Eddie Joe’s Corner

The academic year 2007-2008 has begun with an incredible series of unexpected events and the consequent “mess” that has followed. Nonetheless, our UHP has much to boast about as usual. I am particularly pleased to report that last year’s main agenda item for our UHP, Mirabile Inventu the PA-SSHE Summer Honors Program, was a much more huge success than we ever anticipated. Even though our program “officially” ended September 29th, the residual impact of it should last for several years within the PA-SSHE as well as here at Cal U. The PA-SSHE Summer Honors Program is one of the best perks of our UHP, and I encourage everyone to apply in order to participate. The 2008 program is sponsored by Bloomsburg U of PA and will run from May 11, 2008 to June 4, 2008. Bloomsburg’s program (“China Today: People, Policies, and Preferences”) will occur primarily in China with only a very short stay on their campus. We have posted a copy of their brochure in the UHP Bulletin Board Area of the Honor Hall.

As usual, you can expect our campus deadline for applications to be at the end of the first week of classes for the spring term 2008. Stay tuned for further information about the application process and required materials. Scholarship recipients must have their passport “in hand” no later than February 15, 2008, but it is a good idea to have your passport available for the on-campus interview stage of our selection process.

In the event that you have been living under a rock, I should, of course, mention that our intrepid and wonderful Assistant Director, Professor Erin E. Mountz, has moved up the academic food chain, accepting a position as the Assistant Dean of the Honors College at Towson University in Towson, MD, which is a suburb of Baltimore. Alas, Leslie Klynoot, who was all set to become our next Asst. Director, was unable to take the position because of her husband’s sudden promotion and transfer to Fort Worth, TX. Fortunately, a couple of your HAB members (Drs. Rebecca Hess and J. Drew McGukin) stepped forward and are currently teaching HON 499 and HON 100 for the fall term, even though they both had already full commitments to their own departments. We are, however, still missing an Asst. Director, which is placing much additional work on Mrs. Kim Orslene (our stalwart UHP secretary) and yours unruly.

Nonetheless, I am very pleased that we have eight folks (six UHP students and two faculty) presenting posters, an idea exchange, and two panel presentations, as well as moderating a couple of sessions at the upcoming NCHC National Conference in Denver, CO.
Eddie Joe’s Corner cont.

The announcement and call for proposals for the NE-NCHC Regional conference in Morristown, NJ has just occurred, and the deadline for submission is November 15, 2007. Stay tuned to your e-mail, the UHP webpage, and Bb for information concerning an initial workshop for submitting a proposal as well as our institutional deadline for consideration and vetting prior to submission to the conference referees. Time is short. The Conference theme for Morristown is “Revolutions: Morristown, New Jersey” (April 3-6, 2008). The NCHC has announced another logo design competition for next year’s national conference in San Antonio, TX. The submission deadline is October 15, 2007, so if you are interested in any of these upcoming items listed supra, please contact us ASAP.

One final piece of good news for our UHP: very, very recently the Grandmother of one of our previous UHP graduates has made a very generous donation of a scholarship earmarked for a high achieving, involved, and financially "needy" second year UHP student. Apparently, the Grandmother was much impressed with the impact our UHP had upon her Grandchild. The scholarship is called the Robert Sumara Scholarship, and I get to identify and recommend a list of eligible students for the scholarship. Then, the Financial Aids office makes the actual scholarship award based on "student need." I have done my work, but the actual scholarship award is "in process" at the moment.

Announcements By Megan Lapp

Saturday, October 8: Cal U Discovery Day in the Performance Center from 10:30 – 2:00. Be sure to stop and visit the Honors Program booth.

Sunday, October 21: All honors students are welcome to attend the yearly trip to the Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History. If you have signed up to go, more information will be forthcoming about the time and lunch.

Friday, October 26: The HSAB is hosting a Halloween Party from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Honors Media Room. All honors students are welcome to attend. Costumes are optional!

Tuesday, November 6: The HSAB is hosting a group mentoring session at 6:30 p.m. in the Honors Media Room for freshmen in Honors Composition I. They will answer any questions that you may have, including information about portfolios and papers.

Saturday, November 3: Cal U Discovery Day in the Performance Center from 10:30 – 2:00. If you are interested in helping work the Honors booth, send an e-mail to Mrs. Orslene at orslene@cup.edu by Wednesday, October 31.

