

The Occasional Word

December 2002

Lock Haven University Honors Program

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By Jim Knauer

The semester may be winding down, but the pace of events has not slowed in Honors. We are now in the thick of a new national project to be undertaken with the National Collegiate Honors Council. Next fall our Pennsylvania Center for Civic Life will serve as coordinator and online host for 20 or more Honors Programs around the country. Partner schools will offer Honors courses using a new National Issues Forum book, "Americans' Role in the World." Students in all classes will discuss the issue online in small groups. Our Honors students will be involved through an Honors World Politics course to be offered by Dr.

Director's Corner

Jeff Burnham.

Another new initiative grew out of our latest forum. This spring semester, a diverse group of students will come together on Tuesday evenings to discuss the racial and ethnic dimensions of popular culture. They plan to investigate advertising, music, TV and movies.

Spring will bring changes in the Program. Kim Reese will step down as Student Associate Director after three productive semesters to devote her energies to student teaching. She will be very ably replaced by George Zimmerman, who has been training this semester. Al-

isha Rasp will be stepping into a new position, Student Associate Director for Public Relations. As Melissa Davis begins her final semester at the university, Mary Lyter will be training to replace her as Student Associate Director. Finally, Professor Kathy Richards will bring new energy and insights as she steps in as Honors Director during my spring sabbatical leave.

Finally, special congratulations to our two December graduates: Anastasia Bannikova and Aaron Campbell.



Comments from Kim

By Kimberly Reese

I can't believe we are already at the end of another semester. The winter break is always a great time of year; you finally have time to relax and get to do all of the things you planned to do during

the fall but never found the time to do. Although I'm excited about the approach of winter break, I'm also a little saddened. The end of the semester also brings the official end of my position as Student Associate Director. Next semester, I'll be starting on a new adventure—student teaching,

and although I'm eager to start teaching, I will truly miss spending my time in the Honors House interacting with all of you.

I want to take some time to reflect on my experience with Honors because it has been an integral part of my college ex-

(Continued on page 2)

Creative Corner

Ships with Sails

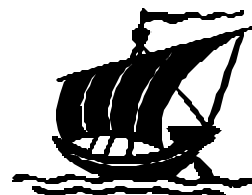
Hello black ship
Welcome me
I want to kiss
The darkling sea

I want sharks teeth
On a hangmans' noose
And spiral shells
On blading shoes

I want a tombstone
On sands 'neath sea
And have others visit
Besides just me

I once was a mariner
On my souls bay
I'll be the plotter
Of my souls way.

Submitted by
Edward Savoy



Comments from Kim

(Continued from page 1)

perience. When I entered Honors as a freshman, I did it for the wrong reason—I got a scholarship. What were a few classes and some weekly requirements in return for \$1000 scholarship? I did my hours begrudgingly and seriously considered dropping out of the Program, but something kept me here. It wasn't until the end of the first semester of my sophomore year that I knew what that "something" was; it was the Honors community that kept me returning each semester.

Looking back on the past 3 ½ years, the Program has evolved so much. Just think about all that has changed. My class was the first class to have an orientation, and at that time, the SAD positions weren't even created yet. Now we have expanded our orientation and created a third SAD position. Also during my freshman year, an FYE taskforce spearheaded efforts to make the transition from FYE to University Honors easier by allowing students to augment their FYE classes in the spring semester for Honors credit. During my sophomore year, the new Honors credentials were finalized, creating a two-tiered system to achieve Honors recognition. We have also expanded fresh-



man orientation to a freshman first semester experience, improved our website, and created more student activities days such the Fall Honors Festival. I can't even mention all of the changes that have occurred because they are too numerous, but you can tell from what I have mentioned that we have been busy. None of these changes could have occurred without the support and hard work of all of us. It would be easy to say that the Honors Committee, Jim and Sharon, Matt and Sara (the former SADs), and Melissa and I, evoked these changes—but that is not the truth. All of the students in the Program helped make these changes by getting involved in special teams, projects, taskforces, office hours, activities, special events, and voicing your opinions through email and at PCC and the Student Assembly meetings. I have never so fully believed that a community of people could actually make changes until I entered the Honors Program.

