From The Director

From our start, Honors at Georgia Southern has been synonymous with excellence. Our students take on challenging work in the classroom, in the lab, and in the field. They spend hours in the library and dedicate their energies to making the world a better place. This issue of Honors at Georgia Southern features the creative and scholarly accomplishments of the graduates of this academic year. Since the beginning of the University Honors Program, students have been asked to develop an Honors Thesis or Capstone project. As you will read in these pages, these projects engage a variety of interesting issues and forge creative solutions to both scholarly and practical problems. With the assistance and support of a caring team of faculty mentors, students are demonstrating their expertise in their fields. This kind of effort builds on the tradition of excellence forged thirty years ago by the initial class of Bell Honors Program students and their caring professors. During this past fall, we celebrated this anniversary with dozens of alumni, family, friends and students who convened on campus to commemorate the occasion. For those who could not attend, this magazine is a snapshot of Honors at Georgia Southern today. There is no replacement, however, for a trip to campus. I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely yours,
Steven Engel

Mission Statement

The University Honors Program provides a small college atmosphere in the context of a large comprehensive university. The program is designed to foster the development of a critical sense of inquiry, a spirit of creativity, a global perspective, and an ethic of civic responsibility. A hallmark of the program is the emphasis on bringing ideas to life through undergraduate research, experiential learning, and service-learning opportunities. The University Honors Program at Georgia Southern University rests on a foundation of the following ideals that are inspired by the institution’s emphasis on engaged learning:

Critical Sense of Inquiry

Honors students will explore a variety of approaches to research designed to foster the pursuit of knowledge. Students will develop the ability to question with a healthy skepticism toward accepted opinion. The culmination of the undergraduate experience is an independent research or creative project designed to exemplify a critical approach to inquiry.

Spirit of Creativity

Honors students will embrace the idea that creativity is a virtue that should be experienced by all students, regardless of discipline. This spirit involves a respect for different ways of knowing and an openness to intellectual discussion and challenge.

Civic Responsibility

Honors students will demonstrate an ethic of civic responsibility and exemplify the motto of the program, “Humbility before Honor.” Students will be challenged to use their abilities and talents for the advancement of humanity and the pursuit of a greater good. The primary vehicle for the expression of civic responsibility is through service both to the university and the community.

Global Perspective

Honors students will develop a perspective which allows them to approach their chosen discipline from an international point of view. This outlook involves the critical exploration of global concerns and generation of proposed solutions to international problems. Honors education provides this worldwide perspective through academic courses, study abroad opportunities, and co-curricular experiences.

HONORS @ Georgia Southern

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From Kelly Callingsworth and Ann Rios at Bulloch County’s Recycling Processing Center

Thank you to all of our volunteer writers and photographers who helped make this year’s magazine a success.

FEATURE STORIES

Connect with the University Honors Program Year Round

Like the University Honors Program on Facebook to keep up with news and events about the Honors Program throughout the year.
Facebook.com/GaSouHonors

Visit the Honors playlist on the Georgia Southern University YouTube channel to see professional videos of honors in action. Edited and composed by Tim Hunt (2013) with music composed and performed by Sydney Sowell (2014) and Ben Ratliff (2014).
YouT ube channel to see
YouT ube video of honors

University Honors Program

Alumni Updates

Invest in Honors

4 Undergraduate Research
33 Honors in Action
36 Honors Annual Report
38 Alumni Updates
40 30 Years of Honors
43 Invest in Honors
Undergraduate Research

The University Honors Program provides students with the challenge and support necessary to develop high-level research and creative projects. The senior students profiled here span the academic colleges at Georgia Southern University. While their projects do not exhaust the extent of honors research, they exemplify the range of meaningful work completed by honors students.

Stereotypes are ever present in the modern world and affect how people are able to empathize with one another. For the past two years Kylie Hall has researched the effect of stigma consciousness—the awareness of negative stereotypes—on empathy. Hypothesizing that those with high stigma consciousness would have higher levels of empathy, Hall sought empirical proof through her original study. The psychology major began the research process by enrolling in Honors Research Methods taught by Dr. Amy Hackney. During the course, the team designed a study which required subjects to complete Pinel’s Stigma Consciousness Questionnaire as well as Davis’ Interpersonal Reactivity Index.

