

Honors Explores INDIA

By Professor Dave Manel

On January 13th, members of CCAC's Honors Study Abroad program returned home after spending two weeks touring India. It was an emotional moment for all of us in the group - which included 15 students and five faculty — when the British Airways Boeing 787 landed at Pittsburgh International Airport. Everyone was relieved that the long flight was over and eager to reunite with their loved ones. However, there was also a sense of sadness that this once-in-a-lifetime experience had come to an end.

This was the fourth CCAC Honors Study Abroad to India. Previous trips occurred in 2016, 2018, and 2020. Over the years, 54 students and 21 faculty have participated in the program.

Before embarking on the trip, students enrolled in an array of academic courses and orientations designed to prepare them for the study abroad experience. The courses emphasized the historical, cultural, philosophical, and political features of Indian society, as well as taught stress management tools.

One of the most exciting aspects of the study abroad program is experiencing firsthand all the interesting ideas, concepts, and perspectives discussed in the classroom. For example, after arriving in India the group was immediately immersed in Indian society, culture, art, food, historical ruins, forts, and temples. We talked to scholars at an Indian university and with representatives from UNICEF. We participated in a round table discussion with Indian journalists, met with leaders of numerous NGOs, helped prepare dinners at a Sikh Gurdwara, and listened to talks from spiritual teachers.

A women's empowerment cooperative hosted us for lunch, and we were taught about spices and the spice trade while visiting the largest spice market in Asia. We learned to haggle in open-air markets, which sparkled with a thousand different colors and a cacophony of sounds. We made art and danced to traditional and contemporary music around a bonfire with new friends. We spent a well-deserved relaxing day on a houseboat while cruising the Indian Backwaters; and toured a national park bustling with migrating birds and other beautiful flora and fauna.

For the first time in the program's history, film study students joined the trip and completed Honors research projects documenting India. With the help of student engagement funds, students could buy the necessary equipment to undertake documentary projects. The results of their work are eagerly anticipated.

In closing, I think I speak for everyone who participated in this year's study abroad when I say that the intellectual growth and memories from this trip will be with us for the rest of our lives. The India Study Abroad program will always rank as one of the most consequential, meaningful, and transformative experiences of my time at CCAC. I am most thankful that I experienced India with such a remarkable group of students and faculty. We will always share the bond of those two weeks.





Journey to INDIA



It was a privilege to have the opportunity to attend the India study abroad trip with the CCAC Honors Program. We got to explore so many carefully crafted temples, sacred landmarks, and meet so many interesting people. Going to India allowed me to immerse myself in a rich culture that contrasts drastically to the ones I am used to in Pittsburgh. This trip opened a new window of passion for traveling and getting to know people from different backgrounds. However, it also showed me the reality of what everyday life was for a majority of the locals. We had the privilege of staying in nice hotels with great food which is something so normal in the states but we definitely left with a renewed understanding of gratitude.

Chris Tran



Chris Tran, Faith Dunn, and a few new friends at SSMI

How do you put so much in such little writing?

The trip to India was a significant trip for all that went. If there is one thing that I can confidently say happened to each of us, it would have to be how our worldviews changed. Every professor was enthusiastic about educating us on India from history, politics, culture, religion, and so much more and they did an exceptional job; however, nothing is quite like experiencing it.

We had been ripped out of our bubbles and put into a reality that we had only previously heard of but never experienced, one of which brought awareness to how disconnected from the global community and reality we had been. India is a country where its people (like many other countries) are faced with great adversity, from corruption in the governments to the challenges of being colonized and exploited for consumerism to this day, yet there are so many wonderful people we met who were so warm and welcoming, so many people who were passionate and active in creating a better world and helping their communities. Everywhere we went we were welcomed in with such great warmth and became a part of the same communities we were helping, and the best part was it was wanted and needed help as opposed to oftentimes people offering unwanted help on these trips. Everyone was so generous at the organizations we visited, and it felt amazing to truly see who we were helping and how much of an impact we were making. India is a nation of beauty, full of life, and love, rich in culture and history, full of preserved lands and architecture, and has so many worthy places to see and experience. I loved the trip and am still so thankful I got to experience it, and if I could I would go back and do it all again.