So what's next? There are so many new initiatives that are already in the works. As I mentioned earlier, we have just created a third SAD position that will work with the public relations aspect of the Program. We are also working on creating a sophomore experience that will help students get even more out of the Hon-

ors experience, and there has also been some talk of creating more Honors classes. With all of these new initiatives in the works and so many other possibilities for improvement, I want to know what are you planning to do to help? What will the Honors Program look like in another 3 ½ years? It all depends on you (individually and as a group).

It is apparent that my Honors experience has been amazing. The Program has strengthened my abilities and my confidence. I believe I have become a better person because of my experience in Honors. Since this will be the last OW issue with a "Comments from Kim" section, I just wanted to say thank you for making the experience so wonderful. I also want to welcome Kathy Richards (our new Honors director for the spring semester), George Zimmerman, Alisha Rasp, and Mary Lyter to the staff. I'm sure that this new group, with the continued assistance from Melissa and Sharon, will bring a new dynamic that will improve the Program.

With that being said, have a great winter break! You all know my email address, so keep in touch and I'll see you around the house when I'm not student-teaching. Have fun and keep smiling!

Argumentation and Debate

By Megan Gephart

My original intention for taking Honors Argumentation and Debate was to fulfill a general education requirement while simultaneously earning Honors credit (a kill two birds with one stone situation). However, I have now come to appreciate the course on another level.

I have to be perfectly honest, after the first day of class I was somewhat frightened. The syllabus looked overwhelming, and we were going to actually be debating one another (the name of the course should have given this point away), but it still came as a shock to me. After the first few weeks, I must admit, I was not too thrilled about the class work. There were endless assignments from our Critical Thinking book, and I was growing tired of what I considered at the time to be “busy work.” But, something happened to change my perception of the class—we began to debate. The assignments from the book had built a useful background for our debates in that they had taught us to think critically (imagine that, a critical thinking book that teaches you to think critically). The hard work was over, and the real fun began. We participated in numerous rounds of Parliamentary Debate, which is an infor-

mal style of debate where two members of the Government, the Prime Minister and the Member of the Government, debate against the two members of the Opposition, the Leader of the Opposition and the Member of the Opposition. This is designed to be fun; jest and sarcasm even have their place, and humor is encouraged. One has to think on their feet, as a resolution is given and must be analyzed in a way that can be debated. For example, “When the cat’s away, the mouse will play.” The affirmative is given ten minutes to prepare an argument, such as, “In the absence of laws, anarchy will prevail.” The negative must refute the affirmatives’ contentions or argue against topicality, which is more than I am going to get into right now. Your peers judge you, and they are also graded on their efforts.

Lincoln Douglass debate is another style that we are taught; this requires more preparation and is more formal. Careful research and planning must take place on both sides in this case. I prefer Parliamentary debate, because humor and jest

are what I’m all about, but that’s just me, and Lincoln Douglass taught me a lot about formal debate and preparing a case, which I’m almost sure will prove useful at some point in my life.

If this course has taught me anything (and I assure you it has), it has taught me to look at arguments differently. I find myself listening to advertisements on the radio, or watching them on TV, and pointing out to my friends that the language is slanted (of course they look at me strangely and tell me to shut-up, but they have not taken

the course or they would understand me perfectly). Also, I hear people argue now, and I find myself thinking about who has the valid points and can back them up. In a way, this course captures much of what the Honors Program is about: critical thinking, discussion, debate, problem solving, and, as Jim would say, “deliberative learning.” I would recommend taking this course to all fellow Honors students, and not just because it fulfills a general education requirement. Who knows, you might actually enjoy yourself (stranger things have happened).



Greetings from Australia!

G'Day!

Wow, another end to another semester! It just seems like yesterday that I was getting off the plane and starting classes in a University halfway around the world from where I've spent the rest of my college career. I don't regret it at all. It's been one of the best experiences of my life.

Now, people are starting to



pack up and leave and it is weird thinking that I won't see them again next semester; in fact, I probably won't see many of them ever again. In spite of that, I've made some great friends and seen a lot of this magnificent country! If anyone cares to see a very small part of my experience, I have some pictures posted on my website at: [http://www-](http://www-personal.une.edu.au/~mricha22)

[personal.une.edu.au/~mricha22](http://www-personal.une.edu.au/~mricha22).

