



UHP Update

California University of PA

November-December 2006

Eddie Joe's Corner:

Hello Everyone,

The fall semester 2006 is rapidly coming to an end, and I am certain that we are all ready for the Saturnalian Solstice Break until January. It has been an extraordinarily busy term for the UHP, particularly with a near record breaking influx of new members of our community or scholars. Plus, the nearly three year planning for Cal U's sponsorship of the PA-SSHE Summer Honors Program 2007 is about to bear fruit when it "begins" in early February 2007. Nonetheless, it is still possible to apply for Cal U's two scholarships because our local application deadline is January 19, 2007.

Perhaps, the most exciting event so far this academic year was the tremendous number of presentations and the reputational boost our UHP received at the National Conference of NCHC in Philadelphia (November 15-19, 2006).

We had a student paper accepted (Mandy Shallenberger), an idea exchange (Leigh Ann Walters, Samantha Brown, Chelsea Mahosky, Christy Olexa, and Ashley Wiseman); two posters presented (Mike Lash, Ray Boyles), and two panel presentations: one on our method of interdisciplinary team-teaching (Boyles, Megan Lapp, Olexa, and Valerie McCullough); the other on our innovative centerpiece curriculum (Lapp, McCullough, Mahosky, and Mike Molchan). Of course, a special mention and kudos must go to our intrepid Assistant Director Prof. Erin E. Mountz who orchestrated everything from the initial proposals, rehearsals, and script management to the travel arrangements, although I selected several of the eateries. I am especially pleased to note that so many of our proposals originated in Honors Composition II, our lead-in, and centerpiece courses (Knowledge and Culture, Commentaries on Technology, Scientific Inquiry and Wealth and Poverty). We all benefit from the success of our colleagues.

As the Romans would say: *Bonam Saturnaliam vobis* or as we say *Felicem natalem Christi diem vobis*.

Eddie Joe



Mandy Shallenberger (far left), a fellow presenter, and Dr. Chute celebrating Mandy's successful presentation of her paper, "The Reconstruction of Liberty" at the 2006 NCHC Conference.

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And of course we cannot forget our ever-dedicated supporters

Dr. Ed Chute, Professor
Erin Mountz, and the
wonderful Mrs. Kim
Orslene



*Do you know what's going
on around the program?
Megan has the answers*

A note about registration:

We know that it was an adventure this semester! But, we managed to register 160 UHP students. The UHP staff would like to thank everyone for their cooperation and patience. If you still have lingering questions about registration, please do not hesitate to contact the UHP offices over the winter break.

**General Announcements:
By Megan Lapp**

General Announcements

- Don't forget to pick up your copy of the UHP Handbook in the UHP Office (171 Honors Hall) any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.!
- The first election for the Honors Student Advisory Board (HSAB) will be held in the spring 2007 semester. If you are interested in running for an HSAB representative or would like to nominate a fellow UHP student colleague, please e-mail honors@cup.edu.

One of our UHP students, Jenna Smalley, is working hard to establish a local society of the national organization Colleges Against Cancer at Cal U. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jenna at SMA0691@cup.edu.

Upcoming Events

- There will be a UHP trip to see a performance of Aristophanes' The Frogs at the Pittsburgh Playhouse in February. Check your e-mail for more information in the future!

Congratulations

Kristen Danter, "Interesting, Educational, and Inexpensive: Chemistry Experiments for the High School Classroom," and **Brian Harewicz**, "The Gaskin Case: Changing the Face of Education," for successful completion of their honors thesis project presentations.

Upcoming Deadlines

- January 15, 2007 – The deadline to submit paper proposals for the Audrey-Beth Fitch Conference on Women's Studies.
- January 19, 2007 – The deadline to submit applications for the 2007 PA-SSHE Summer Honors Program Scholarship (Morabile Inventu). Make sure you pick up an application from Mrs. Orslene if you haven't already!

Professor Mountz and Dr. Chute also wish to congratulate all of the Honors Composition I students for their excellent work.



(Clockwise from back) Sarah Bralkowski, Val Phipps, Chrissy Dandridge, and Melanie Gori display to Dr. Chute the many uses of duct tape in their HON 150 presentation..



