Meet the 2013-14 Leadership in Honors Scholars

The CCAC Honors Program is pleased to announce the winners of four full-tuition Leadership in Honors Scholarships for the 2013-2014 academic year. The winners are Shawn Hinnebusch, Keith Krass, Natalya Mishkova, and Kelly Rockenstein.

Shawn Hinnebusch attends North Campus as a Liberal Arts & Sciences major. He will graduate in May 2014 and transfer to the University of Pittsburgh to pursue a Bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Keith Krass is a Nursing major at South Campus and will graduate from CCAC in May 2015. He plans to transfer to an accelerated BSN program at either Penn State or California University of Pennsylvania and pursue a career as part of a flight MEDEVAC team.

Natalya Mishkova is a Pre-Health major at Boyce Campus and will graduate from CCAC in May 2014. She plans to transfer to the University of Pennsylvania and pursue a career as a registered dietician.

Kelly Rockenstein attends Allegheny Campus where she is pursuing an Associate’s degree in Business Management. After she graduates in 2015, Kelly plans to seek full time employment with an employer at a college or university that has a furthering education program and room for advancement.

Leadership in Honors Scholarships are competitive full-tuition scholarships awarded to returning CCAC Honors students who have been actively engaged in the CCAC Honors Program. The Leadership Scholars will assume leadership roles on their campuses and participate in the Honors Leadership course. Kelly, Natalya, Keith, and Shawn look forward to building an Honors community on each of their campuses.

Applications for the 2013-14 Leadership in Honors Scholarship will be mailed to each student’s home in January. The deadline to enter is February 14, 2014.

Director’s Notes

Honors students have been hard at work and play this fall. Forty-one Honors students are working with thirty-seven faculty mentors on Honors contract research projects; eighteen Honors students attended a performance of The Lion King at the Benedum Theatre with a pre-performance BYO dinner at Café Milano; eleven honors students attended the Drue-Heinz Lecture Series presents Ian Frazier, the New Yorker columnist, with BYO yogurt after at Razz Fresh; fifteen Honors students will attend the Haunted Downtown Pittsburgh tour; fourteen Honors students toured the Andy Warhol Museum, Carnegie Museum of Art, and will tour Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob with Professor Joe Delphi in Honors Art Appreciation. Some of our work and play has been in service to others. Over thirty students have participated in the Pink Feet Race for the Cure, and eighteen honors students are engaged in service-learning projects with me in Honors Leadership, helping Wounded Warriors, Light of Light Mission, and the Women’s Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. Please be on the lookout for invitations from these students to join us in service this fall.

We’ve expanded our Honors Leadership team this fall and are happy to introduce our 2013-2014 Leadership in Honors Scholars who build an Honors community on each of the four campuses and facilitate service to the community. They are Kelly Rockenstein (Allegheny Campus), Natalya Mishkova (Boyce Campus), Shawn Hinnebusch (North Campus) and Keith Krass (South Campus). We have also initiated an Honors Ambassador Team who have volunteered to represent the college at on-campus and off-campus functions: Allegheny Campus Ambassadors Ronica Bioni, Derrick Covington, and Leah Cramer; Boyce Campus Ambassadors Sherry Durick, Kim Howie, Leah Laughlin, and Rebecca Stevens; North Campus Ambassador Angela Suarez; and South Campus Ambassadors Tina Beaver and Linda Evans. You can learn more about our Leadership Scholars and Ambassadors on our Honors Blackboard site and Honors Facebook page. We’re extremely proud of our Leadership Team and grateful for their service to the college and the community.

Hopefully, you’ve been a part of the activity in Honors this term; if not, we look forward to a busy spring and more opportunities for enrichment and engagement. Please check the Honors Facebook page and your email for upcoming events!
Meet Professor Laurie Sprankle

Honors African American History
HIS 203H SC31H

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the African-American experience. To do so, we will trace the African-American experience from African pre-history to the Era of Reconstruction. In particular, our class will survey the African-American experiences over the course of the development of the United States with special attention to the American Civil War, Abraham Lincoln and Emancipation. As part of that emphasis we will explore the underlying issues and events that resulted in the war and will concentrate on how Emancipation reflected the course of the war and in turn the Thirteenth Amendment. The transformative influence of the Emancipation Proclamation on the progression of the war will be highlighted with attention to what Lincoln characterized in his Gettysburg Address as “a new birth of freedom.” A field trip and tour is planned during Spring Break to the Gettysburg Battlefield and to the site of the Gettysburg Address at the Soldiers’ National Cemetery. Blackboard coursework begins January 27, with weekly class meetings at South Campus, Wednesdays from 1:00-2:15 pm. Overnight Gettysburg field trip April 17-18.

