004, the Honors Program held a debate series revolving around the 2004 Presidential Elections in which Shippensburg students debated national issues. For the mid-term elections in November, the Honors Program, with the help of Dr. Alison Dagnes, is once again holding a debate series open to all students. Oftentimes, the mid-term elections receive very little attention compared to the presidential elections, but they are no less important.

Pennsylvania will have the opportunity to elect a Governor and a U.S. Senator, two positions that will have a large impact on this state and country. Currently, the Republican Party controls both the U.S. House and Senate. If six seats in the Senate change from Republican to Democrat, then control of the Senate will switch parties, making this election even more crucial for future legislation. As such, it is important for students to be aware of what the electoral issues are and where the candidates stand.

To ensure that both races are covered, the Election Debates will be divided into two debates, a gubernatorial and a senatorial debate. The gubernatorial debate will explicitly focus on the gubernatorial elections for Pennsylvania State Governor between Edward G. Rendell (D) and Lynn C. Swann (R).

Two possible topics that might be debated are abortion and the recent pay raise granted to state employees.

The U.S. senatorial debate examines positions of candidates Rick Santorum (R) and Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D), with possible topics including the proper relationship between the legislative and congressional branches, judicial activism, abortion, and national security versus civil rights.

The student participants will represent the respective candidates' positions during the debates. For the debate issues, the debaters will defend the party/candidates' position on an issue, deferring to the candidate's position if it differs from their party. The students may integrate their personal views into the debate if need be, but are encouraged to represent their candidate's position as closely as possible.

Rather than focusing explicitly on attacking one side or the other, the debate's goal is to inform the audience about the varying sides of highly contentious issues, where the candidates stand, and that

See DEBATE

SideNotes

By Stacie Wight

"Living College Style"

Roommates are the most commonly discussed topics between Honors mentors and mentees. They are also the biggest source of stress and anxiety for incoming freshmen.



Everyone's worst roommate nightmare consists of being "matched" with someone so completely opposite of himself or herself. The "preppy" jock student dreads the gothic individual, and vice versa. This nightmare was one of my own, and became my reality.

I made a few mistakes with my roommate freshman year, and this is where I use my terrible life experience to help you better your future living conditions. (I am sure all of your Honors mentors have stories and advice, too—I encourage you to seek them out and talk to them...They have been assigned for a reason!)

Everyone comes to college with certain goals. Some come with the purpose of making great friends, others to achieve impossible grades and awards, and even more who come just to "tear it up." I came with the goal to have a great time with new friends, while gaining an incredible education.

Regardless of your personal collegiate goals and those of your roommate, respect is key. Respect your roommates' study hours or their desire to watch Gilmore Girls once a week. It is very important to respect one another while setting ground rules with your roommate.

Discuss your collegiate goals

with one another and work out how to share your room. If your roommate wants to study 24/7 and needs quiet, it is OK to ask them to study elsewhere for a few hours when you want to entertain friends or watch TV. It is also OK to ask for a few hours of extra quiet time before an exam.

The biggest mistake I made with dealing with my roommate was being too flexible and laidback.

I didn't really lay down any rules or feel the need to discuss goals before classes got underway.

I challenge each and every shy, quiet, or laidback individual to assemble some sort of spine and opinion before meeting your roommate for the first time, or you, too, will wind up with some strange hairy man-beast passed out in your room.

When your RA (Residential Advisor) hands you that roommate contract, TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.

Discuss all the "What ifs?" and get to know what kind of person your roommate is and what kind of environment they prefer to live in.

Then COMPROMISE. (Yes, I capitalized it for a reason.) COMPROMISE is the most important key in creating some semblance of a harmonic environment.

Lastly, it is OK to talk to your roommate about these rules if he or she breaks them, or if you have a problem.

Just remember, go into your new living situation with an open mind, a spine, and a positive attitude.

It doesn't matter who you were in high school, or who you want to become in college—there is no reason you can't have a great relationship (or at least a civil one) with your roommate.

