

Honors Program Update

California University of PA

Eddie Joe's Corner: "Honors Advisory Board

Since the birth of Cal U's Honors Program in the late 1980s, a select group of faculty has actively advised the Director on the curriculum, structure, organization, and further development of the University Honors Program. These faculty members make up the Honors Advisory Board (HAB), and they have served the program and its students with sincere dedication. Recently, the HAB has been reconstituted according to *your* recommendations—faculty who you choose to work with through honors addenda and honors thesis projects. As a result, the new HAB is representative of all colleges at the university. More importantly, though, they are faculty who care about the advancement of California's UHP. They are here to advise me as the Director, and they are here to assist you with your progress in the UHP. I, personally, welcome our new and returning HAB members to an era of renewed academic growth and prosperity within the UHP.

Ed Chute
Director

Jesse Cignetti
Chemistry and Physics

Leonard Colelli
Dean of Eberly
College of Science and
Technology

Gregg Gould
Chemistry and Physics

Joseph Heim
History and Political Science

Rebecca Hess
Health Science and
Sport Studies

J. Drew McGukin
Communication Studies

Beverly Melenzyer
Elementary Education

Erin Mountz
Assistant Director

Marsha Nolf
Library

Pamela Twiss
Social Work/ Gerontology

James Wood
History and Political Science

Edwin Zuchelkowski
Biological and Environmental
Sciences

General Announcements: "Anyone Interested?"

At this time we are looking for any interested students who would like to be a part of the staff here at our UHP Update. If you would be interested in becoming a part of our staff, please send

us an email at honors@cup.edu or orslene@cup.edu and tell us when you are be available. Currently there are no other students on the staff, so grab a position!

Volume 1, Issue 3
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Inside this issue:

Student Spotlight On Amy Lucy 2

Upcoming Events 2

Tips 2

Students Spotlight On Erica Smeltzer 3

Birthdays 3

Reader Feedback 3

The Last Word 4

Special points of interest:

- *Amy Lucy, a graduate of the Honors Program, shares her wisdom on page 2*
- *Erica Smeltzer has just finished her first year in the UHP and look at what she has already accomplished. Page 3*
- *Be sure to check the final page for "The Last Word."*



Student Spotlight on. . . Amy Lucy

Amy Lucy graduated from the UHP in December of 2004 after having joined the program as a second semester sophomore. As most of you realize, that entailed a bit of “catching up,” however, Amy was willing to work hard to reap the future benefits and did not find it difficult to keep up.

Amy completed her thesis on the “Tradition of the Fayette County Fair.” Even though that may seem like an unusual topic to many people, Amy found it to be something she was greatly interested in because of her own family’s fair traditions, and that

helped to motivate her. She suggests that everyone choose a topic for their honors thesis that interests them and not worry about making it seem like a prestigious topic. In the end, she says, “The satisfaction I received from seeing how much my family appreciated and enjoyed the final presentation was more rewarding than every A I received in a class and better than any satisfaction I could have received from getting my thesis published in any scholarly journal.”

Amy has also noticed some of the benefits of the honors program

even in her first year out of school. She feels that the personal discipline she learned while working her way through the Honors Program have helped her to get a position at the school where she did her student teaching.

So take some advice from one of our many successful honors graduates. Complete the program, even if you have joined “late in the game,” work hard, chose a thesis that interests you, and one day you will reap the benefits of completing the Honors Program too, too.

Amy Lucy, a recent December 2004 graduate of the UHP has shared a bit of her wisdom regarding the completion of the Honors Program

The UHP would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the success of our graduating seniors. Completion of the UHP puts you in the top 1% of Cal U’s graduates, a high honor indeed. Congratulations to you all!

Upcoming Events: Graduation

Adam L. Bryan, B. A., Theatre--Sympathy for the Pedophile: A True Portrayal of Pedophiles in Film, Stage, and Literature

Janice L. Bytheway, B. S., Earth Science--The Bytheway Method of Optimal Radar Beam Scheduling in the CASA IPI-A Test Bed

Kathryn Catanese, B. A., History and Political Science--Voting and the Gender Gap

Melissa L. Duckstein, B. A., Mathematics--Mathematics Experiment Relating Technology and Music via a Calculator Based Laboratory

Adam M. Hnatkovich, B. S., Environmental Studies--Optimization Experiments for a RAPD Analysis of Genetic Variation within a Reproductively Isolated Population of *Chamaecyparis Thyoides*

Kathleen Paulison, B. A., Psychology--Psychological Autopsies

Stephanie J. Rexroth, B. S., Graphic Design--Swiss International Style: Ramifications of the Style and its Influence on Web Design

Megan E. Shuster, B. S., Elementary Education--*Absente Reddiendo*:

Helping English Language Learners Succeed

Susan A. Singley, B. A., Sociology--Selling Civic Agriculture at the Auction Barn

Ryan J. Stookey, B. S., Athletic Training--Ankle Stability and Vertical Jump Height in Stable and Unstable Ankles

Bonnie L. Vatter, B. A., Liberal Studies--Engaged Learners or Autocratic Consumers: Undergraduate Perceptions of Higher Education

Tips: “Cal U Mentoring Program”

Congratulations on finishing another year at Cal U. You’ve undoubtedly got the drill down by now—you know where to find that secret parking spot, you know how to take advantage of the UHP’s many benefits, and you know how to manage your time effectively. (Okay, so maybe good time management is more theory than practice.) At any rate, it seems a shame to let that valuable experience and knowledge go to waste, doesn’t it?