Special Announcement: Audrey-Beth Fitch Conference on Women's Studies By Whitney Robinson

Although women have come a long way in their fight for equality, there is still a long way for them to go. Constant determination is required if gender harmony is to be achieved, especially in the workplace. This is why an exchange of ideas relating to women and labor is so important—it allows individuals to create a base of understanding from which catalysts of change might emerge. An annual event at California University of Pennsylvania, the Audrey-Beth Fitch Conference on Women's Studies, named in memory of the previous head of the Women's Studies program, will be held on March 22, 2007, and its endeavors will bring together numerous scholars and specialists in the name of women.

This year's conference will discuss the primary issue of Women and Work: Changing Economic Influences on Families. There will be an art exhibition coupled with a daylong conference filled with presentations meant to evoke discussion on the constantly changing relationships of the family unit and women's roles in the economy. A wide range of scholars from a variety of disciplines will highlight these subjects. Each scholar will explore through their own approach systems of patriarchy, inequality, and their relationship to women of past, present, and future. Another focus will be "female" roles within the workplace and the effect these roles have on familial relations.

Brigadier General Janis Karpinski, best selling author of *One Woman's Army: the Commanding General of Abu Ghraib Tells Her Story*, will serve as the keynote speaker and will discuss the impact of military life on the women who serve and their families. Cal U's Women's Studies program encourages proposals for panels, roundtables, and individual presentations from scholars, students, staff, and community members. If interested, please submit a proposal of 300 words or less by January 15, 2007 to :

Dr. Andrae Marak
Chair, Audrey-Beth Fitch
Conference on Women's Studies
Women's Studies Program, Box 6
California, PA 15419

or email at marak@cup.edu.

*Another great conference
opportunity, right here at Cal!*





Mike Lash presenting his poster on the evolution of Jazz

The UHP at California University of Pennsylvania belongs to a national organization of honors programs and colleges, the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC). Each year, NCHC hosts a national conference in the fall and a regional conference (North East region, NE-NCHC) in the spring. These conferences are excellent opportunities for students to present their work and to share ideas with other honors communities. See Leigh Ann's article on page 6 for more information.

Student Spotlight on NE-NCHC conference participants

By Valerie McCullough

Christy Olexa: My favorite part of the conference was the fact that I was given the opportunity to meet students from different Honors Programs all over the country.

Samantha Brown: My favorite part of the conference was attending the Tai Chi session. Not only was it very relaxing but, I also learned more about Chinese history and culture.

Leigh Ann Walters: My favorite part of the conference was getting to know UHP students that I didn't know very well. The program is so large now that it is hard to get to know everyone. But by going on this trip, I was able to get to know some of the UHP's finest students better than I ever thought that I would.

Mike Lash: Actually, I really enjoyed seeing the other posters.

Ashley Wiseman: My favorite part was not only seeing what others had to present, but also watching our Honors Program shine in our different presentations. I felt proud when I was able to see how well we did in our panels (panels that I wasn't even apart of, but in a way, I felt like I was).

Megan Lapp: I really enjoyed spending time with everyone. I also liked meeting people from other schools and seeing what they do differently in their honors programs.

Ray Boyles: My favorite part was comparing how we were prepared by Prof. Mountz and Dr. Chute to the other schools honors programs.

VM: How do you think this experience will benefit you in the future?

Mandy Shallenberger: I was very nervous about speaking in front of so many peers and intellectuals, but after I did it, I felt like it was a big step in conquering my fears.

Christy Olexa: I will carry the information that I got from the other students, and also the experience of presenting at a National Conference, with me for the rest of my life.

Samantha Brown: Attending the NCHC conference will benefit me in many ways, most notably by improving my chances of getting into the grad school of my choice.

Leigh Ann Walters: This experience was beneficial in that I became more comfortable in presenting a knowledge of our program's nuts and bolts to other people who are interested in our program.

Mike Lash: I've seen some really great ideas from this conference and made some great new friends. The benefit isn't so much for the future but making new friends is beneficial to here and now.

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All are welcome to stop by the UHP offices to see Mike Lash's and Ray Boyle's posters!

Constructing a research poster is a fun way to demonstrate your hard work and advanced skills. This might be a good idea for an honors addendum project. . .

Ashley Wiseman: The experience from the conference left me excited about new possibilities in Cal U's Honors Program, even after I leave.

