

Georgia Southern University

Digital Commons@Georgia Southern

Honors College News Blog

Honors College

10-30-2017

University Honors Program News

Georgia Southern University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/honors-news>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "University Honors Program News" (2017). *Honors College News Blog*. 1. <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/honors-news/1>

This news article is brought to you for free and open access by the Honors College at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Honors College News Blog by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

Main Menu**Apply to Honors** ▾**About the Program** ▾**Student Resources** ▾**Handbooks/Forms** ▾

[Home](#) > [Uncategorized](#) > Alumni Update: Paola Robelo Advances in Graphic Design

Alumni Update: Paola Robelo Advances in Graphic Design

October 30, 2017



Paola Robelo and Dr. Steven Engel.

While Paola Robelo visited her alma mater during homecoming, she took the time to stop by the Eidson House and to reminisce on her past experiences in the Honors Program at Georgia Southern University. She is currently a resident graphic designer for a high-end retail company, Ben Silver. The company is known for their well-tailored suits, silk ties, cufflinks and many more clothing essentials. Paola Robelo, is currently living in Charleston, South Carolina, where she assists in an assortment of fields within the design aspects of online and print publications for Ben Silver.

"I design layouts and assist in the photography of catalogs, as well as prepare interactive online versions. I conduct sales

analysis and square inch analysis of catalogs using the company's operating system (QOP). I execute and update web imagery, creative content, and merchandise web photography through *Net Store Manager (NSM)*, the company's web software," Robelo said.

She also plays an important role in creating print advertisements for the company at local print publications such as the *Official Charleston Area South Carolina Visitors Guide* in 2015, 2016 and 2017, as well as the *Charleston Area Golf Guide* in 2015. Ben Silver uses both digital and physical advertisement for their company. The balance of the two allows the company to interact with the customer in a variety of ways, whether it be through social media or a print add.

"I develop a wide range of printed and online marketing material including ads, email, web graphics, posters, and postcards. I also manage all of our social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest," she said.

Robelo has the opportunity to learn from other graphic designers, because an aspect of her job is collaboration with others. As a united team, the graphic designers at Ben Silver work together to create new, pioneering means of marketing and advertisement for the consumer. This group based atmosphere allows for innovation and creativity to shine.

Robelo's routine at Ben Silver is constantly changing. She is presented with a new task to accomplish, depending on the project she is focusing on. Her responsibilities span from catalog design to photography. Each aspect requires a different set of skills, which allows for an ever changing work atmosphere. This setting forces Robelo to create new and innovative designs while adapting to new challenges every day.

"Every day is different. It all depends on the project that I am working on that day and/or week. Catalog days are very intense and fast paced. Designing layouts and placement for the merchandise requires a lot of thinking and strategy. Photography days are tedious and very detail oriented. Through the photos, I am able to express the quality of the product by telling a story with every outfit featured in the catalog. I try to be creative while staying within the branding of the company overall, every day requires a lot of strategy and always having a fresh creative mind," Robelo said.

While studying graphic design, marketing and art history at Georgia Southern University, she gained professional world experience which prepared her for life after college. She was the editor-of-design for the Honors Program's newsletter and magazine, *Honors @ Georgia Southern*. This experience allowed Robelo to be creative, while maintaining and promoting the image of the Georgia Southern University Honors Program. This experience provided her with tools such as time-management, mastery of new software, and an enhanced design aesthetic.

"Working for the Honors Program prepared me in many ways for the professional setting and my current job. One of my duties at Ben Silver is to design the catalogs which has a lot of similarities to designing the Honors

Program magazine. Similar to Ben Silver, every addition of the magazine brought a new challenge, and I enjoyed taking those challenges and getting creative with them," she said.

Throughout Robelo's life, she has always been inspired by the arts. From the age of six, she has been attending painting classes. Graphic design allowed her to devote her creative energy into her job while also being her passion. She said, "Graphic design is my love, and I enjoy every second of the process from brainstorming, to creating and designing, to seeing the final product which is the most rewarding part and puts a big smile in my face!"

