

Around the Honors Program

Scholars to Visit Chicago

On April 22nd, students of the Honors Program will be traveling to the Windy City on the annual Honors spring trip. The travelers include 32 student members of the Program, Director Dr. Jim Wertz, and faculty member Dr. Heather Baron.

The students will be staying in a boutique hotel in Wrigleyville, near Wrigley Field, the home of the Chicago Cubs Baseball team.

While in Chicago, the students will have the chance to visit the Navy Pier, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Field Museum, and the Shedd Aquarium, among many other site-seeing opportunities. The students are also excited to visit the famous Millennium Park, which has a collection of public works of art such as "The Bean." Of course, the trip wouldn't be complete without an opportunity to try Chicago's traditional deep dish pizza and Chicago-style hot dogs!

After exploring the city for three full days, the students will return on April 24th.



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Honors Scholar Hosts Domestic Violence Discussion

On Tuesday, March 29, Honors Scholar Savannah Anderton hosted an enrichment meeting, entitled “Domestic Violence: A Look Through a Survivor’s Eyes,” which included personal stories from domestic violence survivors in the Honors Program. Featured speakers were senior graphic design major Fawn Martz; sophomore traditional animation major Becky Korff; Anderton’s mother, Stacey Hetrick, an English teacher at Saegertown High School; and Anderton herself, who is a sophomore secondary biology education major.

Martz was the first to share her story. She had fallen in love at 18 with an international student, and within weeks, he won her trust and was soon living with her family during breaks from school. During this time, the emotional abuse escalated. Her abuser began using money to coerce her into staying with him, eventually attempting to bribe her parents. This ultimately led to the end of their relationship although he did break into her house and steal several items. Martz is happy to report that she now is in a healthy, supportive relationship and receiving counseling.

Next was Becky Korff. Through marching band at her high school, she met and began dating a fellow low-brass player. Over many months, he began the cycle of emotional abuse--acting cruelly, followed by remorse, and eventually building trust again only for the cycle to be relived. Korff said that he had convinced her that she was a “terrible person” who, without him, wouldn’t be loved by anyone else. Eventually, her abuser went to bootcamp, severely limiting contact between them. This led to the eventual end of their relationship. Korff, although not currently in counseling, is working day by day to regain her confidence and emotional health.

Stacey Hetrick’s presentation began with this provocative statement: “My ex-husband’s ashes are in the basement of my house, and I wrote his obituary.” She went to explain that, at 17, she fell in love with a man 12 years her senior named James Anderton. The verbal abuse began a few years into marriage, when Hetrick was pregnant with her first child. It escalated to emotional abuse with the birth of the couple’s second child, and eventually became physical, emotional, and verbal as Anderton spiraled into alcoholism. In 2009, Hetrick called police when her husband threatened the lives of his co-workers, and he went to jail. The abuse for Hetrick and her children ended then, but their safety was in question whenever Anderton was not in jail or drug and alcohol rehab. He spent the next several years cycling in and out of the local jails and rehabilitation centers on alcohol related charges, eventually passing away in February of this year of end-stage alcoholism. Hetrick is now remarried to Bill Hetrick, a fellow English teacher from Saegertown High School and describes herself as “the luckiest woman alive.” Her children, Savannah and Elijah Anderton, are in college and the military, respectively.

Savannah Anderton, Hetrick’s daughter, shared her story of being the target of her father’s abuse. She explained the hardships faced by her family and how recovery has been hard, but wonderful. She is now in a happy relationship and, like her mother, describes herself as “incredibly lucky.”

After the meeting, Anderton opened the floor to questions from the audience, and other survivors shared stories and hugs with the speakers. The message of the meeting was clear: **There is life and happiness and hope and love after abuse.**

Rebranding the Honors Program

Under the guidance of our new director Dr. Jim Wertz, the Honors Program is undergoing a number of changes that will allow the Program to reach new heights!

New Points

A recent change to Honors Option Points (HOPs) system allows students to receive Honors credit for more of their academic endeavors. Current options include Honors courses, contract courses, study abroad trips, publications of research, and more. The newly added options allow students to receive points for large-scale community service projects, art gallery shows, and internships. In addition, the number of points awarded for certain options, such as undergraduate theses, has been increased to reward students for undertaking more academically challenging projects. Our HOPs system provides students with the ability to customize their Honors program experience by choosing which options to pursue depending on their interests and regular academic program's requirements. Traditional honors programs typically require students to complete one or more honors courses each semester until graduation, but the HOPs system encourages students to embrace more learning opportunities both in and outside of the classroom.

New Name

Beginning in the fall semester, the Program will be rebranded as the Edinboro University Honors Program. A new logo (featured to the right) will be adopted at that time. The Program was named after Dr. Robert C. Weber in 2005. The name change is supported by Dr. Weber, who served as Edinboro's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for nine years before retiring in 2004. It is the hope of the Program's director and staff that the new branding will strengthen the image of both the Program and the University.



EDINBORO UNIVERSITY
Honors Program

New Location

Finally, the Honors Living-Learning Floor is moving out of Earp Hall and into two different locations. The Office of Residence Life and Housing prompted the Program to consider a change in residence halls by proposing either a new Living-Learning Community in the Highlands 6 or in Rose Hall. Throughout the discussions on each location, the Program's staff determined that having one Honors Living-Learning Community in each of these residence halls would accommodate more of the Program's 250+ students. Beginning in the fall semester, the Honors students will be able to choose between the suite-style housing offered in Highlands 6 and the traditional-style community housing offered in Rose Hall.