Faith Dunn



Special recognition to Dec. 2023, May 2024, and August 2024 HONORS DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Honors Council would like to congratulate the students who have earned Honors degrees this academic year. These students will receive Honors medallions at the Honors Forum on April 26th to wear at the CCAC Commencement Exercises in May.

KAMRYN ABRIAL

15 Honors Credits Earned
General Studies - AS

ANDREW BECKAS

15 Honors Credits Earned
Computer Information Systems - AS

JAQUAN BROCKMAN

15 Honors Credits Earned
General Studies - AS

ELISA CEVALLOS CORDOVA

16 Honors Credits Earned
Film Technician - AS

MARY JOHNSTON

15 Honors Credits Earned
Radiologic Technologist - AS

JAMES MICHELANGELO

15 Honors Credits Earned
Theatre - AS

HUNTER SASSE

16 Honors Credits Earned
Computer Aided Design-AS

JULIA TUERFFS

15 Honors Credits Earned
Business Management, Corporate - AS

THU TA HTUN

16 Honors Credits Earned
Computer Information Systems - AS

ARIANNA VESCERA

15 Honors Credits Earned
Nursing - AS

TANNER LUGAR

15 Honors Credits Earned
Liberal Arts and Sciences - AS

MAXIMOS WOLFLEY

21 Honors Credits Earned
Multimedia Programming, Simulation &
Gaming - AS

HONORS GRADUATES

CONGRATULATIONS HONORS PROGRAM GRADUATES!

Kamryn Abrial**
Cassandra Agostino
Vanessa Camel Alabaso*
Alora Arthurs*
Krystel Balog
Jessica Beavin*
Andrew Beckas**
Gia Betancourt
Alexandra Biondi
Alia Bowers
Jaquan Brockman**
Ricky Brooks
Linda Brugere
Justin Bushmire*
Elisa Cevallos Cordova**
Kathryn Chambers*
Brooke Clark
Eja Courts
Miriam Crosby*
Riya Dahal
Zannatul Daizy*
Jean Daniher
Ava Dehass*

Logan Depew
Kacee Deutsch
Ravindranath Embar
Luke Ferguson
Benard Fiorillo*
Thomas Frey*
Kotono Fujimoto*
Alyssa Gable
Karley Gall
Tina George
Rye Geraci
Robert Gillner*
Divinity Glenn*
Mackenzie Goonetilleke
David Graham
Mara Haley
Sonya Harris
Thu Htun**
Jakia Johnson
Taylor Johnson
Colin Johnson*
Mary Johnston**
Laniya Jones*

Amanda Klauger-Boob
Bobby Kort
Alexandra Kotwica
Jayden Lahoti
Rinnie Lauer
Daniel Lee*
Tanner Lugar**
Madina Makhudova*
Michelle Malenich
Shruti Mali*
Alexandra Mall
Glaicharel Manzambi
Hannah Marsh*
Aidan Mazon
Sunddas Mehmood
Chapin Meny
James Michelangelo**
Shane Mitchell
Laura Murawski
Caitlin Murphy*
Chaz Mytinger
Alicia Nava*
Yelyzaveta Normyrovskia

Ijeoma Okeiyi
Lily Osborn*
Taniya Owens*
Samantha Palone*
Latisha Pearson-Giles
Sara Perrett*
Michelle Peters
Latoya Phifer
Peyton Phillips
Erika Porter*
Cammi Probst
Mercedes Ramirez
Reyna Reyes*
Lorrie Reynolds
Mario Rocchino
Miranda Roessler
Jaiya Rucker*
Hunter Sasse**
Mia Simpson
Erica Smith
Clara Soko
Aline Souza Freire*
David Steiger

Caleb Tarosky
Imirah Tibbs
Logan Tomachesky
Miya Tominello
James Tomlinson
Julia Tuerffs*
Lanah Velazquez
Rachel White*
Kalina Wilder
Faith Windsheimer
Nathan Wittebort
Maximos Wolfley**
Katrina Woodard*
Frederick Woodfork
Peter Woshner
Muhammad Zahoor
Feifei Zhao
Assiya Zhouri

*Earned Honors Credits
**Earned Honors Degree

Dec. 2023, May 2024, & Aug. 2024

Honors Students Journey to Albany for National Regional Honors Council Conference