As for my future plans before I leave, I'm going to head to the beach and enjoy the sun before I have to come back to the snow in PA, and head to Sydney to see what the big city has to offer. Good luck to all on finals! I'll see everyone in December!

By Mick (Mike Richards)

Honors Word Search

Submitted by Michelle Bennett

S T F Z E E J S W P E Y F O H T R O
 T R R B A S W P D E M R D O M M X C
 W F I S H E R X D W C W G W E S D C
 E O E I S P U O R G Y T I V I T C A
 B R N O I S S U C S I D H C N U L S
 T U D M A E T S N O I S S I M D A I
 E M S P M H O N O R S H O U S E N O
 A S R O N O H Y T I S R E V I N U N
 M R O F T R O P E R Y T I V I T C A
 W Y L B M E S S A T N E D U T S R L
 S N O I T A T N E M G U A O C P X W
 I W J K F P B G N R A N F W E O B O
 O I M G L H G R E E N S H E E T S R
 E S R P F T F Z N F T Y T P V L I D
 P C C S H A R O N D R A C E M I T T
 C A P S T O N E P R O J E C T G B G
 I A T I L M B U L C S R O N O H N X
 P T P E F M E F C O M M U N I T Y I

Find the following hidden words:

HONORS HOUSE, SHARON, JIM, GREEN SHEETS, TIMECARD, FDG, PCC, ADMISSIONS TEAM, FORUMS, STUDENTS, COMMUNITY, FRIENDS, OCCASIONAL WORD, LUNCH DISCUSSION, WEB TEAM, ACTIVITY REPORT FORM, STUDENT SPOTLIGHT, UNIVERSITY HONORS, STUDENT ASSEMBLY, CAPSTONE PROJECT, FYE, AUGMENTATIONS, ACTIVITY GROUPS, FUN, HONORS CLUB

A Little Taste of Poetry

Relationship

Strands of hair
 Each one a fray
 Once they're cut
 Everything's okay
 With each day
 They grow back the same
 Some things just never seem to change.

Sweet Dreams

Tucked into bed

All safe and cozy
 You came in to me
 For my final kiss goodnight
 Through all me years
 All I ever heard:
 "Sweet dreams; don't let the bed bugs bite."
 Tonight was different
 From all the rest
 You did not say what you usually said
 Was something wrong?
 Didn't I do something right?
 Or maybe I was just too old for my special goodnight
 Whatever the reason

I missed it so
 And hoped it's appear for the next night to come
 But still the same
 So the change had stayed
 And never did I lie in sweet dreams at night.

Submitted by Jennifer
 Barto

Gratitude

By Sean Kimball

As the fall semester draws to a close, surviving finals week and returning home with that impressive grade report is a top priority for Honors students. Before going home and enjoying that blissful obliviousness of academia for one month, let's show some gratitude.

Throughout the semester and behind the scenes, Jim, Sharon and a diligent team of Honors students have labored together to maintain the goals and values of the program and the sense of community within it. We all owe them a big thank you for their invaluable



work and toil. Reminding students of timecard procedures, maintaining the program website, completing the five-year review, coordinating activity groups and admitting the next batch of students among many other tasks

all seem routine, yet without even one of them, Honors students would be worse off. The genius of the student-run Honors Program is that it is the embodiment of college life itself; since it is of our own making, our own exertion and involvement determines

its success. Any comment criticizing the program is a challenge to rectify the problem and to elevate one's own

academic and extracurricular participation. Each responsibility is incumbent upon student engagement and action.

Now, a substantial transition is at hand. As an exceptionally large senior class graduates this spring, the torch must be passed on to assiduous and enthusiastic students eager to assume challenging responsibilities and guarantee the bright future of the Lock Haven University Honors Program. Who will it be?

From the Secretary's Desk

Hi Folks,

The Honors House is buzzing these days with the end of the semester in clear view. Students are submitting augmentation proposal forms and getting ready for finals. Graduation in December will see two students leaving Honors and they will be missed. Anastasia Bannikova is graduating with University Honors and Aaron Campbell is graduating with University Honors with Distinction. I would like to take this time to tell you both how proud I am of you and to thank you for all that you have done to enhance the Honors Program. Best of luck as you search for the career goals you desire.

