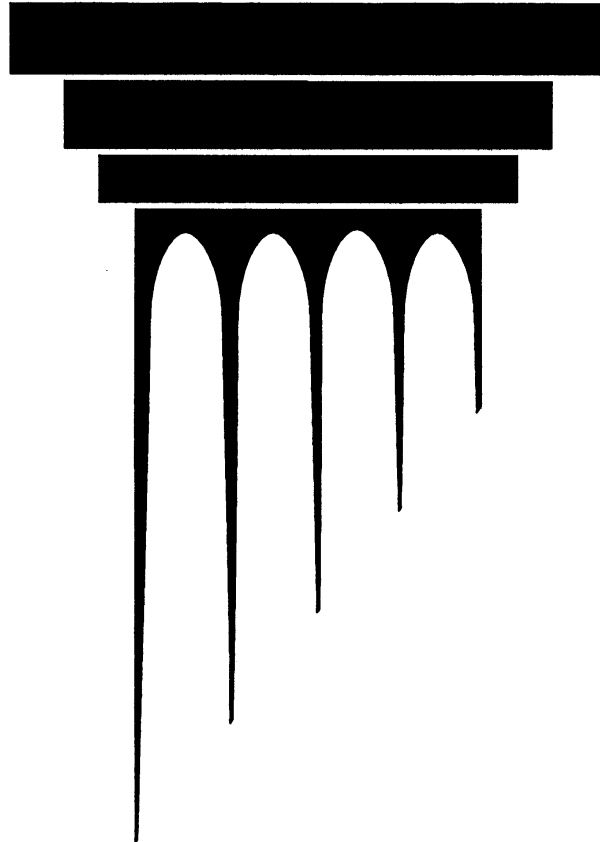


Ferris State University Honors Program

The Endeavor

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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY
HONORS



The purpose of the Honors Program at Ferris State University is to provide intellectual challenges, resources and support to highly able and motivated students, while encouraging service and leadership for the public good.

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Welcome to the 2009-2010 Endeavor!

By: Cliff Thornton, Editor-in-Chief

Welcome back returning honors students, and welcome to the incoming freshmen as well! My name is Cliff Thornton and I am the current Editor-in-Chief of The Endeavor. This newsletter is a production of a team of Honors students who have dedicated themselves to the publication of an informative newsletter available to all students and staff at Ferris State University.

The Endeavor serves several purposes; it is a resource to students who can utilize the writings to gain knowledge of events occurring around campus; it can provide students who enjoy writing, journalism, or photography an outlet for their gifts; and it informs families back home of the happenings in Honors at Ferris State University. The publication is a showcase for Honors and highlights both the activities of individual students and the program as a whole.

One can expect The Endeavor to contain a multitude of articles and topics being covered all focused around the Honors Program. The range of writing styles results from the different authors who each contribute their own twist to the publication. The writers each add their own view to the topic under discussion because they themselves represent different majors, hometowns, cultures and life experiences.

The first issue of this school year contains some articles about activities that have taken place over the summer, as well as the end of the last school year. The staff thought it would be beneficial to some students if they could see how Honors students spent their time over the summer. Students may also become interested in summer classes or study away programs. Also included is a breakdown of some of the Honors classes that will be offered in Spring 2010 as well as a calendar of upcoming events.

The Endeavor is always looking for new writers or photographers so if you are interested in becoming involved, contact Cliff Thornton at Thorntc3@ferris.edu.

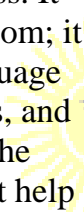
Thank you, and enjoy!

Cliff Thornton
Editor-in-Chief

Honors Student Spends Semesters in Argentina

By: Leanne VanRemortel

If six months ago someone would have described to me the situation I now find myself in, I would have been in utter disbelief. Now, however, as I sit on my bed in Argentina, I realize that life has the ability to take us places far beyond our casual daydreams and push us to our limits in amazing ways. I am excited to reflect on and recap the adventures I have experienced while studying abroad in beautiful Buenos Aires.

