



THE CHALLENGE

The Honors Program Newsletter Spring 2007

*Shannon Lawson, Incoming
Director, Honors Program
slawson@shawnee.edu
Ext. 3295*

ext. 3396

ext.3295

Honors Spotlight: One Student's Semester in Spain

In early September 2006, SSU Honors Student Coordinator Taryn Malone departed to study as an exchange student in Castellon de la Plana, Spain. Before leaving, she had made arrangements through the international student program at Universitat Jaume I to live with a Spanish family. For the first two weeks of her stay, the family resided at their beach house in nearby Benicassim, only a short walk from the house where Ernest Hemingway stayed during the summer of 1938. The family moved back into their house in the city of Castellon immediately before the fall semester began, giving Taryn and her new "sister" Marina plenty of time to shop at the local boutiques (see picture at right.)

Some of Malone's favorite recollections of Spain are of the trips to various places throughout the country. The university offered many trips for exchange students, and as a result, Malone was able to visit landmark places such as Barcelona, Peniscola, Madrid, and Granada, and also less well-known towns and villages such as Montanejos, Rubielos de Mora, Oropesa, Morella, Sagunt, and Vilafames. Some of her favorite landmarks that she visited are Gaudi's Sagrada Familia and the crypt in the Granada Cathedral, where King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella are buried.

Over the course of the semester, Malone had the opportunity to make lots of new friends from all sorts of countries throughout Europe, such as Germany, Russia, Italy, Finland, France, the United Kingdom, Holland, and (of course) Spain. One of the most impressive things that she learned about Europe is how common it is for students to be multilingual—to be a fluent bilingual person in Europe is quite ordinary; many students are required in high school to study three foreign languages, and often have mastered at least four by the time they begin their undergraduate studies.

When questioned about the prospect of other Honors students traveling abroad, Malone very enthusiastically responded: "Although students may be intimidated at the thought of leaving their family and friends to go to a strange place where they do not know anyone, the experience of living abroad is especially enriching for Honors students—so enriching, in fact, that I would love to try it again soon!" In the future, Malone plans to visit some of the friends that she met in Spain in their home countries of Holland and Germany. After graduating with a B.A. in English from SSU in 2008, she plans on attending graduate school and studying creative writing.

If you would like information on studying abroad, contact Taryn at malonet@shawnee.edu.



Spring Quarter 2007 Courses for All Honors Students

As an Honors student, you are automatically eligible to register for classes on 12:00 am February 13:

ARTH 101 (06) Introduction to Art (Honors) T/R, 12-1:50 pm, Dr. Isabel Graziani

The course is an introduction to the study of the visual arts. It explores the significance of major works of art, with an emphasis on the awareness of their historical significance. It deals with the principles of art, formal and contextual elements, and the basic vocabulary necessary in order to articulate opinions about the arts. The course has a studio component that will allow hands-on experience to encourage visual communication through the visual arts. As an Honors course the emphasis is on academic discussion and oral presentations.

ENGL115 (02) Literature and Composition (Honors) M/W 10-11:50 am, Ann Linden

This course examines the relationship between literature and composition by giving students an opportunity to examine literary works from a variety of thematic perspectives. Readings focus on themes of contemporary relevance, and students are encouraged to examine the role literature plays in defining/reflecting various cultures. It extends the development of critical writing, reading, and thinking skills through independent analysis of texts and writing assignments.

IDST227 (01) Civilization and Literature 3 (Honors) M/W 12-1:50pm, Shannon Lawson

This course is an interdisciplinary introduction to the major thoughts of various non-western civilizations. Emphasis is placed on reading primary texts and responding to those texts through class discussions, presentations, and essays. Readings will focus on various African civilizations and will be centered upon the theme of diasporas.

MATH110 (?) Mathematics Core Course (Honors) M 6-9:50pm, Dr. Robert Mendris

Tired of dry math? Learn general problem solving methods by playing games (and receive Honors credit at the same time!)