By Ashleigh Fox, North Campus Honors Coordinator

This year's Northeast Regional Honors Council conference was held in Albany, New York, between April 4 and 7, 2024. A record number of ten CCAC students attended this year's conference: Hans Mach, Christina Tran, Faith Dunn, Destiny King, Andrew Beckas, Zachary Ravish, Alexis Hayes, Jali Ransom-Rodriguez, Elisa Cevallos Cordova, and Tanner Lugar. The group was grateful to the wonderful Honors Program secretary, Renee Shissler, for all her help in organizing and planning this trip. The students were accompanied by Honors program director Srujana Kanjula and campus coordinators Emily Marshman and Ashleigh Fox. CCAC students and faculty were delighted by the opportunity to make new friends and memories with our fellow conference attendees from Point Park University and Westmoreland County Community College during the long bus trip.

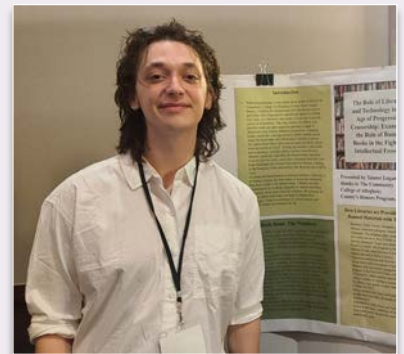


This year's conference theme, *Ahead of Our Time: Intersections of Thought and Technology Towards the Future*, inspired a vast array of conference presentations. The CCAC student presentations ranged from film showcases, art galleries, and idea exchanges to academic posters, roundtables, and panel sessions. Prior to those presentations, though, students enjoyed a generous chunk of time to participate in "City as Text," an open invitation from the city of Albany to explore and enjoy. Inspired by our morning address from Albany's mayor, the charming Kathy Sheehan, everyone was excited to see what the city had to offer. Despite the frigid temperatures and windy conditions, all navigated Albany joyfully and came back with stories to share about the various local museums, churches, and eateries.

After returning to the hotel to freshen up, students began conducting and attending presentations. Friday evening featured the Performing Arts and Film Showcase, in which Elisa Cevallos Cordova presented her fantastic documentary "Colors of India." Zachary Ravish entertained the group with his dynamic showcase of "The Media of Passion: Making Games That Matter." In one of the most challenging feats of the entire conference, Zach had back-to-back presentations, as his Art Gallery presentation, "XILs Artwork," immediately followed the film showcase.

At the conclusion of the art show, all conference attendees gathered for a delicious banquet and keynote address from Dr. Gretchen Sorin, who presented research connected to her publication *Driving While Black: African American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights*. Students were deeply engaged in her presentation, as evidenced by the robust line of students at the microphone during the Q & A session! After the banquet, students were invited to show off their singing skills with Friday night karaoke.

Saturday started bright and early with a decadent breakfast buffet, followed by poster sessions and idea exchanges. Tanner Lugar enlightened attendees on "The Role of Libraries and Technology in the Age of Progressive Censorship: Examining the Role of Banned Books in the Fight for Intellectual Freedom." Faith Dunn's vibrant poster captured "The Impact of Service Learning in India," while Hans Mach and Alexis Hayes inspired fellow honors program students with "Growth Through Mentoring: Honors Leadership in Action."



The morning continued with a round of academic panels and roundtable presentations, including sessions moderated by Professors Kanjula, Marshman, and Fox. Everyone was reunited for the Presidential Luncheon, at which time we enjoyed an address from Dr. Marcella McCoy-Deh. After lunch, faculty and students went their separate ways: students headed to the Student Caucus and to take professional headshots, while faculty met for a Consultants' Corner. In collaboration with Dr. Jessica McCort from Point Park, CCAC faculty led a session on student engagement across honors programs.



The afternoon's academic panel and roundtable sessions featured CCAAC's Andrew Beckas and Jali Ransom-Rodriguez. Andrew's presentation was entitled "The Art of a Games Story: How Does the Art and Sound Design of a Videogame Affect the Game's Narrative?", while Jali spoke on "The Effects of Colonial Oppression on Cultural Nuances in India."

After such a busy day, all were ready to unwind at the evening's gala: Masquerade of the Minds. Hans Mach, one of two student members of the conference's Executive Board, collaborated with Olivia Gage of Southern New Hampshire University to design and execute a fabulous night of appetizers, photo booths, intriguing masks, gorgeous outfits, and, of course, lots of dancing!