Thursday, November 15: The HSAB is gathering a group to go see the 8:00 p.m. showing of The Bourne Ultimatum in the Vulcan Theater. The group will be meeting at 7:50 p.m. in the Honors Office to walk over.
Mirabile Inventu Wrap-Up  By Emily Wolfe

Three weeks in Europe. It sounds like a dream, right? This past summer, three California Honors Program students (including myself) had this dream come true. Every year one of the fourteen schools in the State System of Higher Education hosts a Summer Honors Program. Cal U hosted this past summer. The program, called “Mirabile Inventu: The Renaissance and Reformation with Antique Connections,” boasted a week of classes delving into four different issues: politics, science, art, and communication. These classes helped prepare me, and everyone else, for the coming weeks-- and I needed as much preparation possible. The faculty for this program also helped tremendously. Not only did these professors know their subject matter (and much more beyond it), but they have all been out of the country before, which made it easier for first-time travelers. After a week of study we traveled to Rome, Pompeii, Florence, Siena, Venice, Innsbruck, Rothenberg, Nuremberg, Mainz, Amsterdam, Brussels, and London (phew!). Everyone asks me which city was my favorite, and I honestly cannot answer because each one is so different and spectacular. Three very fast weeks later the program ended, and I was left with my brain still buzzing with the excitement of learning in such an interactive and unusual way. Not only do I understand the Renaissance and Reformation, but I have encountered these amazing moments in history firsthand. The places we visited have been standing for thousands of years, but seeing the ruins really puts things into a clear perspective about the advanced cultures of the ancient world. The way the itinerary was organized allowed us to ‘travel through time,’ because we started in Rome to experience the Coliseum, worked our way through Northern Italy where we understood the high and later Renaissance, and then transitioned into the Reformation in Austria and Germany. By the time we arrived in Amsterdam and London, we had shifted to the late Reformation, and felt its impact by the grandeur of Hampton Court.

Moral of this article: Apply for this coming program to China. You won’t regret it.
Student Spotlight of Emily Wolfe  By Melanie Ruch

Senior Emily Wolfe was one of three lucky recipients of the PaSSHE Summer Honors Program scholarship to study here at California University of Pennsylvania entitled Mirabile Inventu: European Renaissance and Reformation with Antique Connections.

When I interviewed her about winning the scholarship and her experiences in Europe, she had this to say:

MR: For what reason did you apply for the summer program?
EW: As an art major I thought it would be the perfect opportunity to expand my knowledge of the roots of western art. I felt the only way that I could understand the culture was to be immersed in it.

MR: How has winning the scholarship benefited you as a student?
EW: It is exciting to be able to really understand what a professor means when he/she talks about an amazing work of art and I am able to say, “I’ve seen it and I understand it.” I really would like to study abroad at the graduate level because of this experience. And I have become really interested in other cultures.

MR: What was your favorite part of the trip?
EW: The Germany festival was an unreal experience. We all pulled up in a giant tour bus to a neighborhood block party with hundreds of people. There was a polka band, free food, kids, and it was really wonderful to take a break from museum tours and just experience what it was like to be in Germany.

MR: What was your least favorite thing about the trip?
EW: Traveling from city to city by tour bus with two gigantic pieces of luggage.

MR: How did you feel to be a student from the school that hosted the program?
EW: I felt a sense of responsibility for the success of the trip. It was really fun to be at Cal because I knew what it was like to live in the residence halls, where the restaurants were in town, and how to get through the library. It was nice to not have to worry about being in a new place before we left because I felt at home.

MR: Would you recommend students apply for China? Why?
EW: Even though I got to see all of Europe it would be really amazing to study in one country instead of learning four different languages, cultures, and food for just a few days each. I think you would gain a better understanding of China’s culture to study only there for two weeks.

MR: Any advice for future applicants?
EW: Be Yourself.
Student Spotlight of Megan Lapp
By Annie Blakeslee

Megan Lapp is a junior majoring in elementary education, early childhood, and mathematics. She was one of the three recipients of the PA-SSHE’s summer scholarship from California University of Pennsylvania. I asked Megan a few questions about her experiences before, during and after the trip and this is what she had to say:

**AB:** For what reason did you apply for the summer program?
**ML:** As an education major, I felt that this scholarship would provide the opportunity to study the humanistic approach to education. It would also immerse me in the rich and varied cultures of Western Europe, an experience that brought into sharp focus my cultural assumptions.

