FIELD STUDIES IN ALONG THE GREEN RIVER

tavel log

Carl Herz  
Class of 2009  

I will never forget the college field studies trip to Colorado and Utah. To other people, all I have are my pictures and my souvenirs, but they don’t know that the memories I have will always be far more precious. The first portion of the trip was spent camping out and hiking every day, visiting farmers and learning about water use in the Southwest. More often than not, we would learn some horrifying fact, like the Denver water company not being terribly concerned that the population growth was rapidly expanding and that green lawns can prevail in the desert. For our class, the Southwestern water practices became, in part, an icon of American wishful thinking.

The second half of the trip was spent rafting down the Mighty Green River. Each day, we would wake up and strike the tents, raft until lunch, and then continue on until dusk. Every night, students presented information they had learned about the Southwest through an interactive lecture. Then we would wake up and do it all over again. The rapids were by far the most fun part of the trip. Inflatable kayaks were used to negotiate class 3 rapids, and at one horrifying point I was tossed from the kayak and found myself desperately trying to survive! Fortunately, I was able to climb back in and paddle to shore in time to avoid an especially large rock. This further helped solidify the significance of water in the West to be sure. Here’s to the adventure of learning!

Left: Colby-Sawyer students rafting on the Green River  
Below: An aerial view of the Green River  

Photos courtesy of Carl Herz

Accepting Students Days updates

The two Accepted Student Days - Friday, April 11th and 18th - ended for prospective Wesson Honors Scholars and their families in the new Wesson Honors Suite at an ice cream social provided by the Admissions Department. Events such as this offer an opportunity to reach the next class of honors students and encourage them to become active on campus.

We are so impressed by the beauty and uniqueness of each site we visited. D.C. has many distinct areas, structures, and cultures. While much of the area is wealthy, filled with businesspeople, and proffers an American flavor, many parts of the city illustrate poverty, homeless people, and an essence of other cultures and lifestyles. Though traveling sometimes by Metro, we got around D.C. mostly by foot. Exploring the National Zoo, the National Cathedral, the Senate Building, the Capitol, the Botanic Gardens, and the Library of Congress, walking around the Mall during the beautiful start of the Cherry Blossom Festival, and touring Alexandria, Georgetown, and Adams Morgan, I not only came to appreciate my comfortable sneakers, but I also became deeply impressed by the beauty and uniqueness of each site we visited. D.C. has many distinct areas, structures, and cultures. While much of the area is wealthy, filled with businesspeople, and proffers an American flavor, many parts of the city illustrate poverty, homeless people, and an essence of other cultures and lifestyles. Though we were simply tourists learning about our nation’s Capitol city in a whirlwind weekend of adventure, we could only scratch the surface of D.C.’s secrets and bold offerings.

(continued on page 2)
A VISIT TO WASHINGTON D.C. IN PHOTOS

wesson weekend 2008

Sarah Heaney

The Honors trip to Washington, D.C. was absolutely amazing! Not only was I able to see our nation’s capital, but I was also able to see art that I have been learning about in art history, experience other cultures, and learn how to use the Metro! I’d never ridden the subway before, but by day two I was a pro and getting frustrated with tourists who didn’t know what they were doing. As the only senior, I didn’t know anyone else on the trip, but we all quickly bonded and I am so glad I was able to meet and get to know them all. (continued on page 4)

THE PLAY IS THE THING

Megan Ruggiero

I admit that I was skeptical about auditioning for The Servant of Two Masters this past winter. I was busy beyond words. Not only was I still working as a Resident Assistant in one of the more “hoppin’” halls on campus, but I was also still working at the ADC as a peer tutor and in the Admissions Office as a tour guide. The list of activities that I was participating in on campus was virtually endless. I was also prepping for a semester of five, that’s right, five, English courses. It seemed that I was committing academic suicide. I certainly had a lot of time constraints, but I find that nothing can keep me away from the stage. If I broke my leg, I would probably still hobble into an audition. Luckily, I did not break my leg, but, yes, I still auditioned.