Despite the late evening, everyone rallied for Sunday's events to wrap up the conference. Destiny King presented her research on "Acid Mine Drainage and the Effect of the Environment in Pennsylvania." At the conclusion of this poster session, attendees gathered for one final program. NRHC issued numerous awards, and CCAC's Honors Program was elated when, for the second year in a row, a CCAC student was named Student of the Year from a two-year institution: Hans Mach was recognized for his leadership, commitment, and expertise within our Honors Program as well as the NRHC Executive Board. Many congratulations to Hans on this well-earned accolade!

The journey home was underscored with much fatigue, but also deep pride in both individual and collective accomplishments. Please consider this phenomenal conference opportunity as you plan your upcoming Honors contracts for the Fall 2024 semester!



NRHC Student of the Year: Hans Mach

CCAC Honors student Hans Mach won the most prestigious award at the conference: Student of the Year. The Northeast Regional Honors Council annually recognizes two students as Student of the Year—one from a two-year institution and one from a four-year institution. The award recognizes academic excellence, outstanding leadership skills, socially engaged contributions, and innovations that the students have shown at their home institution. In addition, the winners are role models for other students in their honors programs.



Hans serves as one of the Leadership Assistants and a Student Representative of the NRHC Executive Board. This is the third time that a CCAC student has won this award.

Whirlwind 2,188 Mile Weekend

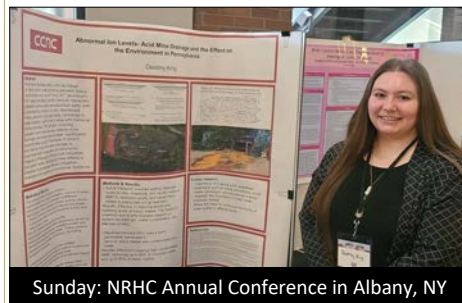
- by Destiny King, South Campus Leadership Assistant

On Thursday, April 4th, I embarked on an unforgettable journey with Phi Theta Kappa to attend Catalyst and accept an award. Being internationally recognized as one of PTK's most distinguished members as a first-year participant is incredibly honorable, as this distinction is exceptionally rare.



Saturday: PTK Catalyst in Orlando, FL

After the award ceremony, I swiftly boarded a plane bound for New York where I would be attending NRHC, the journey fraught with unexpected challenges and moments of chaos. At NRHC, I had the honor to present my honors contract among my peers, informing them of my research and knowledge on the topic.



Sunday: NRHC Annual Conference in Albany, NY

Nevertheless, despite the hurdles and unforeseen challenges, attending Catalyst and NRHC was an incredible experience. The stress I endured and the fears I faced faded away in the face of the incredible opportunities and friendships that defined the weekend. Every moment, despite its challenges, was absolutely worth it.

**CONGRATULATIONS
★ HANS & DESTINY! ★**

HONORS FEATURED STUDENTS

Each semester, we highlight a few active Honors students for the *Word of Honor* newsletter.

ANDREW BECKAS

Computer Information Systems major



What are your educational goals/transfer plans?

I am a dual enrollment student at CCAC and am currently in my senior year of high school. My plan after I graduate is to transfer all my credits from CCAC to a 4-year university. I have been accepted into 6 different schools but I have not yet decided which one I will be attending in the fall.

What are your career goals?

After I graduate I want to try and get into software development. My goal is to try to get into game development with a game studio but ultimately I would be happy with a career that focuses on programming any type of software.

Tell us about your Honors course or Honors contract for this semester:

My Honors contract this semester is going to be a paper about the history of music in musical theater. The paper will go over how the genres and trends in the music have changed and why they changed. I will also include an audio recording of the music in the musicals mentioned in chronological order.

What type of activities do you like to participate in during your free time?

I like to program whenever I have the time. I am a part of a robotics team in which I am one of the programmers who program the robot. I also like to write short stories and draw, I don't do those as often as programming but when I have the time I will do them. I also do many musicals and currently I am playing Pulitzer in the musical *Newsies*.

A book or film I would recommend and why:

Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger. It follows the story of a 16 year old boy by the name of Holden after he gets expelled from his school and decides to go around New York City not wanting to go back home. It was one of my favorite books and I highly suggest reading the book.

