Meet Our New Director, Dr. Solberg

The Honors Program is excited to welcome its new Director, Dr. Roger Solberg of the English and Philosophy Department.

He grew up in the New York City borough of Staten Island and is a first-generation American born to Norwegian immigrant parents. He and his wife, Mary, a journalist, live in Edinboro and have three sons, ages 19, 21, and 22.

He’s been a member of EU’s faculty since January of 1989. Before coming to Edinboro, he was an instructor at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Prior to that, he was a grad student at the University of Iowa, where he taught Freshman Composition. His academic specialty is Creative Nonfiction and his essays have appeared in numerous magazines and newspapers.

Dr. Solberg has many hobbies and interests, ranging from painting on rocks (see below) to collecting beach glass to learning about the supernatural. He once took a Ouija board into a haunted house after meeting Ed and Lorraine Warren of The Conjuring fame, and has seen a UFO. He also enjoys acting and has had leading roles in several on-campus plays, including George Bernard Shaw’s Arms and the Man.

Of his new position, Dr. Solberg says, “It’s a privilege to be working with the students in the Honors Program. I could not have been happier when the Provost asked if I wanted to take over this position. I’ve been teaching at EU for 28 years and this is certainly a highlight of my time here.”
Summer 2017 PASSHE Honors Trip To Belize

Each year, the 14 PASSHE Universities select two honors students to study abroad. This year, the trip was hosted by Mansfield University and students traveled to Belize. Social Work student Colleen Michaels and sophomore Journalism/PR-Digital Media major Hannah McDonald were selected to represent Edinboro.

McDonald described the best part of her experience: “If I had to choose one thing to be the best part of our trip to Belize, it would be that I got to see a part of the world and meet people that I never would have without going on the trip.” Michaels added, “My favorite experience from the trip was definitely going into a village called Mahoghany Heights and talking to a woman there who ran a food bank, a town health center, a library, a computer lab, and an outreach center all from a building the size of a shed. It was incredibly humbling. I also loved meeting the amazing people I traveled with. I made memories that will last a lifetime.”

Both students commented on how much the trip had taught them. “I learned a lot about cultural competency and being aware of the people around me. I took in a lot of my surroundings and observed the people of Belize and tried to use what I was seeing in my interactions with native people. It was extremely eye opening,” said Michaels. Of her learning experience, McDonald said, “I learned so much on this trip! We learned everything from information about different rock formations and types to how people prepare food. Most importantly, I learned that the world is a really big place and just because two people can be from totally opposite ends of the world, that doesn't mean they can't relate and learn from one another.”

Both students offered advice to future PASSHE Honors Trip participants: “Do not be afraid to talk to people! The interactions you have on your own, outside of prearranged meetings, are the ones that will make an impact on you. Also, remember that your comfort zone may feel safe and it's okay to enjoy being in it, but it becomes a problem when it causes you to miss out on experiences,” said McDonald. Michaels chimed in, “I would encourage everyone to study abroad. Even if you are content where you are, you can never really appreciate your space until you leave it. It gives you a sense of appreciation for what you have, but a sense of wonder at what could be.”
Meet the Office Staff

Melinda Bernosky: Office Manager
Melinda is the Office Manager in the Honors Office. She’s worked at Edinboro University for 31 years, starting her career at age 25. For many years, she worked in the Dean of Professional Studies office, moving to the Dean of Science, Management and Technologies office. From there, she moved to the office of University Planning, Institutional research, and Continuous Improvement. She then worked in the Office of Institutional Research, moved to Admissions for a short stint, finally landing in the Honors Office and the Information Technology Service (ITS) office.

Melinda is a wife of Kenny Bernosky and mother of two, both of whom attended Edinboro University: her daughter, Olivia, for Graphic Design, and her son, Adam, for Human Performance. She began taking classes at Edinboro, graduating in 2011 with her BA in Anthropology. She recently got a new Treeing Walker Coonhound mix rescue puppy who keeps her very busy. In her spare time, Melinda loves the outdoors, tending her flowers, bird watching, and romantic walks with her husband, puppy in tow.

Letty Cawley: Senior Office Employee
Letty is a senior Art Education major and bird enthusiast. She is the President of the Art Ed club and Chair of the Mentoring Committee. She has plans to minor in Wood Studio Furniture. She is from Washington, PA. In her spare time, she plays piano, hangs out with her bird, bounces between several close groups of friends, and enjoys dank memes. Letty has been employed in the Honors Office for 2.5 years, making her the longest-serving student employee.

Savannah Anderton: Office Employee
Savannah is a senior Secondary Biology Education major. She is an active member and former scholar of the Honors Program, recipient of the PASSHE Honors trip to Spain, Highland Ambassador, and the student representative on the Council of Trustees. She plays, among other instruments, the electric and upright bass. She enjoys a wide variety of hobbies, ranging from painting to cooking to knitting to spending time with her loved ones. Most recently, she has taken up pie making, quilting, and playing Pokemon Go for Team Mystic.

Jacob Trinca: Office Employee
Jacob, the newest member of the Honors Office, is a junior Secondary Social Studies education major. He is fitness minded—often enjoying activities like yoga, weight training, and running. He’s a huge NFL fan and prefers dogs over 30 pounds.
Meet the Living Learning Floor Staff

Hannah McDonald: Honors Scholar
Hannah is a sophomore Journalism and Digital Media Production major with a Spanish minor. In her free time, Hannah enjoys hiking, running, camping, biking, reading, writing, photography, and music. She is also an accomplished clarinetist, playing for 9 years in addition to being a ski instructor.

Adam Amann: Honors RA
Adam is a senior English major with a concentration in Writing. When asked, he said that his favorite hobby is going on adventures with his twin brother.

Teresa Shields: Honors RA
Teresa is a sophomore Middle Level Math, Reading, and Special Education major. Her hobbies include farming, 4-H, crocheting, and Chi Alpha. In addition, she plays a variety of instruments, including the clarinet, bass clarinet, contra alto clarinet, and tenor saxophone. She is currently learning to play the bagpipes.

Freshman Honors Meet and Greet
At the Freshman Meet and Greet, new Honors students were able to meet with their mentors and Dr. Solberg, review the program requirements, and ask questions.

Freshmen were excited and enthused about the Honors Program, asking many questions about Honors courses and contracting classes. Mentors expressed surprise and delight with how well-informed the freshmen were about their own educations and how interested they were in the program’s offerings.

The Chair of the Mentoring Committee, Letty Cawley, said, “We were so happy to extend a warm welcome to the new students and are excited to work with them to make their college experiences superb.”
# Fall 2017 Honors Enrichment Meeting Schedule

## Honors Program

**Schedule of Enrichment Meetings**

The following enrichment meetings will be offered this semester. Each student is required to attend at least one enrichment meeting each semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, October 2</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Intro to Poetry with Professor Campbell</td>
<td>Earp Hall Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 3</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Cultural Do's and Taboos with Dr. Ghosheh</td>
<td>Earp Hall Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 17</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Educational Topic with Dr. Wesley</td>
<td>Earp Hall Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 25</td>
<td>8:45 PM</td>
<td>Halloween Horror Night with Dr. Solberg</td>
<td>Earp Hall 1st Floor Lounge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 16</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>The Keeping Quilt with Letty Cawley</td>
<td>Earp Hall Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD (November)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>The Advantages of Going Abroad with Hannah McDonald</td>
<td>Learning Commons</td>
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Honor's Office:
103 Earp Hall
814-732-2981

Fall 2017