Posted in [Uncategorized](#)

[< Previous](#)

[Next >](#)

University Honors Program • PO Box 8130 Statesboro, GA 30460 • (912) 478-7926



GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

1332 Southern Drive
Statesboro, Georgia 30458
Phone: (912) 478-4636

A Unit of the

Copyright © 2017 · All rights reserved

MORE INFORMATION

FOLLOW US

[Main Menu](#)[Apply to Honors](#) ▾[About the Program](#) ▾[Student Resources](#) ▾[Handbooks/Forms](#) ▾[Home](#) > [Uncategorized](#) > Honors Students 'Fight Dirty'

Honors Students 'Fight Dirty'

October 30, 2017

Tybee Island is home to beautiful beaches along the Atlantic Ocean. However, it is also riddled with cigarette butts, plastic bags and glass bottles. Tybee Beach Cleanup is a volunteer-based organization who "fights dirty." They work to keep beaches clean and free from any man-made materials. The Armstrong State University Honors Program and the Georgia Southern University Honors Program joined forces to help this organization remove litter from the beach. On October 21, the students spent their Saturday morning engaging with one another while serving their local community.

The students focused on the north side of the island looking for any material, unnatural to the surrounding environment. This included cigarette buds, soda cans, water bottles, pieces of foam, shards of plastic and glass. The local community organization, Tybee Beach Cleanup, made the event possible. They provided the buckets and trash grabbers. Afterwards, Kathryn Propst the representative for the club helped the students organize the trash into recyclables and waste.

Georgia Southern University Honors Student, Hannah Dorough (psychology '18) said, "The generosity of the Tybee Beach Cleanup organization was amazing. They provided everything we needed because the main goal for them is keeping the beach clean. It was an awesome experience to be able to spend my morning supporting a great cause while getting to know other Armstrong State Students."



Hannah Dorough and Carly Mathis take out the trash on Tybee.

Georgia Southern University and Armstrong State University are currently undergoing a consolidation of the two schools. Once this consolidation is complete, the Honors Program at both campuses will be united. This event gave students the chance to get to know and to connect with one another.

Four Honors Students, who participated at the beach cleanup, Hannah Dorough, Morgan Gallahue (Biology '18), Kaley Powers (cell and molecular biology '18) and Linnea Ryan (history '19) also had the opportunity to participate in the Honors Consolidation Panel at the Southern Regional Honors Council Conference in 2017. They focused on the challenges and benefits of uniting the two Honors Programs from a student's perspective.

"Our history of all working together last year allowed for this event to come together. I am happy that we were able to get both Honors Programs together to enhance the future and spirit of the new university. This beach cleanup gave us the chance to really get to know one another, so I think this event was a success," Powers said.

Friendship is the main goal of the students from both Honors Programs. The consolidation will allow for more bonds to be made between the two groups. Elias Frazier (psychology '17), a student at Armstrong State University addressed the importance of more events like this. "We all came out here to do the same thing: clean up the beach and give back to the community. We are all college students, and our lives can get a bit stressful sometimes, so it was nice to enjoy the beautiful weather. I was able to spend time with my friends and meet some new people from Georgia Southern University. We need to really start getting to know each other before the consolidation is complete because then the transition will be easier," he said.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#)[< Previous](#)[Next >](#)



GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

1332 Southern Drive
Statesboro, Georgia 30458
Phone: (912) 478-4636

A Unit of the

Copyright © 2017 · All rights reserved

MORE INFORMATION

FOLLOW US

Main Menu**Apply to Honors** ▾**About the Program** ▾**Student Resources** ▾**Handbooks/Forms** ▾

[Home](#) > [Uncategorized](#) > [Talk About... Pop Culture](#)

Talk About... Pop Culture

October 30, 2017

No one has ever said “What happens in the first year stays in the first year,” and this is abundantly clear for the students who have taken Dra. Leticia McGrath’s honors section of the first-year seminar, *Hispanic Culture through Film*, these past few years. Not only has she stayed in contact with her former students, but she has continued to encourage them in their professional development.

Last spring, she organized several students to propose presentations at the Popular Culture Association of the South/American Culture Association of the South 2017 Conference (PCAS/ACAS), and four of her students, Caleb Beatty (electrical engineering '20), Emily Pressler (Spanish and French '19), Amanda Kate Wood (writing and linguistics '20) and Maygen Martinez (human resource management '20) participated in the conference in October. Dra. McGrath’s help throughout the entire process of applying for the conference, and creating their projects helped each student gain an invaluable experience.