Megan Lapp: I felt very comfortable presenting in front of the people attending the conference. I hope that I will be able to sustain this comfort when I speak in public in the future.

Ray Boyles: I gained a more mature approach to dealing with people of this social class.

VM: Tell me a little about you experiences presenting.

Mandy Shallenberger: I felt like I was able to get my point across and I really enjoyed the comments and the questions. I felt like everyone understood my research and respected it, and after I was done, I felt like I really accomplished something important.

Christy Olexa: My experiences presenting were terrific. Having professors from all over the country coming to listen to us present was something that I found absolutely phenomenal, especially the fact that one of them wants to use our speeches as the backing to implement similar programs at her college in New York.

Samantha Brown: I really enjoyed talking to the Directors from other schools and giving them advice on how to start a mentoring program that works at their institute.

Leigh Ann Walters: Our peer mentoring program differed from other programs in that we run our program in casual group sessions and do not match student-to-student, as many other did. People were interested to know about the other programs that we conduct as well, such as our UHP Update, registration advising session, and social activities.

Mike Lash: Well, I wasn't nervous at all. The best thing I did was to just be myself.

Ashley Wiseman: It felt great! I had so much fun interacting with others, telling them about our Program and listening to input that they had about Peer Mentoring at their respective schools.

Megan Lapp: I was pretty nervous before coming to the conference. However, once I got there I realized that everyone was extremely nice. I was able to overcome my fear of presenting and speak with ease.

Ray Boyles: I was questioned about some pretty heavy physics, which I was able to answer, and I met some very interesting people that perhaps I might have an opportunity to work with.



Leigh Ann Walters and Ashley Wiseman with their peer-mentoring poster, "The Road Previously Traveled"





Valerie McCullough presenting her poster, "Lust Power, Wealth, Nudity: An Analysis of Rolls-Royce Advertising," at the 2005 NE-NCHC

Publishing via Honors Conferences By Leigh Ann Walters

During your college experience, have you done any research that you think other people may find interesting? Have you written a paper that you think is of high quality? Have you participated in a program in the UHP that you think other programs should learn about?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then there may be some type of presentation that you would be qualified to make at an upcoming Honors conference. The sky is the limit as far as topics, however, conferences usually have a theme that each of the presentations must fit within. The trick is to make sure that your research can be tied into the theme of the conference. One type of presentation that our program usually makes in a group is called a panel presentation. In the past, a group of students from our UHP get together and have discussed some aspect of our UHP that sets us apart from other programs. Past topics have included the UHP's use of a centerpiece curriculum, team-teaching, and assessment through learning packets.

There is also a presentation entitled an idea exchange that is offered at the national conferences. In this presentation, students make presentation

boards that deal with their topics. These boards are then set up in the breakfast area and interested individuals filter through the room, stopping to chat with boards that catch their eye. In November, at the 2006 National Collegiate Honors Council conference held in Philadelphia, four of our UHP students did this type of presentation. Ashley Wiseman, Leigh Ann Walters, Chelsea Mahosky, and Samantha Brown presented on our peer mentoring program. If you would like to see their presentation board, it is available in the UHP Resource Room.

Also, individual UHP students can submit proposals and make presentations based on Honors Composition II research topics, centerpiece curriculum course papers, or materials from classes outside of the UHP. Individual presentations can take two forms, paper and poster presentations. For example, at the April 2006 North East Regional Conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council, both Ashley Wiseman and Valerie McCullough made presentations on the research that they had completed in Honors Composition II. However, the presentations of both of the individuals took different forms. Ashley made her presentation in the form of reading and presenting her paper, while Valerie made her presentation in poster form.

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Valerie's research behind her poster presentation occurred during her freshmen year, when she was enrolled in three honors courses, Honors Composition II, Wealth and Poverty, and Information Literacy. All three classes required a seminar length paper focusing on either wealth or poverty. With some help from Professor Nolf, Valerie came up with the idea to research and write about Rolls-Royce automobiles. At the time, Valerie was also enrolled in Oral Communications with a professor whose specialty was advertising. After deciding to do an addendum for her Oral Communications professor, she was able to compile all three honors class papers and her Oral Communications addendum into one paper. The paper ended up focusing on the static advertising strategy of Rolls-Royce.

