



The Newsletter of the Shippensburg University Honors Program  
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# 2 You Better Belize It!

By Leah Fleming, Honors Senior

This past summer, I had the opportunity to travel to Belize on a short-term study abroad experience with Honors students from across Pennsylvania. The trip was unbelievable and was made possible because of the PASSHE Summer Honors Program, a scholarship program that not only covered the majority of our financial costs, but also counted for course credits. Every day was an exciting new adventure with so many unique learning experiences along the way.

We first met at Mansfield University to attend class sessions and complete assignments. This was beneficial because we established knowledge of the history, culture, and current events in Belize. It also allowed us to focus on our field research while we were in the country itself. While in Belize, we participated in formal and informal interviews with college professors, business owners, government officials, community leaders, and tour guides. A few examples include representatives from the Ministry of Tourism, Mayor Kevin Bernard of Orange Walk, and Miss Raquel – a community leader and advocate for the Mahogany Heights village. We used both the insightful information and stories from these interviews, as well as what we gathered from all that we did in Belize, as support for our research topics.

There are so many stories and experiences from the trip, but let me highlight just a few of them. We hiked and explored the ruins of Mayan civilization and gained a greater appreciation for the Mayan history rooted deep in the Belizean culture. We swam, waded, climbed, and trekked through the Actun Tunichil Muknal Cave, which was used for Mayan ceremonies and rituals. The cave had many openings into “rooms” that were filled with Mayan artifacts, including stone sculptures, pottery, and even a few skeletal remains. In this particular section of the cave, we were walking in our socks as to be more aware of our surroundings and less likely to step on the artifacts right at our footsteps.

Other highlights included a canoe trip on the Sibun River and snorkeling in the Caribbean Sea. Both of these experiences allowed us to indulge ourselves in the naturalistic beauty that Belize offers. Yet, we learned of the negative impacts that tourism has on the environment, and the constant battle between the thriving tourism industry and maintaining the authenticity of Belize. A tour of the Belize Zoo and visiting a wildlife clinic were other highlights of the trip. These organizations capture and rehabilitate and relocate animals that are threatened, either because they are encroaching upon peoples’ land, or because these animals have been mistreated and are in need of treatment. We also toured a hot sauce factory, egg factory, and sugar factory, where we learned about the production of goods that are important for the Belizean economy, and those being exported to the global market.

There are many personal takeaways and insights that I gained from my experiences on this trip. One that seemed to stand out is how much the decisions and actions in the American society and politics affects nations around the world. I realized the extent to which this is true because of how knowledgeable the Belizeans were of American politics, and how the economy of a small country like Belize is dependent on the prices and policies in the global market. Of course, another great takeaway is the friendships that I formed with other students on this trip, the inspiring people I met, and the memories created that I will appreciate throughout my lifetime.



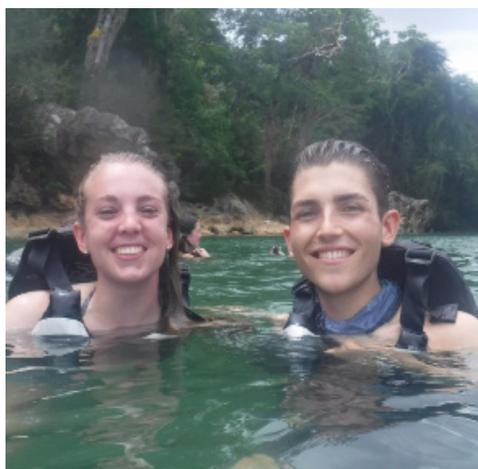
*Leah takes in the view atop the El Castillo pyramid at the Xunantunich Mayan ruins.*



*Leah poses for a picture with a photogenic green iguana named Gnome.*

# Oh the Places You'll Go... and the Things You Will Learn!

By Jordan Back, Honors Junior



*Jordan and Leah go for a swim after canoeing the Sibun River.*

Having only been in Belize for fifteen days, it had not occurred to me to look back and observe the impact of my travels. Now, as I think back to my brief stint in Belize, I cannot believe how much my study abroad experience has affected the way I think about... well everything.

