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April-May 2001

# The Occasional Word

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Lock Haven University

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## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



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## SUSIE'S FAREWELL

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ? Honors Study Day Picnic is on May 1, 2001 at the Honors house, and will start at 1:00.
- ? Graduation is May 12, 2001 at 10:00.
- ? Honors Senior Brunch is on May 12, 2001 at 1:00 at the Honors house.



# THROUGH THANKFUL EYES

## Matt Meisenhelter



In less than a month, I will be a graduate of Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania and its Honors Program. In the four years I have spent here I have grown in countless ways. I am now more capable of accepting diversity, thinking critically (not judgmentally), and working diligently. I believe in myself and in my abilities, and am able to trust the abilities of others as well. I have learned the value of hard work and the eventual rewards it brings without fail. I have also learned the perils of slacking off, and the eventual consequences it brings without fail. I understand that there is so much I do not understand, and that recognizing this is the first step to-

ward real understanding. I understand that excellence is not a destination, but a life-long journey.

I will certainly never reach "excellence," as such, and I imagine there will still be occasions when the desire to slack gets the better of me. But the Honors Program has helped to define the word "excellence" for me and has helped me to make a desire for excellence part of my life-long journey. I now understand that the truest honor of them all is the honor you do yourself when you strive to do your personal best, whatever the result.

Yes, I learned a lot about Political Science, Speech Communication, Philosophy, and Leadership Studies... but I learned so much more from my college

experience than just what I was taught in the classroom.

And, without a doubt, I worked as hard here as I have doing anything else in my brief life. But, the education I have gained in the Lock Haven University Honors Program far outweighs the pain I endured in the process. I will forever have with me knowledge, potential, and a life-long desire for personal excellence that can never be taken away from me. And for this, LHU Honors, I am thankful.

The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way.

# SUSIE'S FAREWELL

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

# YOU GET WHAT YOU PUT IN

## Jen Freeman

This semester, I have looked around our Program, and for the first time, I became discouraged. Since the first time I walked through the door to the Honors house, I have been "gung-ho" Honors. Unfortunately, there are some members of the Program who do not seem to share the same attitude.

We have had more delinquencies this semester than ever before, and students are not completing their required amount of hours. Further, some students are not bothering to check their email at all, and Honors information is being returned to sender. The March issue of our newsletter remains unread in over half of the Honors mailboxes. On top of all this, students are complaining about not knowing

what is going on in the Program and saying that it is a waste of their time. I must ask; if you don't attend meetings or check your email and Honors mailbox, how could you possibly know what is going on? How can you be wasting your time if you are not putting any time into the Program?

The Honors Program is not magic. Simply walking into the house will not create an experience that is automatically beneficial and worth your time. You have to do that for yourself by becoming more involved in the Program. The indifferent attitudes are quite disheartening to those of us who are enthusiasts. As Honors students, we all make the Program what it is, and it is up to us to make the most out of our experience. It is also our own responsibility to

stay informed.

With the closing of this semester and summer ahead, we are about to lose many valuable seniors who are enthusiastic about and involved in the Program. Next year, those of us who remain must assume their positions, and to do so successfully, we need to lose the negative attitudes. There is nothing wrong with the Honors Program. Just like anything else in life, you can only get out of it what you are willing to put in.

"The Honors Program is not magic. Simply walking into the house will not create an experience that is automatically beneficial and worth your time."

# YOU WILL ALL BE MISSED

## Kimberly Reese

It seems like ages ago that I stood in a crowd of unknown faces wondering what I was doing at an honors orientation. I was a bit apprehensive and didn't know what to expect from college life. What I didn't know was that I was about to make some wonderful friends and a ton of memories.

One of my first memories at LHU was early Saturday morning standing outside of the PUB. A man that seemed ten feet tall approached with a friendly smile and said, "Hi! My name is Matt Meisenhelter. What is your name?" and proceeded to

have a conversation with me. After that, I was less anxious about being accepted as a member of the Program.

In that first year, there were some amazing upperclassmen who made my transition from high school to college a more enjoyable experience. Unfortunately, many of those students graduate this May. I share a memory with almost everyone of the graduates. Whether it be Jen Pederson's initial intimidating attitude that changed into genuine concern, Sara's frazzled and hyper personality, Jen Carmichael's friendly smile, hearing Olivia sound off during

the day, or morning talks with Miya, each senior will be remembered. I want to take the time to thank each one of you for your special contribution to the honors program and to my personal growth.

I'd like to give an extra special thank you to Sara. I've had a great time training to be a SAD under you. Your shoes are going to be pretty hard to fill around here! Thanks so much for a great leaning experience!

Good luck to all the seniors and keep in touch!



## WORLDVIEWS

Sean Kimball

After being in Scotland for a couple of months, I've noticed numerous differences and similarities between American and Scottish worldviews as well as political stances. Unfortunately, the apathy towards certain issues exists here too. Issues unrelated to everyday life are not deemed important, regardless of the indirect implica-

tions.