Then, as a second-semester sophomore, Valerie was accepted to present her research at the NCHC Northeast Regional conference in Pittsburgh. She created a large poster that had the most important information from her research and accompanying pictures on it. While at the conference, an editor from an undergraduate research magazine approached Valerie about publishing her work in their magazine. Although she did not send her work to this magazine, Valerie did follow up with an editor of a national antique automobile magazine, who expressed interest in her manuscript. By presenting her work at this conference, Valerie now has the potential to publish her work in other venues.

By submitting a proposal and making a presentation at an Honors conference, opportunities for professional development and advancement can be achieved. If you are interested in participating in an upcoming Honors conference, carefully watch for emails from the UHP providing you with this vital information. Students should definitely try to be a part of this worthwhile experience.



The team-teaching panel discussion at this year's NCHC conference in Philadelphia. Left to right: Ray Boyles, Valerie McCullough, Megan Lapp, and Christy Olexa



Fun Facts November and December

- November 1 is a Christian holiday known as _____.
- November 2 is _____ in Mexico.
- In India, November 14 is _____ Day.
- November is National Talk Like a _____ Month.
- November is International _____ Month.
- November is National awareness month for both _____ and _____.
- Guy Fawkes day is held on November 5, the anniversary of _____.
- November is NaNoWriMo or _____.
- *Novem* is Latin for _____.
- December always begins on the same day of the week as what other month _____.
- Day of _____ of Guadalupe is celebrated by Mexicans on December 12.
- In the pagan wheel of the year, the winter solstice is that of _____, also a common name for the Christmas season.
- World Aid's day occurs on December ____.
- The United States celebrates _____ on December 7.
- December 6 is the _____ Independence day.
- The old Japanese calendar month, *Shiwasu* means _____.

Happy Birthday November and December

November: Anne Blakeslee, Ashely Clark, Heather Elias, Rachel Evans, Robert Lisovich, Benjamin Muti, John Perdiago II, Stephen Porter, Melanie Ruch, Derek Scalzott, Mandy Shallenberger, Stephanie Smith, Kelly Stoner, Matthew Zufall, Eric Zyski

December: Samantha Brown, Stephanie Cirner, Elizabeth Fegley, Christine Hagar, Erin Hourcade, Paul Jackson, Krista Krosoff, Jessica Lane, Emily Marshman, Katie Mercadante, Michael Molchan, Ashley Moore, Prof. Erin Mountz, Elizabeth Pato, Janelle Ross, Miriam Schiller, Elliot Thomas, Michael Valoski, Holy Van Dyke, Amanda Woodford





Appetamus communiter ad futurum.—Dr. Chute

California University of PA

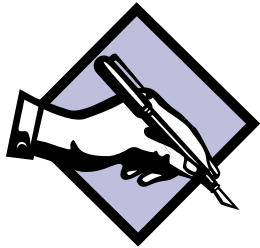
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UHP

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: A Winter Break Checklist
By Emily Crowe (ed.)**



My Holiday present to you, A Winter Break Checklist of all the things you may want to remember this Winter Break

- Make sure you prepare yourself for Holiday feasts aplenty. It's like training for a marathon I always say.
- Finals end a week and a half before Christmas, so you still have lots of time for holiday shopping.
- Remember that Santa Claus isn't real, so if a man in a red suit lands on your roof and tries to come down your chimney, you might want to turn up the fire.
- Begin your Honors Thesis by conducting a human experiment on yourself (with approval for human studies of course). Consider the effects of sleep deprivation and too many shrimp cocktails on New Year's Eve.
- Remember, classes don't start again until January 15, so you still have plenty of time to return sweaters and visit family before classes begin. Think of a better excuse to avoid family—food poisoning is usually my favorite.
- Seniors graduating this spring, if you haven't started thinking about your Honors Thesis, the break might be a good time to start. You might consider a discussion of the procrastinators' union motto: "Procrastinators Unite Tomorrow."
- And Freshmen, Honors Comp II isn't as scary as it sounds. But, just in case, you might want to get panicking out of the way during the break because there won't be time when you come back . . . Dr. Chute will make sure of that.

But seriously folks, take care of yourselves this holiday season. We want you all back safe and sound in the spring semester.

(And Freshmen, I really was kidding about that panicking thing.)