The results of this initial test were later determined to be imperfect: the sample failed to represent the desired diversity of subjects and the small sample size left Hall without definitive answers. With Dr. Hackney’s assistance, Hall took her study to the internet, hoping that its anonymity would contribute to higher participation and better sample distribution. With 300 participants and a wider distribution, the second study was a success and illustrated strong results.

The results of the second study clearly illuminated the variations of stigma consciousness’ effects on empathy based on demographic group. This was likely due to the type of stigma being experienced by these differing groups. A general trend in the data showed that at the intersection of high gender stigma consciousness and racial stigma consciousness, there are corresponding high levels of empathy. Because this is the first study to look at the relationship between the constructs of stigma consciousness and empathy, future research will be needed to definitively determine why these trends exist.

Hall recently received the Psychology department’s Georgelle Thomas Honors Award for contributions to research in the field of psychology. Along with presenting her research at the Georgia Colleges Honors Council Conference, she also presented at the Georgia Southern Honors Psychology conference last spring.

Of her honors experience Hall shares, “The Honors Program at Georgia Southern has provided me the best opportunities to grow as a student and a researcher, along with enriching experiences that have expanded my learning outside the classroom.”

Vickers presented his research at the Georgia Water Resources Convention in Athens, Georgia, in April. He also presented at the National Convention of the Freshwater Society in Jacksonville, Florida in May. Vickers received funding from both the Honors Program at Georgia Southern as well as travel money from the College Office of Undergraduate Research. He plans to attend Medical College of Georgia in Athens in the fall, and said, “My research definitely helped me get in the door in medical school.” His project also helped him build a quality relationship with his faculty mentor, Dr. Checo Colon-Gaud.

“Working with Don has been refreshing because he’s always shown an added sense of curiosity as an avid outdoorsman. From a mentoring standpoint, working with Don has also been enjoyable because he’s a quick learner and someone who welcomes a challenge,” said Dr. Colon-Gaud. “He’s already accomplished so much academically at such a young age that it’s impressive to see him serve as a mentor to other students and take a leadership role in class and lab activities.”
According to Bloodworth, the earth has seen a variety of results from recent climate changes. There has been an increase in temperatures, longer summers, and among different populations. Bloodworth extensively investigated population genetics in *Wyeomyia smithii*. Bloodworth traveled to three separate populations in North Carolina, Florida, and Georgia to collect larvae. He ran an isozyme analysis for a specific enzyme, Isocitrate Dehydrogenase, that is required for *Wyeomyia* to perform the Krebs Cycle. Based on allelic frequencies, Bloodworth determined the extent of genetic variability existing in the population and among different populations. This research helps qualify the risk of extinction in the insect populations. His mentor, Dr. William Irby, described Bloodworth’s work on this project as “a different way of becoming educated. It allows students to learn in ways that are more memorable and permanent.” Bloodworth views his participation in this research project as excellent preparation for attending medical school as he has improved and varied his lab techniques and gained information in human genetics.

**Joshua Bloodworth**  
*Biology*  
**Assessing Genetic Variation Within and between Populations of *Wyeomyia smithii*, the Pitcher Plant Mosquito**  
*Dr. William Irby*

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**Katrina Vader**  
*Middle Grades Education and Spanish*  
**Characteristics of a Good Middle Grades Teacher**  
*Dr. Michelle Reidel*  
*Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson*

What does it take to be a good middle-grade teacher? Middle Grades Education and Modern Languages major Katrina Vader framed her thesis research around this question after several of her friends had difficulty finding teaching jobs. “I wanted to see what it takes to get through a day in middle school,” she said. Collecting large quantities of data through interviews, focus groups, and surveys, the senior sought to discover what teachers, students, and parents each believe makes an exemplary teacher. Ultimately she aimed to identify a concise and comprehensive set of characteristics which all groups would agree constitutes a great teacher.

According to the results, there is not one comprehensive list of characteristics which can fully satisfy the expectations of the subject groups. “There’s no one set [of qualifications] that teachers, parents, and students all agree on,” Vader said. “Teachers just have to appease everyone as well as they can.”

As an education major, Vader was privileged to work with two advisors for her project: Dr. Michelle Reidel and Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson. Dr. Reidel assisted Vader in conceptualizing and narrowing the vision for her research. “Katrina knew what she wanted to do,” Dr. Reidel said. “But her project was going to take a lot more time and work than she first thought.”