The two greatest challenges began the first moment I stepped off the plane. For some unknown reason, I had this crazy idea that three semesters of Spanish (starting with 101 with no background in the language) would be sufficient preparation to functioning in Buenos Aires. I laugh at myself now thinking of how foolish I was. Even if I would have had eight semesters and a minor in Spanish behind me, it still wouldn't have been enough to prepare me for the challenges of the language barrier and loneliness. It is one thing to learn a language in a classroom; it is an entirely different beast to learn a language at 4:00 in the afternoon, starving after class, and having to speak Spanish if you want even the simplest ham and cheese sandwich. A great help through these particular struggles has been the  Porteños- the people who live in Buenos Aires. They are generally a warm, helpful, and patient people that are eager to assist when in need. Small games of charades are sometimes needed, but through hand motions, gestures, and broken phrases I am able to get my point across.

During the first leg of my journey, not being able to speak Spanish led to loneliness and homesickness my first month in Argentina. Without the ability to speak Spanish I was not able to make any Argentinean friends and without any Argentinean friends, I was not able to improve my conversational Spanish. It was a circular problem, resembling a dog helplessly chasing its tail. During my first month here the only thing that really kept my head above water was God. Within the mix of settling into a new coun-

try, experiencing culture shock, and having difficulties communicating, the one thing that was stable in my life and where I found peace was my bible. It is something I recommend to anyone going through turmoil and sputtering in deep water.

After the first month here, however, things became much easier. I found adapting to the Argentinean way of life was a daily adventure, and actually a lot of fun. Getting settled in with my Argentinean host family was the first step- and that was no small ordeal. Even now, after three months, we are still learning how to function as a unit that resembles a family. Apart from family life, I also have had to adapt to cultural norms and university life. Embracing the culture has been a lot of fun. Being 10 to 20 minutes late for class is acceptable (often I would get there before my professor) and drinking mate (strong tea) and café with friends is a way of life. Lack of personal space has also been an interesting adjustment. My personal favorite is whenever people get together, enter a room, or leave a room they give besos (kisses on the cheek) to everyone. This is definitely a part of the culture I want to take home with me!

Being in Argentina has forced me out of my comfort zone, and because of this I have learned and grown on a monumental scale. I love Argentineans and have grown to enjoy the city more than I would have ever imagined. studying abroad has been such an amazing experience, and I challenge anyone interested to at least stop by the International Office and check it out. You might, as I would have six months ago, label me as a lunatic for taking this trip, but I assure you that you will not regret the experiences and life-lessons that can be learned from another culture, people, and way of life. A year from now, you could be the one lying in your bed with a cup of mate in hand, half-way around the world, writing about your unforgettable experiences gained from studying abroad.

Two Honors Students Start RSO Linking Pharmacy and Faith

By: Becky Grice and Elise VanRemortel

Christian Pharmacists Fellowship is a group excited about encouraging spiritual growth and strengthening relationships among pharmacy students, pharmacists, and their friends and families. They are a group of students desiring to glorify God in all that they do through the many avenues of prayer, bible study, worship, fellowship, volunteering, and fun!

The idea for this unique gathering was sparked by two Honors P1 students, Elise VanRemortel and Becky Grice, who were looking for a group that was related to pharmacy as well as incorporating faith into daily life. The girls became more active in their search and eventually found an existing national group that could help make this idea and passion a reality. This stirring began the first semester of their P1 year, and by second semester they became an official chapter of Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International, which already has student groups on over sixty campuses around the world. In the beginning of CPF at Ferris, weekly meetings were held with about fifteen to twenty students. Throughout that second semester the meeting attendance climbed to around thirty students, and the meeting structure was on a rotation of four different activities- one for each week of the month. The first week a guest speaker came in and shared insight on how God has moved in her life; week two was a bible study led by a pharmacy student; week three included a potluck full of delicious food and fun; and, in week four we hosted a praise and worship night at a local church. Although this seemed to be a wonderful way to meet new people and socialize, the members wanted a way to really deepen relationships and learn about God in a personal way.