SU recognizes students' research

By Amanda Johnson, Honors junior

Walking into the Anthony F. Ceddia Union Building Multi-Purpose Room was like walking back in time to a science fair in elementary school, except this science fair was much more than growing mold on bread or which household objects make the best insulators.

The Shippensburg University Student Research Program Recognition Day was held on April 6, and many honors students were present. Most students were being recognized for the research they did with the help of grant money provided by the university.

Jenn Bly, Emily Cisney, Amanda Johnson, and Tyler Miller were part of the Honors Service-Learning Seminar, where the students collected approximately 2,000 textbooks from professors and students to send to Maseno University in Kenya, as well as Delgado Community College in New Orleans.

Caitlin Burger did a project called "Design, Fabrication, and Characterization of Organic Light Emitting Diodes (OLEDs)". OLEDs are an improvement on LCD screens. They are a flexible film, and most of Burger's project involved trying to emit light. "It's another application of nanotechnology," Burger said.

Stephanie Ficiak's project was called "Predictors of College Academic Achievement", where she studied characteristics of a good college student. Her idea had been researched before, but on a more individual basis. Ficiak's project combined several factors to make inferences on a more general level. She used

surveys to gather her information.

Ficiak did another project called "Personality, Music, and Problem Solving Ability" with Shannon Baum. They researched how personality affects musical preference and how different kinds of music affect cognitive performance. They found that extraverts preferred stimulating music (using Metallica) and performed cognitive tasks better when listening to it, while introverts preferred calming music (using Mozart) and performed better while listening to it.

Derek Wolfe, a double major in Computer Science and Chemistry did a project involving both of his majors, called "The Development of a Front-end GUI for Molecular Modeling Software on Single CPU and Clustered Macintosh Systems".

He developed chemistry software called GAMESS that is used for calculating theoretical chemistry. For example, if something is too dangerous to try in the lab, you could try it with the GAMESS program.

Psychology major Denise Yarwood's research project was titled, "Homesickness and Cultural Adaptation: A Phenomenological Investigation". She got the idea for her project, because she moved from England to the United States 12 years ago and experienced homesickness herself.

Other honors students who participated in the Recognition Day include Ronald Hopkins, Beth Kusko, Michael Manis, Beth Skiles, Katie Mayo, Erin Harmon, and Ashley Cayless.

DEBATE (cont'd)

voting in the mid-term election is highly important.

Teams will consist of 2-3 debaters, depending on the number of student volunteers. If you are interested in participating in the debate series, please e-mail either Dr. Kim Klein at kmklei@ship.edu, or Dr. Alison Dagnes at addagn@ship.edu. Please indicate if you would like to participate in either the gubernatorial or

senatorial debate and which side you would like to represent. Participation demands extensive prep work, but is a rewarding and entertaining experience. The debates will occur September 12 and 28 at 7 p.m. in Old Main Chapel. All students, professors, and community members are welcome to attend.



HONORS PROGRAM OFFICE

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Undergraduate Research, Study Abroad, and Internship Opportunities

Bly studies, travels across the Atlantic

When I lived on the southern coast of Spain...

By Jenn Bly, Honors senior

How many people can start a story with the phrase, *When I lived on the southern coast of Spain...*? I'm guessing not many, but study abroad offered me this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The spring semester of 2006 I studied Spanish Language and Culture in Málaga, Spain with International Studies Abroad (ISA). Without a doubt, those were the best four months of my life.

My classes were taught completely in Spanish, consisting of international students from all over the world. At one point when I had a large paper due, I thought, "Wow, what did I get myself into?" But after a painstakingly slow process, I finished the paper and submitted it. I surprised myself at how well I did and realized how much I had grown the past couple of months. Thinking about the first newspaper I tried to read, I had to look up almost every other word until my eyes glazed over, and I got so frustrated that I resorted to picture gazing. My competency has improved tenfold since then. For me, language study was very exciting.

I have to admit that I made mistakes, some resulting in embarrassing situations, but that was to be expected. Once you say something stupid and get corrected, you never forget it again!