We had the privilege of having dinner at President Willis' home on Tuesday, November 12, with ad-



ministration, faculty, staff, and Honors students present. Our student leaders discussed what the program is all about and asked how the faculty and others could help us improve any aspect of the program to attract even more students to join. The discussion went very well and I would like to

thank President Willis for providing dinner and sharing his home to accommodate us and for the comments from administration and faculty. We strive to make the program the best it can be, and any comments were

taken seriously. We will have a program evaluator, Dr. Hallie Savage from Clarion University, coming to LHU on December 5 to evaluate Honors. We look forward to having her observe the program and will welcome all comments she may have. I

have mentioned several times that a student's input is important also, and the program is run by them and they have helped make it the success it is today. Many thanks to all of you. Keep up the good work.

When finals are complete and you have the much needed break you deserve, I hope that you would enjoy the time with your family over this holiday season. Reflect on what you have learned and how you can apply these lessons to the Spring semester. Relax your mind and come back to LHU refreshed and with new ideas to make us even more successful. Until then take care and be safe.

Sharon

Greetings from Walt Disney World!

By Janelle Steen

Hello Honors program students! I hope that you are continuing to enjoy your semester, and are looking forward to getting those pesky final exams out of the way. Though I could fill this article with tales of horrible roommates, demanding supervisors, and the horrors of living on a budget, I've decided to instead concentrate on the value of a good education. Some of you may remember those happy summer nights when you returned from your bartending job with over a hundred dollars in your pocket; you are now wondering where all of that money went. "Stay in school!" may seem an obvious piece of advice since you are



not only in college, but in the Honors program as well.

However, I'm sure there are those of you who may end up somewhere other than where you've planned. Every day I go to work and thank the powers that be that I won't have to work in retail for the rest of my life. Don't get me wrong, I love getting into Disney parks for free, but I don't like getting only \$6.00 an hour with \$67.00 taken every week to cover rent for my apartment.

If you are currently unsure as to where you're headed in the future, discuss that with your parents (I know they're old, but they can give good advice), your advisor, or Career Services. Freshmen, your first semester is drawing to an end, and I congratulate you on getting this far.

Now it is time for you to

choose the path you want to take in life. You may have realized, as I did after my first semester, that the major you chose just isn't for you. Take time over your winter vacation to find out what you're interested in. Schedule some courses in that area for next spring.

Seniors, you only have one full semester left, and I wish you luck. For all of you in between, this is the time to plan for your future. Be thankful that you have the opportunity to learn when so many others don't. Be thankful that you have the chance to realize your dreams. Be thankful that wherever you choose to go in life, there will always be someone to stand beside you. I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving, and I look forward to returning soon

Staying Healthy

By Laura Kennedy

So, it's that time again—winter and nasty weather are fast approaching. Along with the cold, winter months bring many sniffles, sneezes, aches, and coughs—welcome to flu season.

The flu (influenza) is a viral infection of the nose, throat, bronchial tubes, and lungs that is spread mostly by sneezing, coughing, or sharing drinks. The flu spreads very quickly, and it can be a big problem in small, close-knit communities such as college campuses. Here are some ways to help prevent getting the flu virus.

- ☞☞ Get enough sleep. Usually 7 to 10 hours a night is sufficient.

- ☞☞ Eat three, well balanced meals a day.
- ☞☞ Drink plenty of water.
- ☞☞ Wash your hands frequently.
- ☞☞ Avoid caffeine and alcohol (they dehydrate you).
- ☞☞ Avoid cigarette smoke and other respiratory irritants.
- ☞☞ It is also suggested that you get an annual flu shot to decrease your chance of acquiring the disease.

It is very important that you can recognize the signs of the flu. Symptoms include a cough, chills, fever, and aching in your back, arms,

and legs. Having these symptoms does not necessarily mean you definitely have the flu, but it is a big possibility.

If you do happen to be one of those very unlucky people to acquire the influenza virus, drink plenty of fluids, get lots of rest, and help reduce fever and body aches by taking acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Advil).

I wish you all a very happy and healthy rest of the semester.



Give it a Chance

By Caleigh Meehan

When I was first told that I was required to attend three discussion forums this semester, I was as hesitant as everyone else. We were told that they would be two hours long, but it would only count as one hour for our green sheets. I wasn't thrilled about the prospect of sitting in the Ulmer Planetarium for two hours on a Monday night. As a result, I attended the first forum with a chip on my shoulder and a horrible attitude.