What are the top 3 items on your bucket list?

1. Develop and publish a videogame.
2. Write and publish some of my stories.
3. Learn German fluently to travel to Germany one day.

ALEXIS HAYES

General Studies major



What are your educational goals/transfer plans?

My educational goals are to complete my general studies associate degree and transfer to a college/university in either New York or Boston to get a bachelor's degree in either film and/or philosophy.

What are your career goals?

Ideally, I'd love to work as a freelance documentary filmmaker and/or an experimental filmmaker that focuses on the experiences of minority groups.

Tell us about your Honors course or Honors contract for this semester:

This semester, I became slightly overambitious and took three Honors courses: Honors Intro to Astronomy, Honors General Literature, and Honors Leadership. All of my courses are challenging my perspectives from different angles. Astronomy has me pondering my place and understanding of space, Literature is teaching me how to look between and beyond the lines, and Leadership has shown me how to turn my morals into actions.

What type of activities do you like to participate in during your free time?

I usually enjoy reading but not finishing books, watching and analyzing films/movies, and going to CCAC events.

A book or film I would recommend and why:

This is How You Lose The Time War by Amal El-Mohtar and Max Gladstone. The imagery in the book is indescribable, and it tackles the discussion of balancing technological advancement and nurturing nature through a beautiful, sapphic love story.

What are the top 3 items on your bucket list?

1. Travel the world.
2. Adopt/foster a bunch of rescue animals.
3. Create community spaces with liberation, protection, and compassion at their forefront.



HONORS LEADERSHIP

with Prof. Scott Mayberry

HUNTER LASSWELL

Liberal Arts & Sciences major

What are your educational goals/transfer plans?

I plan on applying to the University of Pittsburgh for the fall 2024 semester, where I will be pursuing a degree in digital narrative and interactive design. I'm also looking to get a minor in studio arts, to supplement some of my creative educational goals.

What are your career goals?

After graduating, I would like to find a career in game development as soon as possible. Finding new ways to introduce creativity and storytelling is a huge interest of mine, and I would love to work with any development company that has a similar perspective.

Tell us about your Honors course or Honors contract for this semester:

My Honors contract this semester involves the application of philosophy to video games, and how video games can help people to better understand philosophical discussions. Video games can often be overlooked as an insignificant art form, and I'm seeking to challenge that viewpoint with this contract.

What type of activities do you like to participate in during your free time?

I like to spend my free time engaging in any type of self expression I can get my hands on! I paint, I do circus arts, and I write. My greatest passion is definitely painting, though--and I've gotten recent opportunities to submit my paintings to galleries, the Pittsburgh fringe festival, and a charity gala.

A book or film I would recommend and why:

My all time favorite book that has influenced so much of my life and thinking is definitely *Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams. It's hilarious, clever, and has impacted my outlook on life significantly.

What are the top 3 items on your bucket list?

My top 3 bucket list items are to publish a book, to present my paintings in a solo showcase gallery, and to perform circus arts publicly! I want to try every outlet of creativity to find what best connects with people.



KAYDI KENNEDY

General Studies major

What are your educational goals/transfer plans?

My first education goal is to become a registered nurse through CCAC, and then I wish to transfer to begin studying towards my bachelor's degree so I can move on to a certified registered nurse anesthetist school/program.

What are your career goals?

My overall career goal is to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

Tell us about your Honors course or Honors contract for this semester:

I chose to take Honors General Literature with Ashleigh Fox this semester as my first course in the Honors Program, and I cannot say enough good things about this course so far. It has taught me things about myself and life in so many different ways, ways I never thought a course in school could do for me.

What type of activities do you like to participate in during your free time?

During my free time I like to go to the gym.

What are the top 3 items on your bucket list?

1. Travel the world on a world cruise.
2. Go zip lining across a body of water.
3. White water rafting (I am scared of that LOL.)