First and foremost, I have gained an in-depth understanding of Belize. I have seen what Belize is like and the struggles its people collectively face, and gained a general feel for the attitudes of Belizean citizens. Above all, I have learned that Belize is diverse for its size in just about every way. The population is diverse. The geography is diverse. The culture is diverse. The idea of what it means to be a Belizean is diverse. If I had not known otherwise, I would have assumed that each stop on my journey was in a totally separate nation. Thinking about this diversity has really helped opened my mind when I think about Belize, and frankly, any nation. My experience has resulted in a degree of nuance when thinking about any nationality of people. I no longer assume a nation “feels a certain way” about an issue. My time in Belize has made me understand that societies

and people across the globe are entirely too complex to place in blanket categories. Ultimately, the way I approach classifying everything from basic needs to political attitudes has gained a level of complexity because I now know that there is no one way to categorize a group of people accurately.

My time in Belize has also affected the manner in which I want to travel and see the world. I'll admit it, I love cruises, and all-inclusive resorts are so much fun. I have been fortunate enough to experience these things in the past. Until now, I have wanted to enjoy them again. However, since being in Belize, I have garnered an appreciation for more authentic forms of tourism and travel. The new knowledge of how big-business tourism, such as cruises and chain resorts, exploit and hurt local economies has changed the way that I view travel. I now desire to see and travel the world authentically. This means exploring places and experiencing culture from the locals who have lived it their entire life. I am no longer interested in getting a passport stamp to go receive unlimited drinks from someone that doesn't even live in the country I am visiting, and I have Belize to thank for that.

All in all, being able to study abroad in Belize has drastically transformed the way I think. I have had the opportunity to peel back the western views that I possess to truly understand people of cultures that I previously knew nothing about. My time in Belize learning about others has led to an awareness of myself and the complex world that we all live in. This experience has fascinated me and undoubtedly shaped me into a better global citizen. Now and forever more, when I look back on the time I was able to study in Belize, I will be astounded by how fifteen days was able to accomplish all this. In closing, I must reveal that whenever I ponder the many ways that Belize has changed me, I cannot help but to have this lingering wonder of “how will the next fifteen days abroad transform me even more?”



*Jordan dined on a traditional Belizean staple dish of chicken, rice, and beans.*



*Jordan enjoys a slice of pineapple while sailing at Cay Caulker.*

# The Honors Conference: a PASSHE-n for Learning

By Jake Gillespie, Honors Senior

Last semester I was fortunate enough to accompany Rachel Smith, Arlee Simendinger, Jessica Querry, and Cody Olson to the PASSHE Honors Student Conference in Harrisburg held on April 3, 2017. It was my first formal conference presentation, so I was pretty nervous. Luckily, Dr. Klein paired me with Rachel to do a presentation on alumni engagement. This was a great presentation to be tasked with for two reasons. Firstly, our Honors Program is always coming up with new and exciting ways to engage our alumni with events like “Apple Pie with Alumni” and our Homecoming occasions. Secondly, Rachel Smith is one of the most organized and personable public speakers in the world, which took most of the pressure off of me.

On the way to the conference, it was clear that everyone was a little nervous. It was early in the morning, we were all buttoned up to look our best for the conference, and you could hear a pin drop in the car. Cody, who offered to drive us, then gave me one of the biggest responsibilities one could have on a road trip; he handed me the AUX chord. Fortunately, Billy Joel has a funny way of brightening even the most downtrodden of moods, and the remainder of our journey was much more lighthearted.

Once we got to Harrisburg, Honors students from Millersville, who hosted the conference, greeted us at the door. They were kind enough to provide us with a t-shirt, folder, pen, and notepad. The pen and pad came in handy for the first official part of the conference, which was attending presentations given by each program on various topics. Rachel and I were one of the first groups to present, and I think it went really well. The students from other Honors Programs really liked the idea of “Apple Pie with Alumni,” and even showed interest in our newsletter. It was nice to present early, as it let us relax and enjoy the rest of the presentations throughout the day.