**AB:** How has winning the scholarship benefited you as a student?
**ML:** I’m on a traveling high. I want to go everywhere and anywhere before I die. I had never been out of the country before, but now I feel that I can travel almost anywhere.

**AB:** What was your favorite part of the trip?
**ML:** Every part. Although, I have to say that I had the most fun in Germany. We went to a block party with a friend of Dr. Chute’s, and we just spent the afternoon relaxing and getting to know each other better. It was really funny when we pulled up, because everyone just stared at us. Hardly anyone spoke fluent English, but we still had fun! Plus, the home cooked food was amazing. We had the chance to stop and think for a day.

**AB:** What was your least favorite thing about the trip?
**ML:** Definitely leaving each place. It was always sad because you knew that you were getting closer to the end of the trip.

**AB:** How did you feel to be a student from the school that hosted the program?
**ML:** I felt a responsibility to set a good example. I also think that I felt more comfortable, because I knew about eight other people that I could trust.

**AB:** Would you recommend students apply for China? Why?
**ML:** I would most definitely recommend students apply for China! You should take advantage of any opportunity that you receive to travel. Traveling is very expensive, but it is worth it. Traveling for free is something that you should take advantage of.

**AB:** Any advice for future applicants?
**ML:** Take advantage of your resources, and know why you want to go.
Student Spotlight of Chelsea Mahosky  By Erin Berstler

Senior Chelsea Mahosky was one of the three winners of the Mirabile Inventu scholarship.

When I asked her about her experience in Europe, she had this to say:

**EB:** First of all - Share a little background on yourself. What is your class, major and where are you from?

**CM:** I am a junior and an Early Childhood/Elementary Education Major with a minor in French. I live near Greensburg, PA, but my address is Jeannette.

You were one of the winners of the 2007 PA-SSHE Summer Honors Scholarships

**EB:** Talk a little about the program? What did you do, where did you go?

**CM:** The scholarship was a wonderful experience for me. I was lucky enough to be chosen as one of the winners. It focused on the Renaissance and Reformation, one of my favorite periods in history. We traveled from Rome to Florence, to Venice to Rothenberg to Brussels to London, with a few side trips in-between.

**EB:** Why did you apply for the scholarship, and what did you have to do in the application process?

**CM:** Actually, I had tried out for the previous scholarship to Ghana, and was chosen as the alternate. I tried again because the scholarship focused on the renaissance and Reformation, one my favorite periods in history. I also decided to try out for this scholarship because I wanted to expand my learning experiences so I can later incorporate them into my classroom. The application process consists of at least three letters of recommendation, a letter of intent, a statement of purpose and the completion of the actual application. After the portfolio is put together, there is an interview process where the honors advisory board members ask you questions. It is an extremely professional and competitive application process.

**EB:** What was your favorite part of the trip? Your least favorite?

**CM:** My favorite part of the trip is not just one specific moment, event or city, but rather the overall experience of being able to travel all over Europe and study the Renaissance and Reformation. I also enjoyed meeting new people and making friends. My least favorite part of the trip was the length of time we stayed in Rothenberg. It was a beautiful town and we learned a lot there, but there was little to do past 4:00pm. I liked the fact we had evenings because I usually took that time to see other things that was not in the schedule; however, in this town nothing was open. The absolute worst part was the fact the trip had to end.

**EB:** How has/will this experience benefit you?

**CM:** The experience was amazing! I learned more on the scholarship than I ever could have in the classroom. I studied an important and interesting era in time that not many people have knowledge about until they reach college if ever. I love this fact the most though because I can take what I have learned and incorporate it into my future classroom, as I mentioned earlier. Being a teacher is about being well-rounded, at least in my opinion. This experience has helped me to become well-rounded and knowledgeable in a field that not many teachers at the elementary level are acquainted. I cannot wait to officially become an educator.