Shortly after the forum started I realized that I was wrong. I found it

interesting to hear the opinions of others on the topic of Physician Assisted suicide. As I listened I realized that there were many points I hadn't thought about earlier, and I noticed that my opinions were changed by the end of the night. The second forum I attended had a similar affect, and it made me realize that forums are worth attending.

I'm not asking everyone to change their opinions on the forum, but to attend them with an open mind.



Yes, we are getting paid for one hour out of two, but it is an hour that we would not have had otherwise. It is an opportunity to share your opinions on a specific topic with a large group of people. Also, forums offer everyone the opportunity to change things that you do not like. So the next time everyone gets an email about a forum, don't roll your eyes and delete it. Read the information with an open mind, and maybe you will learn to see a topic in a different way.

Stepping on Toes

By Adam Styborski

I'm sure that we've all done it before. Walking along, minding your business, then quite suddenly you trod upon the toes of an unsuspecting bystander. The immediate response is anger, or withdraw, from the person, and we are left wondering why an accident initiated such a reaction.

Well folks, that's how many of us argue our points.

Confused? You very well may be. So allow me to clarify my point. Some people, myself and a few key others in my mind at the moment (none even anywhere near LHU mind you), when "debating" really "tunnel" through it. [Tunneling (in a "debate"), n.: to have a valid point, then blindly drive that point into a dissonant person relative to you, many times out of anger/resentment/stubbornness.] This "tunneling" does two things: (1) prevents effective consideration of alternate ideas and points on your behalf, and (2) offends or beats into sub-

mission those debating with you.

Even if you "don't ever and couldn't possibly" do that, I'm sure you all know somebody that has done that at least once (if not me in of myself... repeated!). To make matters worse, and they're pretty bad already,

when two people who "tunnel" start to "debate" something, it gets ugly, fast, quick, and painfully long at times. I'm sure most of you have seen someone

nearby that has done that at least once (if not me in of myself... repeatedly...again).

So what can be done? Not much if "you don't ever and couldn't possibly" do it yourself. BUT IF YOU DO...you can realize it, and try to catch yourself when you start to do it (as I've been trying hard to do for myself). It's really easy to slip into "tunneling" because of it's upside: (false) security. You are right, at least

in your own mind, and you stay that way as long as you tunnel. Until you stop and begin to analyze other ideas and points, there is no "real threat" of you being "wrong" about something.

Remember that there ARE many things in the world worth going all the way for, but almost ALL of what we "debate" about, practically on a DAILY basis, isn't of that important caliber.

Just don't get me started on what things exactly fall into the higher distinction. I'm trying to get out of the argumentative rut I've been stuck in for awhile now (as of the writing of this, hopefully things will change by the time you read this!). Now go out there, and make your day nicer!✍



From the Other Side of the Fence

By Alisha Rasp

In response to the article "Activation Overload" in the last issue, I felt the need to offer another perspective on the issue of what college is about. Unlike the author of that article, I don't look at my college experience as an economic equation where opportunity costs and money are the only important factors. I look at my years at LHU as an experience that will shape the rest of my life. Yes, I pay to be here and I feel strongly about my education. I don't have sympathy for the students out there who slack and fail out of school because they don't even try. I do, however, feel that there needs to be a balance between school and social activities. Spending every waking min-



ute in your room, studying for that 4.0, is not making the most of your college experience.

All of those clubs, organizations and activities referred to as "distractions" do serve a purpose. There is a reason they are advertised all over campus. The reason is that most people on this campus realize the value and benefits of being involved. How lonely of an existence would it

be for a person to never go out and meet people? How boring would it be to have nothing to do except study? How depressing would it be to never explore the outdoors or play a sport that you love? Every activity and organization on campus is there because someone is interested in participating in it. Without them, many students would not leave this university with as many skills as they do. Being an active member of something

improves communication skills and ability to cooperate with others. Many people develop leadership skills and realize hidden talents. As for discussion-based activities, how else are you going to hear other people's opinions and open your mind to new ideas? Though many professors are excellent at their profession and do a wonderful job of teaching the subject matter, many classes are not discussion-based and do not lend to students sharing their thoughts and opinions. Often, in a classroom, you are only getting one view. Are you content with that? As a student striving to make the most of your education, should you not seek out other points of view and try to broaden your scope?