My friends all thought I was insane, especially when I landed a relatively significant role. When I told my parents I would be playing Beatrice, one of the title roles (a master of the mischievous servant, Truffaldino), they were of course extremely proud, but they fed me that classic line, “Remember, you’re a student first.” That is just a natural reaction for them. No one seems to understand that it is possible for a college student to be good at time management. I like to think that I am that and that is something that truly paid off this semester. I had so much on my plate, but I ate it all up, especially the play. Though some sacrifices had to be made, such as cutting my hours at the ADC and retracting my Honors Contract in David Elliot’s course, Perspectives in Children’s Literature, I still do not regret any of the choices that I had to make.

I thoroughly enjoyed every moment that I spent with every person involved. The Servant of Two Masters was a gem. I don’t think the show would have been so special without such a dedicated and driven cast and crew. We all proved that we could adapt to unforeseen circumstances, like our director, Jerry Bliss, asking us to deliver all of our lines with Italian accents (which still sounded like those of the Mario Brothers even on closing night) and performing in the round. Performing in the round challenged us all as actors, because none of us had been so close to an audience before. None of us had dealt with plays that thrived on audience interaction. We had to let go of a lot of inhibitions. We also had to be unafraid of the dreaded word, “ improv. ”

Our rehearsal schedule was intense as well. Five days a week for two to three hours a day. Sometimes it felt like I had sold my soul to the Sawyer Center’s theatre, but it was all worth it in the end. I improved as an actress, I met some amazing people that I now spend much of my time with outside of the theatre, and I learned how to crack a joke on command!

“The cast of The Servant of Two Masters on opening night in the Sawyer Center

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“None of us had been so close to an audience before. None of us had dealt with plays that thrived on audience interaction. We had to let go of a lot of inhibitions”

The cast of The Servant of Two Masters on opening night in the Sawyer Center

PEERS WORKING WITH PEERS

tutoring at the adc

Amy Hebert

Have you ever found yourself afraid to ask a question in class because you don’t feel comfortable? Do you have difficulty understanding certain material and need a different perspective to increase your comprehension? The Academic Development Center (ADC) is the place you should be! Peer tutors, as a proud part of the ADC, are a great resource for all students. As fellow students, we are dedicated to helping each and every student who seeks our support. Providing a kind, helpful, and comfortable atmosphere, staff and other peer tutors make for a helpful, and comfortable atmosphere, perfect for interacting, learning, and developing. Please do not ever feel ashamed or scared about asking for help. We are here for you!

Colby-Sawyer College

Above: the Jefferson Memorial
Center Top: the National Cathedral
Center Bottom: the White House
Right Top: Senior Sarah Heaney at the FDR Memorial
Right Bottom: the Abraham Lincoln Memorial

All photos courtesy of Sarah Heaney

Colby-Sawyer College

wesson weekend 2008

(continued from page 1)

Although I wish we could return to our nation’s capital, I am extremely grateful that I was able to attend this Wesson Weekend. I truly believe that this Wesson Weekend made me a more knowledgeable, experienced individual. Traveling around D.C. with a group of seven other amazing individuals and two energetic leaders allowed me to be a more well-rounded and cultured individual. I hope you all can experience this at least once during your time here at Colby-Sawyer, as it will truly change your perspective on how you view the world, how you view our country, and how you view yourself.

THE PLAY IS THE THING

an acting experience

Noah Richard

Class of 2009

Recently, I was in the school’s spring theater production, The Servant of Two Masters. I played the part of Florindo, one of the masters. I have acted in high school before, but this was an entirely new experience for me. I had a larger role than I was used to, and we performed in The Round, with the audience on stage with us and on all sides of us. I had a lot of fun despite all of this.