The leaders and advisor of the group were challenged to ensure that CPF was not simply another social event, but a group that was able to inspire and facilitate spiritual growth and truly spread the light. In response to the challenge before them, the design of CPF has taken an exciting turn this year. To kick off the new format this semester, CPF has set up two different small groups—one for guys and one for gals. These small groups meet weekly,

along with joining together in a large group setting held at Trinity Fellowship. At these large monthly group gatherings, there is praise and worship led by a professional musician and guest speakers. The guy's small group is led by P2 students, Dan Anderson and Andrew Davis, where they are delving into the book "*Wild at Heart*" by John Eldredge. The gal's small group is led by Becky Grice, and they are discussing the topic of dating by studying the Old Testament book "*Song of Solomon.*" Who knew the bible contained instructions on sex and romance? Check it out! Setting up small groups allow a close-knit setting so students can be challenged in their faith, as well as develop a more intimate relationship with Christ and each other.

An interesting aspect of this group is that although it is set up by pharmacy students, it is not just restricted to pharmacy students. They love pre-pharmacy students and can't wait for the word to get out and have them involved and connected. One of the biggest challenges of pharmacy school is time-management, and students often let priorities become skewed by allowing stress, homework, commitment, work, and relationships to consume time. CPF helps to re-align priorities and really step back from the hectic schedules, exams, and due dates to focus on what matters. When the world becomes a whirlwind, a life in Christ provides a peace that transcends the world. In 1 Peter 5:7, it says "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." And that hope is what can keep everyone grounded.

Along with pharmacy and pre-pharmacy students, other majors have also been recognizing the CPF vision. At the first group meeting, there were students from nursing, HCSA, and public relations who joined in on the fun. The love of God has no restriction- CPF welcomes all who are interested in learning more! Join them on October 29th for the next meeting at 5pm at Trinity Fellowship Church. Contact Elise VanRemortel or Becky Grice for directions and more information. (vanreme@ferris.edu or gricer@ferris.edu)

Up 'til Dawn Sets Goal of \$40,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

By: Sara Miller

Up 'til Dawn is a fundraising and awareness college program for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Since 1999, students at 375 college campuses have helped raise over \$24.5 million for St. Jude. The group sets yearly goals, aiming for 250 people to attend their main event in November and to raise \$40,000 this year for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. It costs \$1.4 million to operate St. Jude daily and the average treatment costs \$500,000.

The Registered Student Organization at Ferris State University was founded in the fall of 2008 by nine Honors students. In its first year, the organization raised over \$17,300 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"We're really proud of what we achieved last year, but this year we're really setting the bar high and challenging ourselves and Ferris," said Kara Gottschall, the president of Up 'til Dawn, and an Honors student. Up 'til Dawn will host

one main fundraising event in November. Participants are asked to bring 50 names and addresses of people they know and send pre-written letters to them asking them to donate to St. Jude. People who send at least 35 quality letters are entered into a drawing to win a Nintendo Wii. After the letter sending, participants are invited to celebrate with free food, t-shirts, prizes, games, and entertainment.

"We encourage people who are interested in our main event to form teams of around five and register online at www.myuptildawn.org," said Gottschall, "It's really easy. You just search for a school and select Michigan and then Ferris."

This particular fundraising organization at Ferris is part of the number one fundraising region in the country. Over fifty percent of their participants last year sent over 50 letters.

"It's really fun and a great way to get community service," said Jaci TenEyck, entertainment chairperson and Honors student. "St. Jude saves children's lives by treating and finding cures for catastrophic childhood diseases and cancers at no cost to patient families. I think that's an awesome cause."

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital was found in 1962 by the late entertainer Danny Thomas. Its mission is to

find cures for children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases through research and treatment. Danny Thomas believed no child should die in the dawn of life, especially due to inability to pay for treatment. Patient families at St. Jude never pay for treatment not covered by insurance.

At St. Jude, the survival rate for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), the most common form of childhood cancer, has increased from 4% to 94% since the hospital's opening. St. Jude has treated people from all fifty states and over seventy countries and the research at St. Jude is freely shared all over the world. On

average, St. Jude publishes a scientific paper every seventeen minutes.

The initial Executive Board and founders of Up 'til Dawn at Ferris were primarily Honors students including, Kara Gottschall, Liz Albright, Jaci TenEyck, Sara Miller, Hannah Henry, Kristyn Metzgar, Megan Railing, Alicia Freye, and Megan Furgeson.