A Poetic Perspective

World Peace

I often hear other people talk of world peace
Like it is something that can be achieved
With a mere snap of the fingers or a flick of the wrist.
I think to myself
Where can I find this utopia?
World Peace? It is a novel idea; but one that will almost certainly never be achieved.
How does one find a way to end All bigotry and elitism and discrimination?
How do we ask Osama Bin Laden to stop Terrorizing others? Would he listen to us anyway?
How do we tell our government to pull

out of the Middle East and Afghanistan?
Would it listen to us?
Is it possible to ask everyone to cease all criminal activity?
Can we ask those who have nothing to stop taking
From those who have all they could ever hope for?
Would those who are lucky enough to have money,
To have status, and to have love
Share with those of us who don't?
Most wouldn't share anything.
However, there are some rays of hope.
Some are offering what they have in order to
Help out their fellow man.
We should all be like these men.
We can learn from these men;
They can teach us compassion.

Compassion is the best tool we have
For achieving that elusive dream of World Peace
For if we don't care about our fellow man,
We will never care about saving our fellow man.

Submitted by George Zimmerman



Melissa's Messages

By Melissa Davis

I'm going to use this last issue of the Occasional Word for the semester as a reflection. As a Program, we have done some very cool things in the past couple of months. We had our very first Honors Fall Festival at the Seig Center back in September. This was a great overnight trip, and those who attended met and had the chance to get to know some new people. Hopefully this will become an annual event.

You're going to be seeing some new faces around the Honors Center come January. Well, I guess they're not new; you'll just be seeing them around a lot more often. Most of you know that George Zimmerman is finishing up his training with Kim to take over parts of her job. He's worked really hard these last couple of months, and I'd just like to say welcome to the staff. I know that you're going to do a great job. As some of you may not know, Alisha Rasp has joined the Honors staff. Come January, she will begin working as a student associate director. She will be

working on the public relations for the Program. This is a new position, we're still in the process of defining it, but I know that she'll do a fantastic job. And lastly, Jim is going to be on sabbatical next semester, and Kathy Richards will be filling in for him. She's got so much energy and drive that I'm sure we're going to have a great semester. Be sure to stop in the office sometime and say hi. I know that she'll enjoy getting to know every-



one. When I think about the good things of the semester, the new freshmen come to mind first. This year's class is excellent and is already changing and shaping the Honors community. However, this would not be possible were it not for our upperclassmen and leaders. I won't take the time nor the space to name all of them, but I'd like to commend and thank all of our activity group, freshmen discussion group, and lunch discussion leaders. Without their hard work and dedication, the Honors Pro-

gram would not only stop growing, but it would cease to be all together.

Also, we cannot forget all the people who work hard on special projects and teams. These folks often work behind the scenes and are indispensable to the Program. We couldn't do it without all of you. And not to be forgotten, we have a wonderful Occasional Word staff. This group of people works really hard to produce these great issues. After you finish reading it, drop them a note telling them how great it is.

Finally, I'd like to take a moment for a personal note. For the past year and a half, including two summers, I've worked with an amazing person. You all know her as Kim, student associate director; I know her as a traveling companion and partner in crime. We started off together barely as acquaintances, and we now finish our time as great friends. I've learned so much from her, and working with her has been a fabulous experience, one that I won't soon forget. Kim, good luck in all you do. I love and will miss you.

A Little More Poetry

Falling

I.
The first roses to bloom
in early spring
are the first, too,
who cry their petals
to the ground.
And around the bushes
the forsaken petals lay quietly
like beautiful shards
of a broken heart.

II.
In the early weeks of fall
the green of the summer
evaporates to shades

of crimson, gold, and orange.
Leaf by leaf,
the summer sighs, surrendering
to the fallowing season.
In a matter of weeks
the endless sun
and boundless blue skies
are forgotten
to windswept clouds and a world now
lightless.
In the absence of the perpetual grow-
ing green
everything fades
to a hopeless, growthless gray.