Meet Professor Srujana Kanjula

How will the Honors section of your course differ from the regular section?
There is no regular women and politics course at CCAC. This course is specifically designed for Honors students keeping in mind their academic potential. This hybrid course adopts interactive teaching techniques encouraging students to fully engage in the discussions, group activities and individual and group presentations. Students will have the opportunity to learn from guest speakers of different backgrounds and fields of expertise. There will be a field trip to political institutions where students will be able to personally observe and interact with local political leaders. Students will be enriched in a variety of interesting ways.

What drew you to pursue your terminal degree in your field of expertise?
I was always interested in women and politics. I felt that South African apartheid was a unique example and I wanted to explore the role of women in the struggle against apartheid. I decided to do my doctoral thesis on that subject.

What do you love most about teaching at CCAC?
I like the positive learning environment provided by CCAC. Students have fresh minds and articulate their ideas freely. I do learn from them. I like interacting with the students inside and outside the classroom. I have many opportunities to spend time with the students outside the classroom. The honors program encourages this. I do like the freedom I have to design and implement my own ideas and techniques in the classroom.

What are some of your favorite things to do when you’re not teaching?
I like to cook, listen to music, sing and do gardening. I like to explore new places and spend time with friends and family. If I have free time, I watch Indian movies.

Honors Women & Politics around the World
POL 229H-NC31H

This course for both women and men explores the relationship between women and politics while examining women’s political status/role within their socio-economic and cultural context. Emphasis focuses on women as citizens, voters, activists, freedom fighters, election candidates, leaders and development workers. Guest speakers of different cultures and backgrounds will encourage interactive discussions with students. Students will also undertake a field trip to local political institutions. Blackboard coursework begins January 27, with weekly class meetings at North Campus, Mondays from 2:30-4:00 pm.
How will the Honors section of your course differ from the regular section?
This term I am teaching only one honors class, the Phi Theta Kappa Leadership Course. This course is only for Honors Students, so there is no comparable non-Honors version.

What drew you to pursue your terminal degree in your field of expertise?
I am absolutely in love with the question: “what makes people so special? How or why are we different than other beings?” From there, once I started college, I was obsessed with the first few psychology classes I took (PSY 101, and Personality Theory) and philosophy classes (PHL 101, and Philosophy of Mind). After taking a few more classes (Cognitive Science and Identity theory) I was totally hooked and never looked back.

What do you love most about teaching at CCAC?
Without a doubt the students. Before CCAC, I taught at Broward College and several schools in South Carolina, and the students here are simply the best. I love the atmosphere and I wouldn’t trade it for the world.

What are some of your favorite things to do when you’re not teaching?
My family (my wife, 3 year old, and 18 month old) are a family of nerds. We spend tons of time reading, adventuring in the woods behind our house, or tinkering in the garage.

When we’re trapped inside, we’re usually debating who’s the best Avenger or playing something on the Wii.

**Honors Leadership**
**SDS 115H BC31H**
Discover your leadership potential! We will study great leaders as portrayed in the humanities by writers and historians to gain an understanding of leadership and to develop or improve the essential skills required to be effective leaders. Topics include leadership theory, vision, goals, ethics, decision making, conflict management, team building, initiating change, and leading through service. 
Blackboard coursework begins January 27. Saturday Seminars are at Boyce Campus: 2/1, 3/1, 3/29, and 4/12, 9:30 am to 4:10 pm

*Winner of the Fall Poetry Contest*

**ONLY IF**
by Kimberly Dobbs

If only I had...
(Would the end result change?)
If only I could...
(Would it put the future within range?)
If only there were...
(Could you move beyond the past?)
If only I wasn’t...
(Could you build confidence that lasts?)
If only I knew...
(Would the knowledge make you wise?)
If only I had seen...
(Would you trust the vision before your eyes?)
If only, then only, so only-is it only me?
All the “if only’s” cloud the skies; storms rock your boat upon the sea
So many questions, too many questions
Too few solutions, too often doubt
Where to look, which way to turn
Searching, hoping, yearning
For a way out
Best answer, best resolution
Best direction, best truth, best alibi
Someday, one day, just one sure way
Is only if- you truly try!

*Kimberly Dobbs is a first-year Radiologic Technology at Boyce Campus. Her goal is to graduate w/ honors and pass her boards on the first attempt. Kimberly enjoys reading the classics; Shakespeare’s sonnets, Keats, and Barrett Browning.*
Benjamin Brinker

Educational Goals:
I plan to graduate with an associate degree in either the Spring or Summer semester of 2014. Afterwards, I hope to find a job that will allow me to continue my education in accounting.