Vader worked with Dr. Williams-Johnson in developing the project’s research methodology, specifically to strategically structure interview questions. The education professor helped Vader identify which methods could be used to most effectively find the information she needed. “It’s amazing to see students move from what they originally thought would work to what actually works,” Dr. Williams-Johnson said. Vader hopes her research will have a lasting effect on the education of middle-grade students—revealing what ideas teachers, parents, and students share and do not share about effective teaching.

“Sometimes teachers forget to think about the perspectives of parents and students and how their teaching methods will appear to them,” Dr. Reidel said. “Katrina’s work will help her and other teachers reflect on the differences in these groups’ views and how they communicate.”

Vader went on to present her findings at the Georgia Educational Research Association conference in Savannah last year. She also intends to expand on her project after graduation. “I’d like to include jobs schools and compare data between them,” she said.

**Alicia Barrus**

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**Matthew Campbell**  
*Chemistry*  
**Study of Several Porphyrin Molecules as Potential Photodynamic Therapy Photosensitizers**  
*Dr. Jim LoBue*

The negative effects of the cancer treatment chemotherapy are well known. In addition to killing cancer cells, chemotherapy also eliminates other cells associated with hair growth, digestion, and various other body processes. There has been ongoing research aiming to increase the specificity of chemotherapy and minimize the effects on non-cancer cells. Matthew Campbell has been working in the chemistry lab with molecules similar to those used in chemotherapy. These molecules, however, have toxic effects when a light is shined upon them. Therefore when a light is shined on a specific area with those molecules, it kills the tissue solely in that area, a process known as photodynamic therapy. This research helps qualify the risk of extinction in the insect populations.

**Joshua Bloodworth**  
*Biology*  
**Assessing Genetic Variation Within and between Populations of *Wyeomyia smithii*, the Pitcher Plant Mosquito**  
*Dr. William Irby*

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**Emily Dodd**
As the assistant to the Director of the Center for Sustainability, Beslin makes displays for events, coordinates volunteers, and helps facilitate the Center’s activities. As an active student in the Center, Beslin says she enjoys “being able to inform students and others about the Center for Sustainability and the sustainable aspects of Georgia Southern University.” In her view it is Georgia Southern’s “responsibility to do more” to promote “Southern Sustainability.”

Dr. Heidi Altman
Sociology
Southern Sustainability

If people were to gather every piece of waste they accumulated throughout a twenty-four hour time period, they may be shocked to discover how much trash they have made. Waste has an “impact on everybody’s life,” said Christina Beslin. Beslin’s passion for sustainability led her to study the issue and students’ thoughts on best practices for sustainability led her to study the issue and “impact on everybody’s life,” said Beslin. Beslin also works to keep Bulloch Beautiful in their local efforts.

Dr. Gustavo Maldonado
Civil Engineering

Efadul Huq was fortunate to be selected by Efad to study, and Dr. Maldonado recognized this as a remarkable completion of his research project. Through the years, Efadul has shown remarkable knowledge, initiative, resourcefulness and perseverance. Dr. Maldonado said, “He is not only very responsible, mature and hardworking, but also extremely curious, intelligent, and an avid reader. Efad’s continuous appetite for knowledge, initiative, resourcefulness and perseverance also contributed to achieve a remarkable conclusion of his research project. Definitely, our Civil Engineering program was fortunate to be selected by Efad to study, learn, and perform undergraduate research.”

Efadul Huq
Civil Engineering
Making Ultra-High Performance Concrete without Extreme Treatment and with Readymix Equipment

Dr. Gustavo Maldonado
Civil Engineering

Undergraduate Research

Civil Engineering major Efadul Huq set out to do something that has never been attempted before at Georgia Southern: to produce ultra-high-performance concrete (UHPC) using everyday kitchen equipment. While the compressive strength of traditional concrete is typically 2,500 to 5,000 pounds per square inch (psi), UHPC can be up to 22,000 psi without special pressure and temperature treatments. The material is often used in skyscrapers and blast-resistant structures, such as nuclear plants. However, UHPC normally requires extreme pressure, temperatures, and advanced equipment to make. Based on existing research work, Huq’s goal was to produce concrete as strong as possible with rudimentary equipment without using special treatments.