My classes have been extremely effective in communicating European culture and thinking. Just as in Finland, and contrary to the American frame of mind, Scots don't have much self-esteem on the national level. Americans are usually content being who they are, which appears as egotism to people here. There are just as many students who

think America is the Great Satan as there are who call it a utopia.

One of the most revealing experiences I had here occurred when a professor in my ideologies class asked students about their own political views. Apart from one liberal, all were communists or socialists. In America you would have to go a long way to find a classroom with

## AN EXPERIENCE IN ADJUSTING

Erica Moore

In the second semester of my freshmen year, I decided to join honors. I entered into Upper Division Honors instead of FYE. By the time I had everything sorted out and was accepted, it was



too late to add any honors classes to my schedule.

Things were a little shaky at first. I didn't know where most things were or what forms to fill out, but several students were kind enough to stop for a few mo-

ments to show me where to find things and what to do. A few even offered their phone numbers and said to call whenever I had a question. In the two groups I joined, I felt a little out of place. Everyone in the group had ei-

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Well, the year is coming to an end, and as we all know, the Honors Program is going to be saying good-bye to a number of amazing, outstanding, and wonderful graduates. Sara Smith, Matt Meisenhelter, Jen Carmichael, Jen Pedersen, Olivia Loskoski, Manjari Krishnamurthy, and Miya Bazley will all be graduating with University Honors, while Susie Spangler, Carly Woodmansee, Meredith Lang, Ndagi (Job) Goshi, Kelly Detwiler, Donna Dennis, and Neil Broxterman will be graduating with Honors in General Education. They have all contributed so much to the program and will be missed greatly. I want to extend my best wishes to all of you. Reach for the stars, and you shall always succeed!

I would personally like to say farewell to Susie Spangler, whose position as editor of the "Occasional

Word" I will be filling. She has helped me so very much in my attempts to continue making the "OW" as productive as possible. Also, she has become a wonderful friend. Good Luck in your future endeavors, Susie. May your life be filled with happiness and good fortune!

I would also like to extend a personal farewell to our Student Associate Directors, Matthew Meisenhelter and Sara Smith. Much like Kimberly Reese's experience, Matt was one of the very first people to welcome me to Honors. He helped me feel more at ease and gave me a more positive outlook on my status as an Honors student. He has grown to be an amazing friend, and I will truly miss him. Good luck, Matt! Not that luck has very much to do with the amazing individual that you are. Sara, too, has been an extremely positive

influence on me. She is always there with a friendly smile to help me out or give me advice. She has also become a great friend. I know that wherever life takes you, you will enjoy the ride and make the best of what is sent your way. Good luck, Sara, and thank you!

Finally, I would like to again stress that the Honors Program was lucky to have had all of the above-mentioned graduates as its members. They have dedicated so much of their time and energy into making the Honors Program as enjoyable an experience as it is. Good Luck to all of you! I will end with the wise and inspiring words of William Shakespeare's character Bottom from "A Midsummer Night's Dream," who said, "Masters, spread yourselves."

**Teresa**

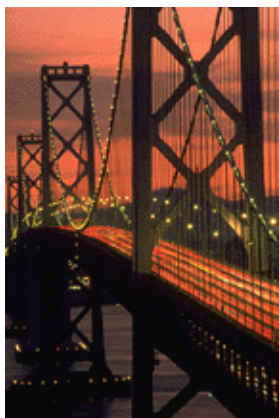


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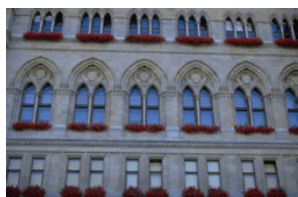
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Lock Haven University

Honors Program  
Lock Haven University  
Lock Haven, PA 17745

Phone: 570-893-2491  
Fax: 570-893-2711  
Email: jknauer@lhup.edu

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WE'RE ON THE WEB:  
HTTP://WWW.LHUP.  
EDU/HONORS

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"Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance."  
-Confucius

"The brighter you are, the more you have to learn."  
-Don Herold

"What we become depends on what we read after all of the professors have finished with us. The greatest university of all is a collection of books."  
-Thomas Carlyle

"An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you know and what you don't."  
-Anatole France

"Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence."  
-Robert Frost

"I never let schooling interfere with my education."  
-Mark Twain

"Great ability develops and reveals itself increasingly with every new assignment."  
-Baltasar Gracian, *The Oracle*

Contributors:

*Jim Knauer*

*Sharon Heverly*

*Susie Spangler*

*Teresa Pudvah*

*Kimberly Reese*

*Melissa Davis*

*Matt Meisenhelter*

*Sara Smith*

Co-Editors:

*Teresa Pudvah*

*Susie Spangler*

Assistant Editors:

*Nicole Verardi*

*Anastasia Bannikova*