One of my favorite parts of the conference was the poster session. Each Honors Program set up a poster, and we were able to talk with the other Honors students to find out more about their programs. It was much less formal than the presentations, and gave us the opportunity to meet with other Honors students.

The PASSHE Honors Conference was such a rewarding experience. Here are just some of the many things I learned. First, if you have an opportunity to present at a conference, take it. Second, there’s no need to be nervous for a conference. They are actually a lot of fun. Third, interacting with other Honors students is both enlightening and enjoyable. Fourth, if you have to do a group presentation, convince Rachel Smith to work with you. Finally, when you’re handed the AUX chord in a car full of nervous yet well-dressed college kids, play some Billy Joel.



*Rachel Smith talks with other PASSHE Honors students about Shippensburg's Honors curriculum.*



*Arlee Simendinger and Jessica Querry meet two students from other PASSHE Honors Programs.*

# 25 Years of Ship Trip

By Rachael Rudis, Honors Sophomore

2017 marked Ship Trip's 25th anniversary. It also marked my first year being involved with the event. First started in 1992, Ship Trip, then called Excitement in Education, is an Honors Program event that brings area middle school students to campus for a day-long mock college experience. The program includes two to three mock college classes (taught by Honors students) such as creating nylon from chemicals or building bridges with popsicle sticks. Attending students also get a chance to eat lunch in the dining hall and tour Ship's campus, including a room in the Honors LLC. The day ends with a group activity and the promise of more fun next year.

As a history education major, I was enthusiastic and nervous for my first Ship Trip. I love working with students and watching them grow excited about learning. Helping Honors senior Codey Fickes co-chair the event was daunting, yet exciting all at once. I learned a lot about organizing events and then leading large groups of students. It became necessary for me to become even more comfortable in front of the students than I had been before, and this is a skill that will be helpful not only in my future career as a history teacher, but throughout college and beyond. My favorite part of the program was undoubtedly watching the students' excitement when they engaged in their classes. They put all of their effort into building bridges that would hold the most weight, gaped at the snake they saw, and smiled from ear to ear when they pulled nylon out of their chemical mixtures. These small yet major interactions with students reminded me of why I want to teach, and why students' engagement with learning is so important to the future.



*Ship Trip students created this truss bridge during a mock college class.*

Ship Trip is most definitely an impactful Honors Program event. It allows both Ship students and our visiting middle schoolers to promote Shippensburg and the Honors Program while cultivating relationships with the community and having fun. I would recommend involvement in the program to any Honors student, regardless of major. Preparing an engaging lesson plan is not just something that education majors must do; all disciplines involve public speaking, and most include some level of interaction with people of all ages. What better way to practice these skills than helping young students connect with their education and look forward to college opportunities? Ship Trip not only spreads excitement in education to middle school students; it also keeps Ship Honors students excited to share their passions.

# A Jazzy Honors Program Banquet

By Mackenzie Brouse, Honors Senior

This year's Honors Program Spring Banquet transported students back in time to the Roaring 20's. On Wednesday, May 3, jazz music and 1920's decor welcomed Honors students into the banquet where students were rewarded for their efforts throughout the academic year. Students enjoyed a delicious meal and the annual tradition of showing a "year in review" video allowed students to reminisce on the fond memories of the year. Seniors enjoyed flashbacks all the way to their freshman year as images from their Honors Orientation flashed on screen. Honors faculty recognized both freshmen and seniors for their outstanding research projects. Codey Fickes and Colby Ott both showed extraordinary work with their Honors capstone projects, "Leadership, Social Change and History: An Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar" and "Spectroelectrochemical Analysis of Trace Metals in Gunshot Residue" respectively, and therefore each was recognized as a recipient of the Outstanding Honors Capstone Award this year. Freshman Rachel Rudis impressed with her freshman

research paper, "The Lost Class: Domestic Servants in Medieval England" and won the Outstanding Honors First-Year Research Award. Finally, Codey Fickes, Kaitlyn Frey, Elizabeth Karper, and Megan Lawrence were all recipients of the Spirit of Honors Award for their dedication and contributions to the Honors Program. Dr. Klein and Cindy Poe honored each graduating student with a medallion recognizing their completion of the Honors Program requirements, a description of their Honors capstone project and their future plans, and a special gift for them to remember the program as they enter new chapters in their lives.