An Evening at the Benedum Center With the Honors Program: *The Book of Mormon*

By: Professor John Float

The Book of Mormon is vibrant and thought-provoking musical about religion and consumerism where laughter, music, and exceptional talent collide to create a memorable theatrical experience. Two young Mormon missionaries travel to Africa to preach the principles of the Mormon religion only to discover they have a lot more to learn about the real world! Amidst the hysterical laughter and toe-tapping melodies, there's an underlying message that lingers, prompting moments of introspection and reflection. The magic of the evening extends beyond the confines of the stage. Spending time outside the classroom with fellow students, immersed in the shared experience of this theatrical gem, fosters a sense of camaraderie and community that enriches the overall enjoyment of the show. I strongly urge all students to take advantage of the opportunities that the Honors Programs works hard to provide. It was an evening full of laughter, music, and unforgettable memories.



JAN BEATTY'S CRAFT TALK

- BY PROFESSOR ANGELA GAITO-LAGNESE



In connection to a Women as Writers Honors course, Jan Beatty came to CCAC Allegheny Campus just before spring break to talk with students, faculty, staff, creative writers, and community members about her memoir, *American Bastard*. During her visit, Beatty read from her work, discussed writing her memoir – a push back on the “chosen baby” adoption myth from the baby scoop era – and shared her wisdom around writing, publishing, and mental health. During her talk, Beatty discussed her memoir and her personal experiences as an adoptee. She also emphasized that writing is not therapy; in fact, Beatty encouraged her audience to get therapy for when they need it, so that they could free themselves to write. Beatty also answered questions from the audience about *American Bastard*, writing, and publishing. Beatty also noted that the first few publishers with whom she shared her book wanted her to change the style to a more ordered and chronological retelling, as opposed to the lyrical, and at times intentionally fragmented, narrative style that she chose for this body of work. Beatty knows what she wants and she shared that she continued seeking a publishing house that would respect her decisions around her craft. Eventually, *American Bastard* found its home with Red Hen Press.

After Beatty's craft talk, the audience and Beatty shared a pizza lunch while books and a writing basket were raffled to audience members. Beatty also stayed to answer additional questions from the audience and to autograph books, including her most recent chapbook, *Skydog*.

For anyone unfamiliar with Jan Beatty, her eighth book, *Dragstripping*, is forthcoming from the University of Pittsburgh Press, September, 2024. Her memoir, *American Bastard*, won the Red Hen Nonfiction Award. Recent books include *The Body Wars* and a chapbook, *Skydog* (Lefty Blondie Press, 2022). Other work includes *Jackknife: New and Selected Poems* (University of Pittsburgh, 2018 Paterson Prize) named by Sandra Cisneros on LitHub as her favorite book of 2019. Beatty has worked as a waitress, abortion counselor, and in maximum security prisons. She is Professor Emerita at Carlow University, where she directed creative writing, the Madwomen in the Attic workshops, and the MFA program.



It was a wonderful afternoon and just pure pleasure listening to – and learning from – the one and only Jan Beatty. So much gratitude goes to Honors, Student Life, Student Engagement, The Writing Center, and Allegheny English Department for making this event possible!

HONORS STUDENTS “BREAK THE ICE” EXPLORING THE TITANIC EXHIBIT

-Emily Marshman, Allegheny Campus Honors Coordinator

On April 14, one hundred and twelve years ago, the RMS Titanic struck an iceberg and sank to the bottom of the icy North Atlantic Ocean. Since the disaster, people have been intrigued by the stories of the sinking of the Titanic and its passengers. The lives of those on board and their hopes and dreams fascinate many of us, even though it has been over one hundred years since the tragedy.

Honors students who were curious about the Titanic and its passengers were recently able to attend The Titanic Artifact Exhibition at the Carnegie Science Museum on Saturday, March 9, 2024. Upon entering the exhibition, we were handed a boarding pass bearing the name of an actual passenger. It told of their background, traveling companions, and reason for their voyage. Some of us were given boarding passes from passengers in first class, while others were part of the crew.



The first few rooms of the exhibit housed many artifacts such as dining plates, telegraph mechanisms, playing cards, jewelry, and mechanical parts of the ship. It was fascinating to see the stark differences between the first-class dining ware and the third-class dining ware. Perfume vials were on display, and interestingly, it was noted that the scent of the perfume could still be detected even after decades of resting at the bottom of the ocean. We were also able to view replicas of the luxurious first-class cabins as well as the third-class quarters.