III.
Through the glass I keep watch.

I know when the leaves lose
their tenuous grip on reality.
I watch them as they helplessly fall
one by one
to the ground
until at last
they lay there
at rest
flat like headstones.
Everywhere green lawns are covered
with them:
graveyards now
cemeteries of spring.

Submitted by Mary Lyter

Hello from France!

By Daniela Terneus

Hi everyone, this is Daniela Terneus, and I am doing a semester abroad in Mulhouse, France. There are many things I want to tell you about my adventures in Europe and so little space, but I will definitely try my best.

I arrived to Mulhouse on a rainy and extremely cold day; it was not the best way to start. However, three other international students that had already arrived came to pick me up at the train station. In the beginning it was extremely stressful to get used to the language. I have been studying French for two years, and I know I can speak it, but suddenly words could not come out of my mouth; it was really frustrating because these people were talking to me, and I could not understand anything.

They also took me to register in the University. The campus was

really nice; however, the people working there were not very welcoming. Their organization was so terrible that I did not even have a room in the residence halls. After three hours they

"I recommend to all of you to go abroad somewhere and see the world: you have no idea what you are missing."

found me a room in "lovely" Bâtiment A (this is what my residence hall is called). I got there and all I wanted to do was cry. My room is a single room that is falling apart. There is a small shower inside the room and you have to share the bathroom with thirty other men and women that live there (you have to buy your own toilet paper).

After the shock, everything started to go smoother. I met other international students from all over the world, and I was not feeling lonely anymore. My experience here has been good, although it was a bit hard to get used to how things work here, from the living conditions to the classes. For example, classes here are only offered once a week, and

you do not have to go to them (not that I am complaining).

Mulhouse is a small city.

There is not much to do here but everything is really close. I have been traveling a lot trying to take advantage of how easy and cheap it can be. I am forty five minutes away from Strasbourg which is considered the capital of Europe. I am twenty minutes away from Colmar which is a small village that looks like Venice. I have Switzerland fifteen minutes away, and I am right next to Germany. The experience is unforgettable, and the things I have seen and the people I have met will remain in my mind forever.

I know it sounds strange, but you can be anywhere in the world, the best place or the worst place, but it is what you make of it. I recommend to all of you to go abroad somewhere and see the world: you have no idea what you are missing. Have a great semester everyone and I will write some more adventures in the next OW.

Au Revoir!

Wrapping It Up

Greeting to all my fellow Lock Haveners!

Announcement: Finals Week Is Over! Do you know what that means? That means that I am in Australia for two more weeks and I have nothing to do with anything associated with school! I can't believe my time here is almost up. I will be flying back home in 19 days, and I must say that I'm not exactly looking forward to it. I mean, sure I miss everyone and I think about all the good things to look forward to when I get home. But I feel like there is so much more that I want to do here. I want to see the Great Ocean Road, the Great Barrier Reef, and I want to travel to New Zealand. However, these examples give me a great reason to come



back. When I talk to people back home, they think that my time here would be like a big vacation. In some ways, I guess it has been. But it has been so much more to me. I never thought that while being over here I would meet such great people and then have to say good bye just when our friendships are growing strong, knowing that most likely I will never see any of them again. I'm just going to have to have a lot of pen pals!

I also never thought that I would get so used to the way things are here, to the point that I am actually scared that I won't know how to do things when I get home. A good example of this is driving on the correct side of the road. I am so used to

how to drive here and ride in a car without being scared going around every corner. I don't know if I'll be able to drive correctly when I get home! One of the best feelings about going home is knowing that there are people from Lock Haven that have experienced this with me. Mostly, they are the only ones who will understand the feelings when I get home and get to share the memories. We now have a special bond that will hold us together forever.

Well, I am off to have another relaxing day in the sun. Yes, it is actually warm here, finally! I hope everything is going well at LHU and I will be seeing all of you in a couple weeks!

By Mallory Weigle

Science from a Non-Scientific Perspective

By Nicole Verardi

This semester I am taking my last Gen Ed requirement, and it happens to be a science lab, Honors Geology. As an English major, I was not really sure what to expect from this class, but it has turned out to be quite an experience.

A topic that has come up pretty often in the Honors house is that of the importance of Gen Ed's. I have always been a supporter of this rich variety in education so that we become well-rounded people in our own lives, not just ready for a specific job. However, as much as I champion this belief, I have never really found a passion for science or math. Last semester, I had Biology Seminar, which was great for an English major because we had class discussions and worked individually researching, writing about, and presenting our topics.

