Happy Holidays from Dr. Wertz

Happy Holidays, Scholars!

This semester, we’ve welcomed dozens of new Honors scholars – freshman, upperclassmen, and transfer students; Letty Cawley, Logan Erdner, and Megan Kunst presented their research at the National Collegiate Honors Conference in Seattle, Washington; our past resident-scholar, Savannah Anderton, was sworn in as the student trustee on the Edinboro University Council of Trustees; and among other significant changes to the program, we rolled out our new brand and became known as the Edinboro University Honors Program. What a wonderful whirlwind of a semester it has been!

In addition to the notable accomplishments listed above, so many of you have initiated outstanding research projects as part of your contract courses and independent studies, and many of you have contacted the Program about beginning regionally significant, HOPs worthy service projects. Service is a critical component of your Honors experience and it serves as an outstanding illustration of what Edinboro University’s finest students have to offer the world, now and into the future. All of these projects and proposals are excellent subjects for future publication and presentation, perhaps at next year’s NCHC in Atlanta, Georgia. Start preparing your conference proposals. Programmatic review of NCHC proposals will begin in March.

When we return from winter break, we’ll also complete the process of reviewing applications and selecting our two recipients of the 2017 PASSHE Summer Study Abroad experience in Belize. Two of your peers (maybe, you?) will have the opportunity to take a 6-credit honors course, from May 25 - June 12, 2017, which will examine four inter-related themes: The Political System, Globalization, Eco-tourism, and Social Diversity. This amazing annual opportunity for Honors sophomores and juniors.

As you head home for the holidays, I hope you can happily reflect on the passing semester and look ahead with optimism. There are, indeed, great things happening in the Edinboro University Honors Program and I hope you feel as honored as I do to be a part of it all.

My best wishes to you and your families,

Dr. Wertz
Coming to college, everyone hopes to find their niche, where they feel a little at home, and like they can not only grow in their profession, but are also free to be themselves.

Being a Journalism/Public Relations major, that place for me is Edinboro University’s Campus Media. My first week of college I was terrified, as I’m sure many of you can concur, but after the first Spectator, WFSE, and ETV meeting I was less terrified and more excited for the opportunities to come; and come they did.

Being a part of Campus Media, I have held the position of News Editor for the university’s newspaper, “The Spectator;” Promotions Director for the campus radio station, WFSE 88.9FM; learned how to direct, anchor, and run cameras for Edinboro Television; met and interviewed numerous people - everyone from the university President to Chase Rice; covered various events, including the state-wide faculty union strike; and most importantly, gained real-world experience in the field I can’t wait to pursue after college.

I think the best part of being a campus media leader is that all of the opportunities I’ve received, and success I’ve had in my major, are directly linked to the hard work I’ve put in. Whether it’s an article, a video package, or a radio show, it’s yours. It’s your byline, your voice, your recording; and no one can deny you of that hard work, or take that accomplishment away from you. There’s nothing better than seeing your work published and enjoyed by others.

I strongly encourage any Honors student (Journalism major or not! All are welcome!) to join Campus Media. No matter your future profession, publishing or producing any kind of media content looks impressive on a resume. Our newspaper, radio station, and television station not only reach the campus, but also the Edinboro community; so your work will be read, seen, and heard by many.

Also, the leadership and communication opportunities are endless with Campus Media. We have executive positions for newspaper sections, social media, digital work, production, photography, graphic design, advertising, and public relations; there’s an opportunity for everyone.

Along with the vast amount of experience you’ll gain, the people a part of Campus Media are some of the greatest, and most talented, people you will meet – students and advisers. The environment is laid back and filled with people willing to help you expand and improve whatever media skills you desire to pursue.

Take it from the girl who was completely lost her first week of college, until she joined Campus Media: join Campus Media. Even if you’re wavering or unsure, do it. You won’t regret it. The opportunities that come with being involved with media are incredible, and will build your resume faster than any class ever could; especially if you are a Journalism, Public Relations, or Communication major – Campus Media is the closest you will get to real world experience.

If you are interested in getting involved with Campus Media, whether it be newspaper, radio, or television, don’t hesitate to contact me, either via Facebook or email – ml142781@scots.edinboro.edu, or Dr. Wertz for more information.

Hope you all consider joining! Have a wonderful break and holiday season!
~ Macala Leigey
On and Off Campus Program Service

Tutoring Initiative

Beginning in the Fall Semester, Honors students have the opportunity to take advantage of an in-house tutoring program designed by office worker Savannah Anderton.

Meet the tutors:

- Alexa Story is junior pursuing a BA in political science with a concentration in legal studies. She has agreed to tutor honors students in political studies and anthropology.
- Barbara Israelson is a senior theoretical physics major, but is willing to tutor students in a variety of subjects, including math, history, physics, and English.
- Dakota Palmer is a junior dual major and is able to tutor students in English.
- Brina Romig is a freshman dual major pursuing degrees in a bachelor of science and speech and hearing. She is willing to tutor students in remedial math and American history.
- Deanna Edwards is a senior comprehensive history major and is able to tutor Honors students in history.
- Matthew Zewe is a senior economics major using his skills to tutor Honors students in economics.
- Jordan Gregor is a sophomore theoretical physics major and is able to tutor students in physics and lower math.