Caleb Beatty, Maygen Martinez, Amanda Kate Wood, and Emily Pressler in Savannah.

“Every year I push my students in my FYE classes to develop their research outside of the classroom, and one year I traveled with 8 students to Washington DC and Richmond, VA to present at a conference, and another year I traveled with students to Asheville, NC. I am pleased to see that there are students who embrace the added challenge of researching and presenting their findings in a public and professional manner. Given that they are doing so without any grade attached certainly shows they are taking the initiative to explore topics in a more meaningful way,” said Dra. McGrath.

The PCAS/ACAS 2017 Conference in Savannah, Georgia focused on presenting topics or events common in popular culture while molding them into academic presentations. Each student focused on an aspect of American culture under the lenses of entertainment, politics and profanity.

Martinez and Wood worked together to create a joint presentation, “Pawnee: The Greatest Community on Television.” Both of them are fans of the NBC television show, *Parks and Recreation*. The show focuses on the inner-workings of a community in a city government setting. The idea of blending entertainment and research intrigued them. They were able to use their favorite group of misfit characters to analyze how a community works at the fundamental level.

“A community was built amongst these characters by encouraging tolerance and establishing deep, shared emotional connections. We analyzed several aspects of the show, including: the growth of individual characters as well as of the group as a whole, the creation of shared values amongst the characters, and the examination of clear community building aspects throughout the series. Through these examinations, we can pinpoint specific ways in which the community was built amongst the citizens of Pawnee and the employees of their municipal government offices. Then we hypothesized how these methods would affect a real life town,” said Martinez.

Martinez and Wood did not implement their findings onto an official community. However, both are community leaders at Georgia Southern University. The research can help further build relationships with their residents creating a tight-knit community. Their work on campus parallels with their research for the PCAS/ACAS Conference.

Beatty’s project, “This is not a Safe Space,” focuses on the idea that *safe spaces* are not actually beneficial to universities and other public spaces. These designated spaces are infringing on first amendment rights, limiting creativity and prohibiting classroom discussion.

"In a time, when one in four Americans think the First Amendment is dangerous, there is merely an illusion of free thought and self-expression. Safe spaces and political correctness have grown into their hyperbolic form to the point that a person must constantly question what you say in an effort to not offend others. My presentation covered how universities and society in general have been negatively influenced by the idea of not offending," he said.

This was Beatty's first academic conference. There was a diverse range of presenters and attendees at the PCAS/ACAS conference from students to professionals with published research. This conference also allowed Beatty to study something outside his field of study. He said, "I was able to research an interesting subject that has nothing to do with my major. I personally like being a well-rounded person. After doing math and science all day for my electrical engineering degree, it was very beneficial to be able to break away from that and present on something that is important to me."

Pressler researched the difference in the use of offensive language in Spanish and English, in her project: "WTF?!: Cursing trends in Spain and the United States through film." She analyzed two films released in the same year, with similar stories, reviews, and popularity. She found that Spain's use of profanity is more accepted and wide-spread, rather than America.

"I analyzed the frequency of words/phrases, content, context, etc. to compare overall use in both cultures through film. I selected *Ocho Apellidos Vascos* (2014) ("Spanish Affair" in English) from Spain and *Two Night Stand* (2014) from the United States, which are comparable in release date, rating, length, content and theme," Pressler said. "What I found is that Spaniards curse with more frequency, have more varied vocabulary and arguably use words/phrases with greater significance than their United States counterparts."

Pressler specifically created this project for the PCAS/ACAS 2017 Conference. However, this presentation has inspired her to continue researching this topic for her Honors Thesis. "I want to keep analyzing other linguistic characteristics of Spanish through further films and literature," she said.

The Honors Program at Georgia Southern University encourages students to fully take advantage of every academic opportunity while attending college. These four student pushed themselves to make independent projects outside of class assignments. "Being a part of this prestigious program has challenged me to approach subjects to which I was once unknowledgeable. It has also lead me to exert myself more in my academics, such as presenting at this conference," Wood said.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#)

[< Previous](#)

[Next >](#)

University Honors Program • PO Box 8130 Statesboro, GA 30460 • (912) 478-7926



GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

1332 Southern Drive
Statesboro, Georgia 30458
Phone: (912) 478-4636

A Unit of the

Copyright © 2017 · All rights reserved

MORE INFORMATION

FOLLOW US