This tradition continues with the new Executive Board. Six of the ten Executive Board members are Honors students including, Kara Gottschall, Liz Albright, Jaci TenEyck, Sara Miller, Ryan Freye, and Christian Jordan.

Up 'til Dawn has open meetings every other Tuesday at 7:30 pm in Rankin 109. For more information you can visit their Facebook group, Up 'til Dawn – Ferris State University, or email them at: fighttheyawn_utd@yahoo.com.



St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

ALSAC • Danny Thomas, Founder

Finding cures. Saving children.

Spending Summer in Big Rapids

By: Cliff Thornton

Summer school used to be reserved for those students who did not perform well academically. Replacing summer break with more classes was a punishment used to teach a student that academic success was important. This is not the case when it comes to summer classes at a college or university level. College courses that are offered in the summer semester can allow students to advance through their degree faster, or reduce their workload in the upcoming traditional school semesters.

Several Honors students (including myself) decided that taking courses over the summer would be beneficial in more than one aspect. Trading the hot summer months of Michigan for a summer spent in the classroom may seem like a poor choice at first, but the truth is that it has proven to be quite enjoyable.

The somewhat small town of Big Rapids may not be an acceptable substitute for a beach town, or a city teeming with a social night life, but its unique location makes it the perfect spot for someone who wishes to experience a truly unique summer. Over the summer, several students (predominately students in Honors) and I decided that we were going to try our hardest to make every weekend spent in Big Rapids enjoyable, whether or not we stayed within the city limits. These are some of our experiences and activities from the time of our friends' graduation last year, to the beginning of another traditional academic excursion.

First, let's start with Big Rapids. While the popular nickname for the city, "The Big Nasty" may evoke thoughts of a boring and destitute town with little to no entertainment value this thought could not be further from the truth.

Big Rapids is home to a part of the Muskegon River, which runs practically straight through the city and there is nothing better to do on a hot day than drive up to Paris Park and hop in a tube for a beautiful six hour cruise back to home. A cooler stocked to the rim with lunchables, string cheese, and pickles also doesn't hurt either. A good substitute for the lengthy trip would be the 1 ½ to 2 hour trip which stretches from the northern end of the city back down to the southernmost park. Big Rapids also hosts a part of the White Pine Trail, a former railway which stretches from Cedar Springs to Cadillac. The portion between Big Rapids and Reed City is paved, which allows for excellent biking and rollerblading the 13 mile stretch to the city park in Reed City.

With the numerous students within the area, it becomes easy

for one to organize games of kickball, capture the flag in the parks at night, softball, volleyball, basketball, social gatherings and trips around town.

Big Rapids is also home to many hidden treasures, such as the old mill run pond near Tioga which is excellent for fishing, the cliffs overlooking the winding Muskegon River, the sand dunes, and hiking trails tucked behind the city pool.



Lake Michigan sunset from silver lake sand dunes

The location of Big Rapids is also unique because a 45 minute drive can bring an explorer to about as many activities as he can imagine. Grand Rapids and Cadillac are located less than an hour south and north, respectively and host a wide array of entertainment. The lakeshores of Ludington, Silver Lake and Pentwater are also less than an hour straight west.

Sunsets from the dunes at Silver Lake State Park were mixed with trips to Country Dairy in Shelby. The homes of friends from these towns became our homes for the weekend as the people that were familiar with the area became our tour guides. Grandparents who worked as lighthouse keepers became hosts to students that slept on the beach. Fireworks in Bay City on the 4th of July served as a backdrop to a night of fun, and wakeboarding in the bay of Traverse City cooled down students in the hotter summer months.

This is only a small recording of some of the activities available to a student who chooses to reside in Big Rapids. Each weekend or potentially boring evening was somehow filled with a random activity that helped entertain us for the time being. So when it comes time to think about summer classes, whether it's to improve grades, get ahead in class, or because it's required don't fear that the season will be boring and dry.



Students enjoy 4th of July fireworks in Bay City



Big Sable Point Lighthouse in Ludington State Park

An Involved Account of the Peer Mentor Program

By: Hope Kwapiszweski

From my first day at Ferris, the Honors Peer Mentor Program has been an important part my college experience. Each year, the honors freshmen are divided into groups and assigned to an honors upperclassman that will serve as their peer mentor, and guide them through the transition from high school to college. Little did I know how much this program would influence a big part of my first four years at Ferris.