Mentoring Program

Honors Office employee Letty Cawley has spent the past few semesters designing and implementing her Mentoring Program. Cawley says “The mentoring program strives to increase honors retention and student success by connecting new honors students to current members of the program. Each mentor must meet a GPA requirement, express why they are interested in mentoring, and provide a resume in an online application which is reviewed by the mentoring committee. Once accepted, each mentor is assigned anywhere from 3-7 mentees, depending on the ratio of students to mentors. Honor’s mentors are in touch with their mentees during the summer months and available to answer any questions incoming students might have from knowing if they need to bring a trash can to recommending professors. Mentors also help students prepare for their scheduling meetings with their advisors by showing them how to navigate Scots, find a course outline, and make a list of questions to ask advisors. I believe having a mentor as a resource is an important part to making new students feel safe, prepared, and connected during their first months here at Edinboro University.” Cawley is currently organizing the Mentoring Program for the upcoming semester. If you are interested in being an Honors mentor, applications are being sent out next semester.

Penpal Program

Stephanie Stevenson, an Honors Office employee, designed and implemented a Penpal program to encourage literacy among elementary school students. Honors students are carrying on letter exchanges with a fourth grade class at Cambridge Spring Elementary School. “I think it’s a wonderful way for honors students to help raise literacy rates in communities nearby. I would love to see the program grow to allow more children reap its benefits.” Stevenson said of her program. If any Honors students are interested in taking part in the Penpal program, please contact the Honors Office.
Spring Trip to Boston

In the spring semester of 2017, the Honors Program is travelling to Boston, Massachusetts. The trip will take place April 7-10 and feature a variety of opportunities for students to experience the culture of Boston, including Old South Hall Meeting House, Paul Revere House, Museum of Fine Arts, the Freedom Trail Guided Walking Tour, the USS Constitution Museum, Faneuil Hall, the Boston Market Commons, Harvard University, and the JFK library. There is also an optional day trip to Salem, supervised by Dr. Wertz. There are 32 seats available and the cost is $40 per student plus entrance fees, food, and miscellaneous expenses.

Student Spotlight

David Kiefer: Recipient of Friends of the Baron-Forness Library

Honors student David Kiefer is the recipient of the Friends of Baron-Forness Student Research Grant, which he applied for via a grant stipulation that, in his use of the grant, he would also utilize the library's resources.

Keifer is writing and illustrating a children’s book about a young squirrel who lives in perpetual fear of being caught by a fox with the guidance of Dr. Solberg and Professor Vitali. Keifer says “The story is a metaphoric tale about childhood and early-adolescent anxiety. The goal is to create a character whose life analogously parallels a life with anxiety. So I will be researching childhood and early-adolescent anxiety and also researching various illustration characteristics such as color palette, character design, and compositional decisions, all via books in the library.” Keifer says that the grant money will go towards acquiring supplies and having copies of the finished book printed.

In addition to printing his book, Keifer and all other grant recipients will also be presenting their work at a reception held at a public reception by Friends of the Baron-Forness Library in Van Houten South Dining Hall on May 2, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.
Graduating Honors Seniors

This December, 7 seniors will be graduating with Honors Degrees.

Katrina Duperree will be graduating with a Bachelors of Fine Arts with a concentration in Wood Furniture Design. She is currently applying for craftsmen positions at small furniture companies in Brooklyn, New York. Of the Honors Program, Duperree says “In addition to help funding my education, the Honors Program has introduced me to some of Edinboro's best professors and allowed me to access the best classes the university has to offer. It has also kept me be more active than I would have been otherwise.”

Kyle Turk is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in History with a concentration in Military History. Turk is exploring several career options after graduation, including joining the Navy as an Officer or pursuing work as a museum historian. Of his Honors Program experience, Turk says “Overall, the Honors program was by far the best experience of my college career. I have met so many amazing friends and my significant other Rebecca. I have also learned so much more than I would have otherwise; both in the classroom through Honors classes and contracts and through the individuals and community of the honors program. I have always and always will remember and cherish my time as a member of the Edinboro University Honors Program.”

Chelsea Hamilton is graduating with a dual degree Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Bachelor of Science in Art Education. After graduation, Hamilton would like to hike the Pacific Crest Trail, move out west, and find a job in her degree field. “The honors program was a great way for me to make friends and the honors classes were excellent.” Hamilton said of her Honors Program experience.

Megan Kunst is graduating with a dual degree Bachelor of Fine Arts with a concentration in Painting and a Bachelor of Science in Art Education. After graduation, Kunst plans to teach art and continue painting. Of the Honors Program, Kunst says “The honors program has allowed me to explore my interests in a more in depth way through contracted courses and an independent study.”
Tori Adams is graduating with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Graphic and Interactive Design. Of her Edinboro and Honors experience, Adams said “When I graduated from High School in 2013, I researched Universities with Graphic and Interactive Design majors. Edinboro stood out because of University Programs like their connection to industry leader, Academic and social support, job placement assistance, and a safe campus with manageable class sizes. I was further impressed with The Honors program and the additional support and resources it afforded me while attending Edinboro. The Honors program also helped me connect with people that shared my passion, goals, and aspirations. After graduation, I plan to seek employment in my career field and will enjoy transferring my knowledge, education and training into a rewarding career in the design field. The Weber Honors program will be a valuable resource that I hope to reach back to beyond my graduation.”

Melissa Winfield and Brianna Brusco will also be graduating, but were unavailable for comment.