Career Goals:
Immediately after graduation I hope to find a job as a clerk or staff accountant. Someday, I hope to become a CPA or a forensic accountant.

Special Interests/Hobbies:
I usually spend my time playing video games or watching movies and stand-up comedy. I love to listen to music and have been involved in several bands and an a cappella group in the past. I also enjoy cooking and baking, often creating or trying new recipes.

About my Fall 2013 Honors contract:
I am doing two Honors contracts this semester. For Managerial Accounting, I will be doing a corporate analysis on a company. This will involve looking at a company’s assets and financial records from a five-year period and appraise and analyze their performance and position within the industry.

For Computer Applications in Accounting I will obtain real world data and use the software we are learning about in class to create journal entries and financial reports across several periods of the accounting cycle.

What is your favorite book/author?
My favorite author is Chuck Palahniuk. While he is most known for his books *Fight Club* and *Choke*, which were turned into movies, my favorite book of his would probably be *Survivor* or *Diary*.

If you could have dinner with anyone (dead or alive), who would you choose and why?
I would probably have dinner with the late Mitch Hedberg. I like a good laugh, and he was definitely my favorite comic.

Jake Sterling

Educational Goals:
My educational goals are to graduate from CCAC with an associate degree in science/math. Then transfer to Pitt-Swanson School of Engineering for my bachelors in mechanical engineering.

Career Goals:
My career goals after graduation are yet undecided. The ideal job for me would be to work for an engineering firm, designing new ground-breaking technologies to help people live a more stress free and enjoyable life.

Special Interests/Hobbies:
I enjoy running/working out, spending time on the computer watching science videos, building water-cooled computers, and missing the beach where I am originally from (Naples, FL).

About my Fall 2013 Honors contract:
I chose to do my honors contract for the fall 2013 semester in calculus-one. It will take the form of a portfolio; the project involves an exploration of functions and their inverses through differential calculus. It focuses on the derivations of formulas and forms, the meeting of the theoretical and the practical.

The three topics I will be researching include: deriving the differentiation formulas for trigonometric functions using the definition of the derivative. Part two of my project will be deriving the differentiation formulas for the inverse trigonometric formulas using the definition of an inverse function and implicit differentiation. Part three of the project will be to derive the logarithmic expressions for the inverse hyperbolic functions using the definition of an inverse function and the relationship between “ex” and “ln(x)”.

What is your favorite book/author?
My favorite book(s) would be the Star Wars saga, particularly the *Thrawn Trilogy: Heir to the Empire*.

If you could have dinner with anyone (dead or alive), who would you choose and why?
I would have to choose the great Elbert Einstein; I think it would be fascinating to speak with him about the way he thought about the universe.
**Linda Evans**  
Educational Goals: 
Educational goals would be to graduate in the Spring 2014. I hope to attain the Dean's list for my final two semesters. For my Honors contract, I will develop communication to the community about family systems.

Career Goals: 
I desire to be hired as paraprofessional by a local school district for the 2014-2015 school year. I hope to make an impact on future leaders by supporting them in their challenging elementary courses.

Special Interests/Hobbies: 
My hobby is crocheting with group of ladies called God's Arms. If I get a chance, I enjoy playing Scrabble and any other word games.

About my Fall 2013 Honors contract: 
I am working with Mrs. Calderon, my mentor, on my honors contract. I am planning to create four colorful bulletins connecting families with community resources. I hope to use these bulletins in my classroom.

What is your favorite book/author? 
My favorite book is *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young. It seems like whatever day I am reading, it inspires me to be able to handle the daily situations.

If you could have dinner with anyone (dead or alive), who would you choose and why? 
I would have dinner with Esther from the Bible. Esther had so many character qualities that I want to learn from her.

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**Leah Cramer**  
Educational Goals: 
My plans are to complete the Dietetics program at CCAC, find a job working in nutrition research, and continue my education, working towards becoming a Registered Dietitian.

Career Goals: 
One day, I hope to become a Registered Dietitian, working with people who suffer from Diabetes and Heart Disease.

Special Interests/Hobbies: 
I love baton twirling, and I follow the sport religiously. I coached for a few years before I moved to Pittsburgh, and I was a twirler for fourteen years. I also love to read and write, and I hope to one day become a published author. I enjoy travelling, and my favorite destinations, so far, are England, France, and Italy.