Introduction to Philosophy (Honors) - PHIL 200 (01) TR 10-11:50 Dr. Nicholas Meriwether

This course addresses some of the most vexing questions regarding the nature of knowledge, such as: What distinguishes knowledge from opinion? Does knowledge require certainty? Is what we call knowledge simply a reflection of our culture and upbringing? Who's to say our morals are better than the morals of other times and places? We trace these questions and others through the texts of some of the most significant thinkers in Western Civilization, including Plato, Descartes, Kant, and Nietzsche. This course also fulfills a GEP requirement. Preq. IENGL 115S

Scholarship Opportunities

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation-awards up to \$50,000

Deadline – March 15, 2007

Eligibility –

- **Seniors planning to go on to Graduate School**
- **3.5 GPA**
- **Nomination by Honors Program Director**

For more info about the Honors Program, visit our website: <http://www.shawnee.edu/acad/hon/index.html>

Where are They Now? Honors Alumni Spotlight Tracey Leo



Although she graduated with honors in the Spring of 2005, many students who arrived in the fall of that year remember Tracey Leo as being the 2005-06 AmeriCorps VISTA SSU Coordinator of Community Service. During that year, Leo coordinated a Spring Break trip to New York to give SSU students the opportunity to lend a hand in building a home for Habitat for Humanity. Leo also coordinated the now annual on-campus event dubbed “Shantytown,” in which representatives from various SSU clubs and organizations volunteer to spend a night camped out in front of Massie Hall in order to raise money for and awareness about the plight of the homeless.

When asked about the benefits of the Honors Program, Leo responded, “The Honors Program benefited me academically by allowing me to take advanced classes with students who were excited to learn and who were also free thinkers. The academic environment of these classes both challenged me and encouraged me to pursue my goals.”

Leo also shared with us what she enjoyed the most during her undergraduate career as an Honors student: “I definitely enjoyed the Washington DC trip the most. It was a great opportunity to see the nation's capital and get to know others in the Honors Program. I would recommend getting involved in the Honors Program for the many opportunities it can give you.”

Miss Leo is currently pursuing her JD at the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR HONORS STUDENTS

Contact **Amy Richardson**, SSU Coordinator of Community Service, 351-3662 or arichardson@shawnee.edu if you are interested in volunteering for any of the following events:

- **March 25th -31st** New Orleans Alternative Spring Break Trip
- **Wednesday, March 14th 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** Spring Blood Drive

“There are many organizations and programs in our area that would love to have College student help, whether it be tutoring, mentoring, just spending one-on-one time with someone, or doing hands-on physical work.”

—Amy Richardson, SSU Coordinator of Community Service

Graduation Requirements for Honors Seniors

As all of our Seniors are already well aware, Shawnee State's commencement is just around the corner. This will be the third year that Honors Students will be able to graduate with an Honors certificate. Here are the requirements for an Honors Diploma:

Honors Program Certificate for Bachelor's Degrees. Students are required to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.3 and satisfactorily complete 24 credit hours (6 classes) of specially designated Honors sections of the GEP. Twelve hours, which include Honors Senior Seminar, must be completed at Shawnee State University.

Honors Program Certificate for Associate Degrees. Students are required to satisfactorily complete any 12

hours of specially designated Honors sections of the GEP and maintain a minimum GPA of 3.3 at Shawnee State.

In order to ensure that everyone who has fulfilled the requirements of the Honors Program receive the recognition you deserve, this notice serves as a reminder to, if you have not already done so, **please bring Shannon Lawson a copy of your degree audit ASAP so that she can review it and certify your eligibility for the Honors certificate.**

If you have additional questions about requirements, please consult the University catalogue pp.43-44, call 351-3295, or visit Shannon Lawson in person. Her office is located in Massie 422.

Honors Hiking Trip

When: Saturday, March 10, 2007

Time: 10:00 AM—???

Where: Shawnee State Park

Description: Want to clear your mind before Finals Week? Then join us for a hiking trip along a segment of the Shawnee Backpack Trail. This five-mile stretch from Forest Rd. 5 to Forest Rd. 2 will consist of several small climbs and one steep pull taking in a beautiful valley of hemlocks and a rushing stream. Students are advised to wear layered clothing and sturdy boots. Walking stick may also come in handy.

RSVP DEADLINE—Shannon Lawson at slawson@shawnee.edu or 351-3295 by Weds., March 7th.

Important Reminder:

All Honors Students are eligible for early registration on **February 13th**. Make sure to schedule appointments with your advisors during the week prior to the start of registration so that they can clear you for registration.

Please send ideas for future Honors activities both on campus and off to slawson@shawnee.edu

For more info about the Honors Program, visit our website: <http://www.shawnee.edu/acad/hon/index.html>