Why not consider joining the mentoring program? Mentoring is a great way to impart some of your Cal U wisdom on to someone who is totally new to Cal U and the university environment. And the best part is that the director of the mentoring program, Karen Posa, is thrilled by the prospect of pairing incoming UHP students with UHP upperclassmen. What a great way to meet new people, have some fun, and help out an incoming UHP

student! (Come on, remember you were there once!)

If you are interested in becoming a mentor (and why would you not be?), please stop by the University Welcome Center on the first floor of the Eberly building for more information. Or if you prefer, let Prof. Mountz know of your interest, and she will recommend you for the mentoring program.

Student Spotlight On. . . Erica Smeltzer

Imagine for a moment that you are stepping on board a ship that will take you around the world for a once-in-a-lifetime educational experience. If you are Erica Smeltzer, than this scenario is about to come true. Erica is going to embark on the Semester at Sea program this summer for one of the most exciting and education experiences of her life.

When Erica spoke to Dr. Chute last summer about the UHP, she did not think she would be able to handle the pressure and the workload. However, luckily for her, Dr. Chute convinced her that she could do it. That is also Erica's

advice to anyone considering joining the program but are not sure if they can handle it. She says, "You can do it, they wouldn't have invited you if you couldn't."

Erica stated that this first year of the UHP has already proven itself to be a worthwhile experience. She has learned more about herself and what she is capable of doing by pushing herself harder than before. Her writing has also improved tremendously.

Her upcoming Semester at Sea has also shown her several of the rewards of the Honors Program.

Out of the entire ship, Erica has received 1 of the 20 work-study positions, and she has also received a \$3800 grant, both opportunities that she credits to her improved writing skills. For the future, Erica is considering attending graduate school, something she never would have considered before joining the UHP. She is also going to study in Alaska for a semester through the student exchange program.

Erica is going to complete the program, and she recommends that everyone who is invited to join does so and completes the program as well.

Erica Smeltzer came into the honors program with a few misgivings. Now read about how her outlook on the honors program has changed and what she's up to next!

Birthdays:

April: Adam Bryan, Rebecca Harsh, Adam Hnatkovich, Meighan Hop-ton, Lauren Keefer, Amy Lucy, Kathleen Paulison, Joseph Rubel, Joshua Vincent, Alyse Yanuskiewicz, Kateri Zucker

May: Adam Berardini, Kathryn Berkebile, Heather Daley, Ashley Dixon, Meghan Draper, Kristof

Eichenlaub, Julia Green, Charles Holman, Mark Kelly, Brett Kern, Katie McElhaney, Nicole Smeyres, Shane Todd, Emily Wolfe, Adam Zyski

June: Allison Bickhart, William Crouch, Kirsten Danter, Meaghan Dowalo, Michael Du-vall, Nicole Shriver, Jonathan Stewart, Joseph Warnock Jr.

July: Kyle Aldinger, Ryan

Bensinger, Natalie Costa, Tara DiGorio, Cailin Gallagher, Rhiannon Kallis, John Karichko, Regis McDevitt, William Schill, Megan Schuster, Eric Walker, Leigh Walters, Ryan Wohlfarth, Melissa Yonash

The UHP wishes a "Happy Birthday" to all of our students with birthdays in April, May, June, and July.

Reader Feedback:

Since the purpose of this Honors Program Update is to keep you, the Honors Student and hopefully some of our alumni, informed, We would love to hear any feedback that you might have about the program, campus activities, or the way in which the update is published. Please feel free to

email any comments or ideas to honors@cup.edu. I will include relevant comments in the Update each month so that your voice will be heard through this publication as well.

You can also email questions or concerns that you may have about any aspects of the Hon-

ors Program or University Policies, and we will do our best to find you an answer or direct you to someone that will know.



Email your questions and suggestions to honors@cup.edu



**Appetamus communiter
ad futurum.—Dr. Chute**

California University of
PA

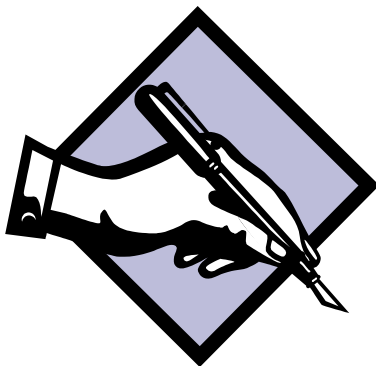
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UHP

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 complement 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.



The Last Word: “Slavery, The Blackest Mark of All” By Emily Crowe (ed.)

For those of you who have attended any of the Spring Honors Program trips, you understand what a rewarding and educational experience they can be. This year, I went on my first Honors Program trip to Virginia. While in Virginia we viewed several of the founding fathers homes. During this time, I found myself more and more distraught by the fact that in American history, these men are regarded as forward thinkers who proclaimed liberty and freedom for all, yet they were slave owners

Washington, Woodrow Wilson, James Monroe, and all the others that can be grouped in the category of “founding fathers” as truly great men. Yet all of them kept their fellow men in slavery. These men who championed “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness” as “certain unalienable rights” denied those rights to their black slaves. This leads to an interesting contradiction. Either these rights are unalienable to *all* men or they are alienable to some.

care to put a stop to it. Thomas Jefferson called slavery “an abominable crime” yet he did not free his slaves. He only freed those slaves who were of direct relation to him. These “great men” all viewed slavery as a horrible denial of rights to real human beings, yet they still kept their slaves in these “abominable” conditions. So when these founding fathers said, “All men are created equal” what they were really saying was “All *free, white* men are created equal.”

In our nation’s history we see Thomas Jefferson, George

The worst thought of all was that these men knew what they were doing but did not

This spring trip was truly an eye-opening experience and one that I won’t soon forget.