About my Fall 2013 Honors contract: 
I am completing two Honors Contracts during the Fall 2013 semester. My first contract is for my Chem 120 course. I will be investigating the usefulness of dietary supplements, and my hope is to better understand the connections between supplementation and health. More and more people are turning to over-the-counter, natural remedies to alleviate health issues, so it is important to understand how these compounds work inside our bodies. My second contract is for my Psych 101 course. For many years, doctors have treated obese patients by encouraging them to lose weight. These people have tried pills, diet plans, and surgeries, and many of them still fail to lose the pounds. I hope to show that many obese individuals exhibit classic symptoms of addiction, and because of this compulsion, traditional methods of losing weight are largely ineffective. Food addiction is the underlying problem, and we must find better ways of treating this issue.

What is your favorite book/author? 
This is an extremely difficult question to answer. The first book that I can honestly say changed my life was *Dune* by Frank Herbert. The entire series is a masterpiece, and anyone who enjoys science fiction should pick it up immediately. I love horror, science fiction, and fantasy, so I cannot answer this question without mentioning Stephen King. If you haven't read the Dark Tower Series, you need to. If you think that King is only a horror author, you are mistaken. He gets many bad reviews from the academic world, but there is a reason that Stephen King is one of the best-selling authors of all time. The seventh book of the Dark Tower Series will rock your world.

If you could have dinner with anyone (dead or alive), who would you choose and why? 
If I could have dinner with anyone, I would have to choose Alexander the Great. My first Bachelor's Degree was in Classical Studies, and I spent an entire year studying Alexander's life and conquests. He was an amazing general and unified the lands from Greece to India before he died at the age of 32. It would be a truly humbling experience to be in the presence of one of the greatest tacticians of all time. If Alexander could also introduce me to his generals, so I could discover his tomb and solve the 2,336 year mystery surrounding his death, that would be pretty amazing as well.
Fall Activity Photos
Check out pictures from our fall activities—we hope to see YOU in our spring activity pictures!

Kick-Off Picnic

Rock Climbing

The Lion King

Ian Frazier Lecture
Tina Beaver, Ronica Bioni, Derrick Covington, Leah Cramer, Sherry Durick, Linda Evans, Lea Laughlin, Rebecca Stevens, and Angela Suarez have been named Honors Program Ambassadors for 2013-14. For this brand-new initiative, Honors Council has identified veteran CCAC Honors who are available to share their experiences and provide assistance to the college community.

The CCAC Honors Program has articulation agreements with the Honors Programs at Robert Morris and Point Park Universities and Washington and Jefferson College. These agreements cover automatic admission, scholarship awards, and transfer of Honors credits to complete Honors degrees at the transfer institution. If interested, please check out the agreements under “Student Resources” on the Honors Blackboard site.

Since 2011, nine CCAC Honors students have been named to the All-Pennsylvania Community College Academic Team. As a member of the team, each student receives a scholarship to one of the 14 PASSHE (Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education) universities. Each student is recognized at an award ceremony each April in Harrisburg, PA.

The Honors Blackboard page is an excellent resource for Honors information. You will find Honors announcements, contract examples, scholarship information, past editions of the Word of Honor newsletter and much more. To find the Honors Bb site, go to courses.ccac.edu and use your CCAC network ID and password to log on.

The Honors Program will be participating in The Big Read again in March. The selected book is The Things They Carried by Tim O’Brien. The kick-off event will be on Monday, March 3, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum in Oakland.

There are now 409 students in the Honors Program.

The Honors Program has raised over $13,000 (and counting) for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation for breast cancer research in the past seven years.

Students who earn at least one Honors credit earn cords to wear at graduation. If you earn 12 or more, you earn an Honors medallion as well as the cords. Cords and medallions are awarded each spring at the Honors Forum.

Honors students can earn an Honors hoodie by scoring an “Honors Hat trick.” You can score yours by: earning at least one Honors credit, attending at least one Honors activity, and participating in an Honors service project. Hoodies will be awarded at the Honors Forum on April 25, 2014. All criteria must be met within the fall 2013 and spring 2014 semesters.

The 2014-15 Leadership in Honors Scholarship applications will be mailed in January. The deadline to apply is February 14, and winners will be announced at the Honors Forum on April 25, 2014 in the SSC Auditorium at Allegheny Campus.

We are on Facebook and Instagram? We are “Ccac Honors” on Facebook and “ccachonors” on Instagram. Join us to stay informed of Honors news and activities.

The first school day of every month is Honors T-shirt Day. Show your pride by wearing your Honors t-shirt on campus.

We would love the opportunity to brag about YOU in our next Word of Honor newsletter! If you receive any academic awards or scholarships this school year, please let the Honors Program office know before February 23, 2014 so that we may share the news.