*Codey Fickes (left) and Colby Ott (right) give their Outstanding Honors Capstone Project Award-winning presentations in the Honors Seminar Room.*

# Honors Symposium

By Katie Sweigart, Honors Sophomore

At the end of each academic year Honors seniors are given the opportunity to present their Honors Capstone research at the Honors Symposium. This formal forum allows for individual presentations of capstone projects that students investigate all year long. On Tuesday, April 25 and Wednesday, April 26 seventeen exceptional seniors presented their capstone projects in the Honors Seminar Room, Harley Hall. This year's senior projects included:

~ Paula Bauder, "The Portrayal of Women's Roles in German and United States Advertising: Objectification of Empowerment"

~ Sabrina Becker, "Addressing Poverty in the Community: Evaluation of the Hounds Pack Program"

~ Alana Bielarski, "*The Hodgepodge*: An Arts Blog"

~ Michelle Bradley, "An Application of the Financial Planning Process"

~ Codey Fickes, "Leadership, Social Change and History: An Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar"

~ Bethany Fink and Sarah Flick, "Disease Prevalence of the Feral Cat Population in South Central Pennsylvania"



Paula Bauder gives her presentation during the Honors symposium.

~ Kaitlyn Frey, "Estimating Fast Flow Component and Time of Arrival for Limestone Springs Using Stable Isotopes in Fluorescence Methods"

~ Yelena Gulkewicz, "*The Nervous Tortilla*: Creating High-Quality Bilingual Children's Literature"

~ Sharon Juarez, "Virtual Vacations: A Trip to Mexico"

~ Elizabeth Karper, "Reach Out Marketing Plan"

~ Tara Kennedy, "Trehalose Concentrations in the Hemolymph of Cold-Tolerant Dragonfly, *Sympetrum vicinum*"

~ Megan Lawrence, "The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program: Quantifying the Economic Benefits of Shippensburg Volunteers"

~ Audrey McGarrell, "English Translation of *Zeze*, by Ángeles Vicente"

~ Erica Misner, "Incidence of Rickettsial Pathogens in Ticks from South Central PA"

~ Colby Ott, "Spectroelectrochemical Analysis of Trace Metals in Gunshot Residue"

~ Jacob Painter, "University Cybersecurity"

~ Alyson Poorbaugh, "A Healthy Earth: Teaching Students the Power of Environmental Stewardship through the Integration of Science"



Tara Kennedy is netted by her research partner during their presentation during the symposium.

# Summer Fun

By Nick Bigham, Honors Junior

Honors Summer Orientation 2017 can be described in two words: soaked and spirited. On Friday, July 28, the Honors Program Class of 2021 arrived at Shippensburg University for a two-day introduction to the Honors Program. Fifteen volunteers, led by Dr. Klein, Cindy Poe, and co-chairs Nick Bigham, Andrew Aumen, and Gracee Tothero, greeted the new students and moved them into their rooms in Harley Hall. The new students were nervous, yet excited, to begin their journey at Shippensburg University.

Friday's events included a welcome luncheon, introductory sessions, an Amazing Race activity, dinner, a presentation, and finally a movie night. At the welcome luncheon, the volunteers introduced themselves and led discussions with the new students to get them excited for the upcoming semester. Dr. Kim Klein led the introductory sessions about the Honors Program expectations and Dr. Christine Senecal gave an introduction to what the students could expect from an Honors course. The Amazing Race, led by the co-chairs of the Orientation Committee, introduced students to the Shippensburg University campus. This year's race occurred in a downpour of rain, but the new students quickly gained high spirits, and the rain did not slow them down in the slightest. At dinner, Honors alumni and Fulbright scholar Curtis Rabe gave a presentation to the new students about his Fulbright experience in Germany and the impact the Honors Program had on him through his undergraduate career. Finally, Dr. José Ricardo presented the movie, "Easy A," and led a discussion about learning to treat one another with respect.