Sometimes it can be hard to juggle academics and extra-curricular activities, but it can be done. Play rehearsals ran really long some nights, but it’s all very worth it in the end. I would have to do my work on days off and on late nights, but the fun I had during rehearsal definitely made up for that stress. The hard work certainly paid off, as we received a lot of good feedback on the show. In addition, my studies weren’t really affected.

I would highly recommend activities such as this that are on campus - clubs or productions.

We had an awesome cast and a great director, and it is certainly an experience I will never forget. It’s a great idea to do something more than study sometimes!
ART304 - NINETEENTH-CENTURY ART
in the classroom

I am looking forward to welcoming Honors students into this fall’s course on the art of the nineteenth century. We will explore the evolution of “modern” painting, sculpture, and photography in the broadest sense of that word’s complex history, surveying the period from around 1770 to 1900 or so. Focusing on Europe while occasionally considering the United States as well in relevant contexts, we will consider the diverse means by which artists of the period fashioned themselves and their work as modern. Such means included not only form and content but also materials, processes, and social and political criticism. Amidst unprecedented transformations in society, industry, and national identity, the period’s art conveys an ongoing confrontation between current demands and the often burdensome authority of tradition.

“Honors students in the course will be encouraged to investigate both primary and secondary sources with a critical approach”

We begin with late-eighteenth-century Neoclassicism, which presumed that ancient culture could usefully serve the present, before investigating the diverse artistic production of Romanticism and its powerful responses to political turmoil and industrialization. Mid-century Realists pursued a kind of social and cultural truth, while challenging accepted standards of formal technique and content. Whereas Impressionists continued this challenge to artistic convention and immersed themselves in modern urban life, later artists withdrew from that environment toward a provocative, purely formal exploration of emotional and psychological life. The course concludes with the complex expressions of Symbolism and Art Nouveau, which betrayed an essential anxiety about modernity in the century’s final decade.

Honors students in the course will be encouraged to investigate both secondary and primary sources with a critical approach, and the class will depend on active, informed participation in discussion. With a mix of students from both studio and non-studio disciplines, moreover, the course promises a lively exchange of visual and historical perspectives, as we together examine artistic production in its complete cultural and historical context.

HONORS STATISTICS
in the classroom

In this course, at the beginning of the semester the students will choose a project topic, preferably related to their major, accompanied by real data. The students will explore the possibility of applying the concepts and skills we learn in class to their project in hand. In a regular statistics course, the topics such as Chi-Square test and Analysis of Variance are usually covered at the end of semester or not covered at all. We plan to learn these topics relatively early in the semester and incorporate them in project. The students will also read articles and investigate the use of statistical terms and graphs in those articles. Of course, the statistical analysis of the 2008 election will be integrated into the course.

Hey Seniors!
from the editors

Seniors, this is a very important time of the school year for you, but also very exciting. The editors would like to dedicate an issue of the newsletter to all of your hard work and various accomplishments. In order to do that, however, we need your help. We would appreciate it if you would write a few paragraphs about your capstone experience. This can come directly from your capstone proposal, any writing you may have done for your capstone, or any other source. Please, include pictures, especially art majors! Also...write about your Colby-Sawyer experience, a funny memory, past Wesson Weekends, a memorable class or professor, your freshman roommate, thank your parents, anything at all. It is your newsletter, you decide. Please don’t let that decision be to do nothing at all! If you have any questions, please contact either of the editors at their school e-mail addresses or around campus. The deadline for all senior issue materials will be May 1st. Thank you in advance for your participation.
A VISIT TO WASHINGTON D.C. IN PHOTOS
wesson weekend 2008

(continued from page 2)

Top Left: “The Declaration of Independence” by John Trumbull in the Capitol building
Top Center: the Library of Congress
Top Right: the Mall looking towards the Washington Monument
Middle Right: the Korean War Memorial
Far Right: Ashley Jones, Rachael Smith, and Sarah Heaney in front of the Capitol building
Right: inside the Jefferson Memorial
Above: Sara Ann Bawtinheimer, Jake Daniele, Sarah Heaney, Rachael Smith, Amy Hebert, Ashley Jones, Jacqui French, John Bristol in front of the Capitol building