We were truly able to imagine the opulent world of the “Ship of Dreams.” The next few rooms felt progressively colder and darker, and stories of ominous premonitions about the sinking of the Titanic were posted on the walls. Correspondence from passengers on the Titanic were shared throughout the rooms of the exhibition. The exhibition then focused on the exceptionally cold weather on the night of April 14 and the warnings about iceberg-laden waters. In one of the rooms, an actual large piece of ice was displayed. Visitors were able to touch the iceberg to get a feel for how cold the waters actually were. In fact, since ocean water is salty, its freezing point is lower than 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Therefore, the ocean water was actually colder than 32 degrees Fahrenheit. BRRR!!

As the exhibit neared its end, we were able to scan our boarding passes to learn about the fate of our passengers. While some of us were thrilled to learn that our passenger had survived, others were crestfallen to learn that our passenger had perished in the tragedy. In any case, Honors students and faculty were able to experience the intricate tapestry of the Titanic, the lives of its passengers and crew, and the ultimate tragedy of the RMS Titanic. We were also able to bond with each other on our voyage back in time to the era of the Titanic.



Director's Notes



Even though this semester started very rough for me due to personal loss, the quality of the Honors Program is not compromised. Fifteen students and seven faculty members returned to Pittsburgh this January after successfully completing Honors India Study abroad venture. For the first time, the group took a trip to Kochi in the Southern State of Kerala after exploring Delhi, Agra, Bharatpur and Jaipur located in the Northern region of India. Apart from

visiting educational institutions, UN institutions, historical monuments, places of worship, local market places, Non-Governmental Organizations and village women's livelihood projects, the group participated in intellectual discussions, cultural celebrations and hands on service projects. Students explain this experience as immersive, enriching and life transforming.

We kicked off Honors with our Zoom orientation that exposed students to Honors courses, contracts, events, and service activities. Many students who attended the orientation participated in our first Honors Contract Workshop in early February. Film Studies students undertook film documentary projects in India as part of their fall 2023 Honors Contracts with Professor Nick Twardus. These students collected a lot of footage in India, and one of the students is doing another Honors contract this semester to complete the editing of the documentary. Andrew Thames from Student Engagement assisted the students in creating a professional photo and video documentation of the India experience that will be shared at the Honors Forum.

Honors Women & Politics organized a speaker series on interesting and relevant topics like Gender Identity & Gender Roles, Women's Political Participation & Leadership and Voting, Volunteerism & Civic Engagement. Students from Honors Introduction to Astronomy with Professor Patrick Huth joined his "Solar Eclipse Webinar" using the digital telescope. This class also received moon rock samples from NASA, enabling students to undertake special projects. Professor Angela Gaito-Lagnese invited poet, author, and educator Jan Beatty for an afternoon of talking craft with students in her Honors Women as Writers course and kicking off the creative writing contest. Jan Beatty's books were raffled and sold and Jan interacted with students in person and signed her books. Professor Scott Mayberry's Honors Leadership class students are currently working on their service project, Thrive and Strive Flea Market Donation Drive. All the proceeds will go to Steel City FoodNotBombs.

Honors students took part in the Student Fishbowl Common Hour presentation to CCAC faculty facilitated by Honors coordinators Ashleigh and Scott. Professor Ashleigh Fox organized a collaborative undergraduate research conference between Westmoreland County Community College (WCCC) and CCAC where students from both institutions presented their research in person. Students immensely enjoyed the Pittsburgh Broadway Series performance of *Book of Mormon* at the beautiful Benedum Center and the Titanic Exhibit at the Carnegie Science Center. Our students actively participated in the Global Food & Dance Festival at the Allegheny Campus. The Honors program collaborated with the World Cultures Club for lunch at a Thai restaurant to explore cultural cuisine.

This year a record number of ten of our students presented their research projects at the Northeast Regional Honors Council Annual Conference, explored city as text and participated in the karaoke night and student gala. The Honors council members who attended the conference led the faculty consultant corner on student engagement. CCAC won the Student of the Year for the second consecutive year. Hans Mach who won this award also served as the student representative on the NRHC Executive Board.

To close a busy and rewarding year, Honors at CCAC will be celebrating our students and faculty at the annual Honors Forum on April 26. Do make time to join us in this celebration to appreciate student research projects, presentations and accomplishments.