On Saturday, the students woke to eat breakfast and then head to a few more introductory sessions. They first met Dr. John Richardson and Dr. Kirk Moll to learn about undergraduate research opportunities. Honors students Rachel Shaffer and Curtis Lamp led a student panel to explain their unique perspectives as student researchers. New students then went to a session led by Dr. Klein about study abroad experiences. In this session Honors students Jordan Back, Reece Dolbin, and McKenzie Horn discussed their perspectives as students who had studied abroad with help from the Honors Program. Finally, the students were presented with awards from the Amazing Race competition by co-chairs Andrew Aumen and Gracee Tothero, and attended a session led by Honors students Andrew Aumen, Nick Bigham, Rhiannon Leonard, and Josh Varone known as the "Ask Me Anything" panel.



*Honors freshmen jump for joy outside of the library.*



*44 of our 47 new Honors freshmen are pictured behind our 15 volunteer, Honors upperclassmen.*

Saturday closed with a luncheon, where the volunteers and Dr. Klein gave closing remarks to the new students and their parents.

The orientation committee would like to thank the new students of the class of 2021 and the orientation volunteers and panelists that gave their time to make sure orientation was a smooth operation. A special thanks to Cindy Poe for coordinating orientation logistics and Dr. Klein for her dedication, commitment, and flexibility with the event year after year.

# Up in the Aires

By Reece Dolbin, Honors Senior

My semester in Argentina was and will continue to be one of the most incredible and defining experiences of my undergraduate career. As a double major in History and International Studies with a minor in Spanish and a concentration in Latin America, I recognized the importance of experiencing my area of study beyond what I had read. After researching various universities and Latin American countries I eventually settled on the Universidad de Belgrano located in the sprawling city of Buenos Aires, Argentina. I knew little about the city and country, but what research I had done revealed a place not only rich in culture but also dramatically different than my own.

Having lived most of my life in relatively small and rural towns like Shippensburg, I found the constant hustle and bustle of metropolitan life exciting. I could hop on the subway and arrive in almost any corner of the city, meet up with friends to explore cultural landmarks, go to class, or frequent various clubs on the weekends while meeting new people. My gracious host mother, who was always apt to share her opinions and daily lessons, greatly enhanced my experience, allowing me to gain a nuanced perspective of Argentine life and culture. Every week I taught English at a local elementary school, where both the children and the staff truly valued the presence of native English speakers. This proved to be one of the most rewarding and eye-opening experiences, as I was able to both teach eager students and act as an ambassador of my culture.

I ate a traditional Argentine diet, which often entailed large portions of grilled meats and generous sides of bread or potatoes with few to no vegetables or spices (something I sorely missed from home). The tea-like, herbal beverage called Yerba Mate, which is indigenous and culturally synonymous with Argentina, became part of my weekly routine as I became fascinated with both the cultivation and preparation of this unique plant. Yerba Mate conversation clubs hosted by locals provided me the opportunity to practice my Spanish and gain new perspectives on life in Buenos Aires.

Most of my weekends were spent exploring the vast city or traveling outside of it to other provinces where I would stay at hostels with friends. Longer trips during national holidays allowed me to fully experience much of what Argentina had to offer like the incredible Andes Mountains or Iguazu Falls, which were situated on the

border with Brazil, where over 275 massive waterfalls cut through the Amazon rainforest. I also took trips outside of Argentina to neighboring countries like Uruguay where we backpacked and hostel-hopped along the gorgeous coast. So rewarding and incredible were these excursions that at the end of my university semester, when international students were expected to return home, a friend and I canceled our plane tickets and instead flew south towards Antarctica. We spent several weeks backpacking and hiking in the Patagonian mountains during winter, experiencing the incredible beauty of a landscape riddled with glaciers, jagged mountains, glacial lakes, and frozen tundra.

Despite having been abroad several times, what I took away from this past semester was so much more than I could ever have possibly imagined. I learned about a country and culture that was initially alien to me, and made lifelong friends with whom I have shared the most incredible experiences.