All photos courtesy of Sarah Heaney
**PEERS WORKING WITH PEERS**

**tutoring at the adc**

Amy Hebert  
*class of 2010*

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As a peer tutor, I find this job extremely rewarding. I love helping others, especially my peers. I enjoy every session, as each student is different and has different questions, material, or assignments. The staff and other peer tutors make for a kind, helpful, and comfortable atmosphere, perfect for interacting, learning, and developing. Please do not ever feel ashamed or scared about asking for help. We are here for you!

**A VISIT TO WASHINGTON D.C. IN PHOTOS**

**wesson weekend 2008**

(continued from page 1)

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**well worth the work**

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**an acting experience**

Megan Ruggiero  
*Assistant Editor  
*class of 2010*

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The cast of *The Servant of Two Masters* opening night in the Sawyer Center
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The second half of the trip was spent rafting down the Mighty Green River. Each day, we would wake up and strike the tents, raft until lunch, and then continue on until dusk. Every night, students presented information they had learned about the Southwest through an interactive lecture. Then we would wake up and do it all over again. The rapids were by far the most fun part of the trip. Inflatable kayaks were used to negotiate class 3 rapids, and at one horrifying point I was tossed from the kayak and found myself desperately trying to swim! Fortunately, I was able to climb back in and paddle to shore in time to avoid an especially large rock. This further helped solidify the significance of water in the West to be sure. Here’s to the adventure of learning!

Left: Colby-Sawyer students rafting on the Green River  
Below: An aerial view of the Green River  

Photos courtesy of Carl Herz

APPROVED STUDENTS DAYS

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ACCEPTEO STUDENTS DAYS

updates

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NEWSLETTER

contributors

Editing and Design: Elisabeth Ryan  
Layout Design: Megan Ruggiero

Writers

Amy Hebert  
Sarah Heaney  
Noah Richard  
Megan Ruggiero  
Carl Herz  
Prof. Brian Clancy  
Prof. Semra Kılıç-Bahi  
Prof. Ann Page Stecker

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Wesson honors program newsletter

FEATURES

Wesson Weekend 2008

Sophomore Amy Hebert and Senior Sarah Heaney share their experiences in Washington D.C. with words and photography. pages 1, 2, and 4

Tutoring at the ADC  
Sophomore Amy Herbert writes about peer academic assistance at the Academic Development Center page 2

In the Classrooms

Professors Brian Clancy and Semra Kılıç-Bahi outline their Honors classes for next fall. \( \text{page 3} \)

The Play is the Thing  
Junior Noah Richard and Sophomore Megan Ruggiero share their experiences on-stage with the production of The Servant of Two Masters \( \text{page 5} \)

Travel Log  
Junior Carl Herz writes about his journey along the rivers of the Midwest and Southwest learning about water management \( \text{page 6} \)

A VISIT TO WASHINGTON D.C.

Amy Hebert  
Class of 2010  
\( \text{visiting Washington, D.C. proved to be an amazing experience. The group, leaders, and events made for an unforgettable experience. Not only was there an absence of snow, a relief from the whiteness all around us here at Colby-Sawyer, but the trees were blooming and the grass was green. It was a weekend filled with fun, learning, and new experiences. Nick Baer and Jean Eckrich, as our leaders of this particular Wesson Honors Weekend, provided us with many opportunities and enjoyable challenges while exploring the D.C. and surrounding area. One such challenge was dubbed The Metro Adventure. Thrust in pairs into the Metro station during rush hour, we had to figure out how to maneuver around the Metro stops, choose which Metro to take, get off at a couple of stops and observe the personality of that particular section of D.C., and return safely. Needless to say, by the end of the trip, we were professional Metro travelers.} \)