As a freshman, my group was small, but many of us became very close friends that continue to stay in contact today. Although we did very little within our peer mentor groups that year, it was beneficial in helping to meet new people and getting acclimated with the FSU campus. After that first year of having a decent time with my peer mentor group, I made the decision to apply to become a peer mentor myself. I will never forget the day I received the letter in my mailbox saying that I was officially an Honors Peer Mentor! It was now my turn to help the freshmen ease their fears about college life and help to make the months ahead not seem quite so scary. After only a few short weeks of being a mentor to four girls that lived on my floor in Carlisle Hall, friendships were formed that will never be forgotten.

Once experiencing what it was like to actually be a mentor, a close friend and I decided to become the co-coordinators with the goal of taking the Peer Mentor Program to the next level. We decided to re-vamp the program to make it more interactive. Months of planning took place with the goal to improve the program by designing a day fully dedicated to getting acclimated to campus through games and activities, as well as other events throughout the week including an ice cream social, a discussion with Honors Professors and Coordinators, and community service opportunities. One of the most important changes included the interview process to become a peer mentor. Group interviews became more competitive and were conducted for only a certain number of positions making the title as an Honors Peer Mentor more prestigious. An interesting fact about these interviews is that we learned that most of the people we were interviewing wanted to be a mentor because they had a terrible mentor their freshmen year and wanted to make improvements or the fact that they had

an amazing mentor and wanted to continue that work with others. Only a small handful openly admitted that they were participating to help meet Honors requirements.

After this first year of being a co-coordinator and seeing the many positive improvements that took place, it was time to add a new dimension to the team. Leanne Day, one of my former mentees, stepped in as a new co-coordinator for the program. Together we were able to improve the mentor-mentee experience even more.

The Peer Mentor Program is a great opportunity for new students to dive in and get involved on campus without having to do so alone. Coming to a new place for the first time can be very intimidating, but each and every one of our mentors has done a fantastic job helping the newcomers feel at home, getting them involved in registered student organizations, working on community service projects, and building relationships that could last a lifetime. Although this is my last year in the Honors Program, I am confident that Leanne will help this program continue to grow and develop next year. Honors as a whole is continuing to improve and grow meaning that the peer mentors are only going to get better as well. This Program has been a huge part of my life at Ferris, helping to shape me into a leader within the community and given me the ability to instill that same value into others.



Peer mentor group from Fall 2009 enjoying a day rock climbing at the student recreation center on campus

A True European Adventure

By: Jaci TenEyck

Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain, and Ireland are just a few of the places visited by three Ferris State University Honors students this summer as they toured Europe.

Many professionals say that traveling abroad as a college student can help develop skills and offer knowledge and experience that a classroom setting cannot provide. If this true, why don't more people take advantage of this experience?

There are a lot of things that get in the way; however, the most common excuse I have heard is not enough money. However, if you are an Honors student, you have another option. The Honors Program has funds set aside to assist students who wish to travel abroad. In fact, this European adventure was partially funded by the Honors Program.

I interviewed Liz Albright, Kristyn Metzgar, and Hannah Henry to find out more about their trip and its benefits.

Liz, Kristyn, and Hannah left right after school ended last year in May to study in Italy with a Ferris Study Abroad program. Unlike most students, these three kept traveling after Italy and did not return home until July. After Italy, the girls traveled to Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, France, Spain, and Ireland. This is quite an impressive line-up and all of the girls agree it was an amazing experience.

When asked what her favorite place was, Hannah answered, "I think Doolin, Ireland in County Clare was my favorite place. We had been traveling so quickly through the ten countries we were in and Doolin was a place where we could just relax."

Some parts of traveling abroad are planned and some parts are not. One of



Sightseeing in Rome

the things you should plan ahead would be where to stay. Kristyn, Liz, and Hannah stayed in hostels and with friends throughout their trip. Liz stated that the girls researched on hostels.com to find the best value but Hannah said some of the places they stayed were not the nicest places.