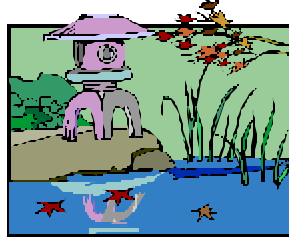
Although Geology has also

involved a lot of writing and research, we also looked in-depth at environmental issues. Our field trips, especially, have really emphasized to me the importance of everyone being educated outside their own fields. We went to an acid mine drainage affected area and learned about treatment plans. Being from Pennsylvania or going to school here, coal mining and its effects are part of our heritage. It is important that we all understand this process so that in the next generations we will be able to mine in the best way for the environment. How will we be able to vote about environmental issues if we are completely uneducated about them?

Our last field trip took us to the Nipponese Valley to see first-hand the springs, caves, sinkholes, and disappearing streams of the unique area. However, this beauty is in jeopardy

because of proposed CAFO's (basically, pig factories). Without knowing about the specific environmental effects in this area, how would we know how to react to this proposition?

If you would like to see some pictures of these trips, check our Dr. Khalequzzaman's website at <http://www.lhup.edu/~mkhalequ/home.htm>.



Basically, I am saying that our Earth's resources and the effects of retrieving them are important for everyone to understand. Maybe we do not need to fully comprehend the small details, but we do need to be able to appreciate these resources enough to come together to make informed decisions about our future. Now coming to the end of my general education requirements, I am sure that they have been valuable for me, and hopefully for everyone else too.

Creative Corner

Simplicity

All too much wasted beauty
In drum shots over the mountain
In roses in the stone
In hay bales stretched over the darkness
In smiles in the dark
In midnight prayers
In wet weeds and pipe reeds
In six houses from the river
In the riverrun

Surrealistic Associative Junk

Black hued bluesy wasted dreams
I've known gin too long to taste cream
The levees' blocking all my blood
I'm going out with a crystal thud
Studying up on bruiseology well
I've a black eyed soul and a warning

bell

I'm setting up meetings with Chairman Mao
Since *some* of my best friends are human *now*.

Blues Ballad in B minor

The levee's nearly gone and alls well in New York City
The levee's almost always gone and alls well in New York City
Now even the shadows are crying and boy, ain't that a pity?

I'm walking up so slow but the path behind me is searing
I'm walking so very awful slow but the path behind me is searing
I could keep walking onward, but oh, that'd mean keep on fearing

Fifty different states, not one of them worth living
Fifty hundred different states, not one of them worth living
'Cept maybe manic depression; the gift that keeps on giving

Skelton in skin, wish I could say I'm charming
I'm a Skeleton in skin, wish I could say I'm charming
Never knew before that life could be so disarming.

Submitted by
Edward Savoy

**Lock Haven University
Honors Program**

Honors Program
Lock Haven University
Lock Haven, PA 17745

Phone: 570-893-2053
Fax: 570-893-2711
Email: jknauer@lhup.edu

We're on the Web:
[WWW.LHUP.EDU/
HONORS](http://WWW.LHUP.EDU/HONORS)

"Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."
—*James Barrie*

"If you can't return a favor, pass it on."
—*Louise Brown*

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."
—*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

"We must use time wisely and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right."
—*Nelson Mandela*

"After the verb 'to Love,' 'to Help' is the most beautiful verb in the world."
—*Bertha von Suttner*

"I know that every good and excellent thing in the world stands moment by moment on the razor-edge of danger and must be fought for..."
—*Thornton Wilder*

Contributors

Co-Editors

Teresa Pudvah
Megan Gephart

Assistant Editors

Adam Styborski
Nicole Verardi
Alisha Rasp

Writers

Jim Knauer
Kimberly Reese
Edward Savoy
Megan Gephart
Mike Richards



More Writers...

Michelle Bennett
Jennifer Barto
Sean Kimball
Sharon Heverly
Janelle Steen
Laura Kennedy
Caleigh Meehan
Adam Styborski
Alisha Rasp
George Zimmerman
Melissa Davis
Mary Lyter
Daniela Terneus
Mallory Weigle
Nicole Verardi