*Reece takes a break during a hike to get a picture of Cerro Torre in the Patagonian mountains.*



*Reece poses for a photo in front of the Perito Moreno glacier outside of El Calafate.*

# Final Thoughts From The Editors

Dear Reader,

Welcome back! After a summer full of working, research, internships, and hopefully a little bit of relaxation, it's time once again to hop back into the classroom and hit the books. Mackenzie and I have been compiling just a few of the countless awesome things Honors students have been up to over their summers. We hope you find some time between study sessions to check it out! Also, Mackenzie and I have climbed enough rungs of the proverbial newsletter ladder to earn an official newsletter protégé! We are currently working on training her up, and you may see her influence start to creep in as soon as the next issue. I speak for all three of us when I say we're excited to bring you more stellar stories from our superb students. Now, go forth, and read on!

*Jake Gillespie*

It's hard to believe I am in the final stretch of my time here at Shippensburg University. As I reflect on past experiences I can truly say that the Honors Program has provided me with lessons, opportunities, and friendships that have helped me come this far and have allowed me to feel a sense of ease about my future. I will embrace whatever life throws at me just as the students in these articles have embraced their experiences. Articles about the Spring Banquet and Honors Symposium leave me looking forward to the future and articles like Summer Orientation and Ship Trip leave me reflecting on my growth as a student. To those 47 incoming Honors freshmen, soak in every second. The time really does fly.

*Mackenzie Brouse*

A new year, new classes, and a new newsletter editor. As the semester begins and summer ends, I am jumping back into classes and busy schedules, as well as training to become a part of Jake and Mackenzie's team. I can't wait to show all of you what Honors students have done during the summer months, it's nothing short of fascinating. These articles illustrate the hard work and dedication of Honors students and how quickly they have changed lives, both at home and abroad. I cannot thank the editors and Dr. Klein enough for giving me such an amazing opportunity, I look forward to the months ahead. Enjoy!

*Katie Sweigart*

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The cover photo of this edition of *Jnrs* was taken by Honors Program sophomore, Katie Sweigart.

# October-December 2017

## Calendar of Events

October 27: Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Student Rec Pavilion

November 1: Application deadline for Honors Capstone Project Grants for projects to be completed in Spring 2018. Submit applications to Cindy Poe at [cmpoe@ship.edu](mailto:cmpoe@ship.edu).

November 1: Student Leaders Meeting, 1:00-1:50 p.m., Honors Seminar Room

November 2: Cultural Coffee Break, hosted by Lisa Watson, who studied abroad in Ireland, 3:30-4:15 p.m., Honors Seminar Room

November 7: Honors Read: *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr, 5:00-6:00 p.m., Honors Seminar Room

November 8-12: National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Atlanta, GA

November 15: Application deadline for Honors Study Abroad Scholarship for students who plan to study abroad in Spring 2018

November 19: Proposal deadline for 2018 Northeast Regional Honors Conference, Providence, RI.

December 7: Annual Holiday Cookie Decorating Party, 7:00 p.m., Harley Hall MPR

December 8: Deadline for graduating seniors to submit an electronic copy of their Honors Capstone Project

### The Fall Finder

N	R	O	C	Y	L	B	S	P	T	CINDY
B	K	R	E	D	I	C	F	X	C	PUMPKIN
F	U	C	W	Y	I	Y	O	A	Y	COCOA
P	V	O	N	B	V	I	N	G	L	LEAVES
U	G	C	E	R	L	D	E	N	E	CIDER
M	F	O	E	S	Y	P	P	I	A	HALLOWEEN
P	N	A	W	S	C	L	F	V	V	CANDY
K	M	L	O	W	A	T	E	R	E	CORN
I	A	L	L	E	T	W	O	A	S	FOOTBALL
N	I	R	L	A	T	S	P	C	Y	CARVING
S	B	L	A	T	B	L	B	F	D	SWEATER
A	A	X	H	E	V	T	B	Y	N	FALL
F	N	J	W	R	E	N	O	L	I	
B	R	R	F	E	K	N	W	O	C	
U	M	T	K	S	W	L	Z	C	F	