One of the things that is difficult to prepare for is culture shock. For some people, like Liz who tried steak tartare (raw ground beef) in France and Kristyn who packed peanut butter for her trip, culture shock can come in simple forms such as food. All of these experiences planned or not, can benefit college students.

Kristyn said, "I couldn't get over the crunchy pasta or the funny tasting pizza. I guess my home country has Americanized Italian food a little too much." This is one of those things you can only experience if you actually travel.

Liz and Kristyn both agree that traveling benefitted them by allowing them to see how people in different cultures live. Hannah is taking her experience and applying it toward her future as she would like to travel the world teaching English as a foreign language after graduation.

For more information about the programs that are available contact the Study Away Office at (231) 591-2451 or studyabroad@ferris.edu.



An inside view of the Vatican

Synopsis of Honors Spring Classes

By: Jaci TenEyck

Registration is coming up! For the first two years of the Honors Program, every student has to take four Honors classes. Two of these classes are chosen from a list of offered courses. Offered courses for Spring 2010 are as follows:

FRNH 280-Literature of the French World (Professor Daniel Noren: Wednesday 4-5:50 pm)

Honors exploration of Francophone literature in English translation focusing primarily on the colonial era in the African countries colonized by the French, French Acadian literature, and the plantation society of the French Antilles from 1690 to 1848. This course meets Cultural Enrichment and Global Consciousness requirements.

ANHH 371-Medical Anthropology (Professor K. Majumdar: Tuesday and Thursday 12-1:15 pm)

Medical anthropology deals with illness and healing from a cross-cultural perspective, and raises questions about the nature and cause of illness, the effectiveness of various forms of therapy, and the roles and attributes of different types of healers. Attention will also be directed to the relationship between classical medicine and the religious traditions of Hinduism Islam, Buddhism and Taoism and to the modern revival of traditional medicine and its role in health-care delivery. This course meets Global Consciousness and Social Awareness requirements.

LITH 290-Bible as Literature (Professor Caroline Stern: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11-11:50 am)

People are apprehensive to take this class because they don't want a biased lecture, but that is not the case at all. It is a nice refresher if you have a background on the bible, but beneficial even if you do not have any previous knowledge. "Dr. Stern does a great job of keeping her opinions out of it and just teaching the class," stated Joleen Bierlein who took the class Spring 2009 semester. This class meets Cultural Enrichment requirements.

LITH 330-Contemporary Literature (Professor John Cullen: Monday and Wednesday 4:30-5:45 pm)

Honors survey of major literary trends of post-modern era (WWII to present). Major schools include the Beats, The Angry Young Men, Metafictionists, Confessional Poets, Surrealists and other contemporary schools of Fiction, Poetry and Drama. This course meets Cultural Enrichment and Writing Intensive requirements.

HUMH 390-China and the Silk Road (Professor J. R. Groves: Monday and Wednesday 4:30-5:45 pm)

This is a course begins with an exposition of Ancient China and traditional Chinese culture, moves to the Silk Road and finally Contemporary Chinese society and culture.

LITH 203-Honors African Literature (P. Middleton: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10-10:50 am)

Introduction to African Literature includes the most important voices and talents in post-colonial Africa, both novelists and poets. The works of Armah, Ngugi, Soyinka, Achebe, Bessie Head, Diop, Coetzee, Brutus, Bernard, and Lessing are read. This class meets Global Consciousness, Cultural Enrichment and Race/Ethnicity/Gender Issues requirements.

PHIH 216-Honors Intro to Ethics (Professor David Aiken: Wednesdays 6-8:30 pm)

Moral conduct and ethical knowledge and application of ethical principles to present-day human problems. This course meets Cultural Enrichment requirements.

THTH 215-Honors Intro to Theatre (K. LaPietra: Monday and Wednesday 4-5:15)

An appreciation of the theatre arts: the role of the audience; play structure and genres; theatre artists; and the fundamentals of play production. The students will read representative plays, view selected films, and attend live theatre. This class meets Cultural Enrichment requirements.

Every student must talk to his advisor before registration. You can find your advisor's name in MyFSU.

Do not forget to register on November 2nd beginning at 6:00 a.m.!