But don't be fooled, study abroad is about more than just hitting the books. Every minute of every day is a learning experience. Ordering *churros con chocolate* in a café, visiting world renowned historical sites, chatting with new friends on the beach, and shouting ¡Ole! at bullfights



Photo submitted by Jenn Bly

Bly stands in the Gibralfaro Castle, overlooking the city of Málaga, Spain. Bly studied abroad in Málaga in the spring semester of 2006.

made my stay much more enriching. Interacting with natives, both older and younger, is the best way to learn practical language skills, to have true cultural experiences, and to make friendships that last for a lifetime.

While abroad, I had the opportunity to visit famous Spanish cities like Barcelona, Granada, Sevilla, Madrid, and Toledo. When I saw the windmills on the countryside, I felt just like Don Quijote in the search for adventure, and, during spring break, while I was riding camels in the deserts of Morocco, I felt like I had stepped into the pages of a *National Geographic* magazine.

Living outside the United States not only allowed me to interact in a new culture, but also opened my eyes to how much American culture has washed overseas. President

Bush was on the news just about every day, and Madonna spiced up the nightlife. Many foreigners know more about our country than the average American citizen would know.

But that isn't to say Spanish culture isn't unique and thriving, too. From fried delicacies sizzling in olive oil to sun bathing on the Mediterranean beaches, Spain is steeped in rich tradition. The *dos besitos* (two kiss greetings) and mid-afternoon *siestas* are customs that I miss already. Málaga boasts of its two favorite natives, Picasso and Antonio Banderas and huge celebrations such as *Semana Santa* (Holy Week) with processions filtering through the streets 24 hours a day.

Thanks to the Honors Program scholarship, guidance from the study abroad advisor, and help from ISA, all transitions flowed smoothly.

Conclusion? Don't miss an opportunity to step outside your bubble. Take the initiative to study abroad, and if I may, I just might recommend southern Spain. ¡Viva España!



Photo submitted by Jenn Bly

Bly sits in the front row, third from left, with fellow students at the Plaza de España in Seville.

and flamenco shows are experiences I wouldn't trade for anything.

I lived with a host family that

Liverpool, England: More than just history and rain

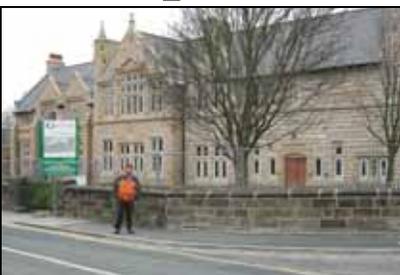


Photo submitted by Martin Rodriguez

Rodriguez stands in front of Old Gramer School in England, where he studied abroad.

By Martin Rodriguez, Honors senior

What to say about England, a country known for its rich history and dreary weather.

What makes my experience unique is that I attended Edge Hill, near Liverpool in Northern England, and quite a ways from the London metro area that is considered to be stereotypical England.

This study abroad experience has been great as I have been able to see castles, old country manors, and yes, even the occasional football

(soccer) game.

Going through Liverpool, you can experience Beatlemania, while still finding many sites of the historic seaport town, which in many ways actually has ties to the United States as many immigrants sailed from there. Part of this is seen in the Liverpool Maritime Museum and many other attractions in the city.

Overall, England has been a blast, Liverpool especially, and has shown me that England is much more than rain and London.



Farewell, Class of 2006



Photos by Jess Krout

(Left to right): Dr. Kim Klein, seniors Ashley Reppert, Rebecca Kreider, Ronald Hopkins, Elizabeth Skiles, Mallory Feggestad, Tyler Miller, Melissa Alwine, Erin Harmon, Kallie Drenning, Karen Jensenius, Caitlin Burger, James Laughlin, Interim Provost Rick Ruth, and Interim Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Dr. Kim Long gather at the Honors Program's Spring Banquet on April 25. The banquet recognized the seniors and their contributions to the program.



The Spirit of Honors Award is presented to Honors students who demonstrate outstanding scholarship, leadership, and service as members of the Honors Program. This year, the award was presented to graduating seniors Rebecca Kreider, Tyler Miller, and Erin Harmon. Congratulations!

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