I feel extremely fortunate to be working with such an excellent team of Honors coordinators, program secretary and leadership assistants. My heartfelt thanks to the Honors community at CCAC for an incredibly successful year!

— Dr. Srujana Kanjula, CCAC Honors Program Director



Honors Faculty in India

WCCC & CCAC Conference Prep Event



HONORS Council

Srujana Kanjula, Honors Program Director
Renee Shissler, Honors Program Secretary;
Editor, *Word of Honor* Newsletter

Honors Campus Coordinators:
Emily Marshman, Allegheny Campus
Scott Mayberry, Boyce Campus
Ashleigh Fox, North Campus
John Float, South Campus



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Access your CCAC academic email and the Honors Program Blackboard site through the MyCCAC Portal.



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Instagram & X: "ccacHonors"

THANK YOU, HONORS FACULTY!

Allison Barash
Jacqueline Cavalier
Benjamin Filippone
Ashleigh Fox
Angela Gaito-Lagnese
Patrick Huth
Srujana Kanjula
Heather Klenovich

Scott Mayberry
Andria Robinson
Valjean Rossman
Rebecca Senkowicz
Staci Stephenson
Nick Twardus
Gessa Wellenstein
James Winyard

◆ HONORS COURSES FALL 2024 ◆

Stay active in Honors! Current students must earn a minimum of 3 Honors credits each academic year in order to remain in the program.

HONORS ENGLISH COMP II

ENG 102H NC31 with Professor Ashleigh Fox, 3 credits
* Blackboard coursework (50% online) begins 9/3/24
* Weekly in-person seminars at North Campus, Mon. 11:00 - 12:30

HONORS LEADERSHIP

HON 115H AC31 with Professor Ashleigh Fox, 3 credits
* Blackboard coursework (40% online) begins 9/3/24
* 4 in-person seminars at Allegheny Campus, Fri. 9:30 – 4:10; 9/13, 10/11, 11/8 & 12/6.

HONORS PROBABILITY & STATISTICS

MAT 165H SC31 with Professor John Float, 4 credits
* Blackboard coursework (50% online) begins 9/3/24
* Weekly Zoom seminars, Tues. 1:00 - 2:45

HONORS ETHICS

PHL 155H BC31 Professor Scott Mayberry, 3 credits
* Blackboard coursework (40% online) begins 9/3/24
* 4 in-person seminars at Boyce Campus, Fri. 9:30 – 4:10; 9/20, 10/4, 10/18, & 11/15

HONORS INTRO to ASTRONOMY

PHS 107H BC31 with Professor Patrick Huth, 3 credits
* Blackboard coursework (40% online) begins 9/3/24
* 7 Zoom seminars Tues. 9:00 -12:00; 9/10, 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/5, 11/19 & 12/3

HONORS PSYCHOLOGY of ADJUSTMENT

PSY 203H NC31 Professor Allison Barash, 3 credits
* Blackboard coursework (50% online) begins 8/22/24
* 7 Zoom seminars: Weds. 12:30 – 3:15; 9/4, 9/18, 10/2, 10/16, 10/30, 11/13, & 12/4.

HONORS SOCIOLOGY of FOOD

SOC 229H NC31 with Professor Srujana Kanjula, 3 credits
* Blackboard coursework (50% online) begins 9/3/24
* 6 Zoom seminars, Thur. 2:30-4:30; 9/12, 9/26, 10/10, 10/24, 11/14 & 12/5
* In-person cooking & dinner at Allegheny Campus; Fri, 11/22: 1:00-6:00

HONORS ORAL COMMUNICATION

SPH 101H BC31 with Professor Ashley Ferrainolo, 3 credits
* Blackboard coursework (60% online) begins 9/3/24
* Weekly Zoom seminars, Tuesdays, 3:00 p.m.—4:45 p.m.

PLAN AHEAD FOR

25 SPRING

- ◆ Honors Human Growth & Development with Professor Debbie Conway
- ◆ Honors Young Adult Literature with Professor Angela Gaito-Lagnese
- ◆ Honors Intro to Philosophy with Professor Scott Mayberry
- ◆ Honors Creative Writing with Professor Ashleigh Fox
- ◆ Honors Gender & Story with Professor Luke Niebler
- ◆ Honors Leadership with Professor Srujana Kanjula
- ◆ Honors US History I with Professor Laurie Sprankle