**EB:** Would you recommend other students apply for this scholarship in the future?

**CM:** All I have to say is, if you are even the slightest bit interested in broadening your horizons in relation to your education you should not even hesitate. Try out! This type of scholarship and experience does not come around often and should be embraced.
For many years, it has been the vision of the Honors Advisory Board (HAB) to establish a program that encouraged more direct student involvement in the University Honors Program (UHP) and that also fostered a sense of connection between members of the program. After many years, the vision that the HAB once had, has officially became a reality through the establishment of the very first Honors Student Advisory Board (HSAB).

It is the goal and mission of the HSAB to plan and organize UHP social events, community service projects, and be the liaison between students and faculty when voicing the concerns or suggestions of the students. Current members of this board include: Erin Berstler, Anne Blakeslee, Megan Lapp, Melanie Ruch, Emily Wolfe, Valerie McCullough, and Leigh Ann Walters.

Thus far, we have planned a board game night which was held on September 25, 2007. In the future, we hope to plan a bowling outing, a night at the drive-in, and any additional social outings that may be suggested. We are currently seeking the insight and opinions of all UHP students, in an attempt to plan more activities that would appeal to student interests.

In addition to events, we are establishing a peer mentoring program, in which UHP upperclassmen will be paired with UHP freshmen, so that the upperclassmen can provide support and guidance to freshmen, as they navigate their way through their first year as a UHP student. We are also planning to have group mentoring sessions, as we have done in previous years, in which all students enrolled in Composition I (HON 150) will be invited to come and meet with a group of upperclassmen to discuss course topics and any concerns in regards to this course. Specific dates for these sessions will be released via email announcements.

The purpose of the HSAB is to give the UHP students a voice, therefore, if there is anything that you would like to see planned, or any suggestion that you would like to make, please feel to contact the board members at hsab@cup.edu. We would love to hear from you!

If you are interested in participating in the HSAB mentoring program, send an e-mail to HSAB@cup.edu.
Purpose

The Honors Program at California University of Pennsylvania provides an opportunity for an enhanced educational experience to our most talented students and faculty. Honors Program students desire to pursue intellectual and creative growth beyond the usual requirements of their major field of study and intend to cultivate their individual and personal aspirations to learn. Honors Program students and faculty expect to explore and participate in scholarly, professional, and artistic exercises outside the classroom; they engage in community service activities, which compliment their academic studies and nurture their personal sense of commitment and communal responsibility. Honors students anticipate exercising leadership while at California University; they prepare to become leaders while students in our program, and they expect to continue as leaders when they graduate.

Culture at Cal U  By Valerie McCullough

On Sunday, October 21, 2007, the Honors Program will be visiting the Carnegie Museum of Art and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh. For all of you Freshmen, this is a good time to think about Portfolio 2, in which you have to write about a non-text item. The Carnegie is a perfect place to find a piece of art that you would like to study for the next month or so. Exhibits to look for include “On a Grand Scale: The Hall of Architecture at 100,” showcasing 150 plaster architectural casts, and “Luxe Life: Masterpieces of American Jewelry,” showcasing 100 pieces of jewelry, and also the first exhibit in the new Wertz Gallery of gems and jewelry. The Dinosaur hall is still not open, due to renovations, but do not fear, it will be open in time for Thanksgiving. The Carnegie Science Center is also hosting a really interesting exhibit from now until May called “Bodies,” showcasing real bodies to teach people about the nervous system, organs, and the muscular system.

Whether or not you are going to the Carnegie Museums, there is a new opportunity to world famous art and museum exhibitions right on campus. Cal U is one of a few select universities that are affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution. That means that it can showcase exhibitions provided by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service program. SITES has hundreds of exhibits that tour the country, and every few months, Cal U hosts a new exhibit in the Gallery on the third floor of the library. Currently, the exhibition is called “Booming Out: The Mohawk Iron Workers Build New York.” It is an exhibit featuring 62 photographs of Mohawk Indians building structures in New York like the World Trade Center and the George Washington Bridge. In addition, there is a sculpture made of steel from the World Trade Towers, which the Mohawk Indians also tore down after September 11. The exhibit will be open until October 18. Future exhibits include “A Magic Web: The Tropical Forest of Barro Colorado Island” Nov. 24 – Jan. 10, “Caves: A Fragile Wilderness” Jan. 11 – Feb. 10, and “Earth From Space” in 2009.

If you have any questions about the SITES program or exhibits at Cal U, feel free to contact me, as I am working with SITES and the university to bring exhibits in and set them up in the Gallery.