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Divide the concept of ‘betrayal’ into several subcategories which can all be arranged hierarchically. The first, most important, kind of betrayal is betrayal of self. Truth and knowledge are invested in the self; to betray oneself would be to simultaneously betray those ideals. Next in Green’s hierarchy is the betrayal of another person, and third is the betrayal of society as society is the culmination of others. According to this ranking system, it is more morally sound to betray the society than it is to betray the self—an idea that manifested to obtain silica powder from China. Huq’s initial results were not promising, reaching strengths of only 3,000 psi or even less. Nevertheless, after several rounds of trial-and-error and empirically learning relevant techniques, his concrete specimens began to show higher strengths. He received financial support from a Georgia Southern Undergraduate Research grant as well as from the University Honors Program. An alumni of the Construction Management Program, Matt Harvell, also generously provided assistance in acquiring needed materials.

To betray, according to its roots, is a remarkable completion of his research project. Through the years, Efadul has shown remarkable knowledge, initiative, resourcefulness and perseverance. Dr. Maldonado said, “He is not only very responsible, mature and hardworking, but also extremely curious, intelligent, and an avid reader. Efad’s continuous appetite for knowledge, initiative, resourcefulness and perseverance also contributed to achieve a remarkable conclusion of his research project. Definitely, our Civil Engineering program was fortunate to be selected by Efad to study, learn, and perform undergraduate research.”

While taking the course Philosophy of Southern Sustainability, Ashton Green first became interested in the field on betrayal as an emotion, and the emotional impact of betrayal. Unable to find previous work in the philosophical literature on betrayal as an emotion, she began to examine this idea and its implications.

Yavaria Ryan

Green began her research examining the philosophy of trust, forgiveness, responsibility, duties, and relationships. Further efforts led her to study literary pieces which highlighted betrayal as an important theme—Plato’s works as well as the play Dirty Hands by Jean-Paul Sartre became key textual components of Green’s attempt to form a working philosophical definition of betrayal. Ultimately Green’s research led her to...
Dr. Denson K. McLain
Uca pugilator

There might be a bit of danger in unexpectedly related well to his research. Of experiential learning projects he of new members to becoming President. Sigma Phi, from assisting with recruitment roles are reversed. He served a significant experiential learning projects, Vickers matching to scholarships in the case of students. Vickers said he found similarities to help recruit the next generation of honors researchers in your field, but also to the general public, Logue said of these experiences. While Logue is an exceptional scholar, he is also extremely involved in on-campus activities. He is part of several organizations that promote freedom of speech and independent identities, such as The Southern Praxis, an alternative news source, the Georgia Southern University radio show, Speak Up! on 91.9 FM, an organization devoted to promoting human rights. “These organizations have prepared me for public speaking,” said Logue. He is extremely careful and conscious, and he never complains,” Dr. McLain said. For the last two summers, Logue has spent time in St. Augustine, Florida, researching the fiddler crabs’ behavioral patterns. His research has been completely funded by the Undergraduate Research Fund and Continuing Honors Scholarships. The University Honors Program paid for research, food, and lodging.

money, the award gave Vickers the chance to meet Dr. Michael McDonald, a designated Dixie Crystals professor in the Department of Management and ultimately advisor to Vickers’ Thesis work. To research hiring best practices and evaluate the financial cost for hiring the wrong person, Vickers compiled a literature analysis of eight different articles, which were cross-referenced to find universal themes. Vickers said he was able to come to McDonald with questions when stumped. When Vickers found a description something or noticed trends in an article but did not know the actual term or label to use, he said McDonald helped to “fill in the blanks.” Vickers also credits the variety of experiential learning projects he completed annually through the University Honors Program which unexpectedly related well to his research. Throughout his college experience, Vickers served as an Honors Ambassador to help recruit the next generation of honors students. Vickers said he found similarities between duties in his service role and practices he read about because ultimately Georgia Southern and the employers “want the best people and will pay them,” he said, referring to scholarships in the case of students.

For his junior and senior year experiential learning projects, Vickers encountered what happens when the roles are reversed. He served a significant leadership role within his fraternity, Delta Sigma Phi, from assisting with recruitment of new members to becoming President. Vickers said it was surprising how “what Vickers wants affects the market.” Vickers believes both his research and experiential learning will be beneficial when he is in a management position and organizing similar projects.

Kristyna Johnson
Health Education and Promotion
Correlates of Physical Activity with Health Risk Behaviors and Academic Achievement in College Students
Dr. Ashley Walker

“Dr. McLain came over to talk me cycles with biology professor Dr. McLain. Species’ behavioral breeding patterns over lunar he joined a research project studying the Interested in behavioral psychology, which will revolve around Logue’s intensive brown; he casually mentions that he is growing

When senior pre-medicine biology student Jordan Logue walks into a room, two things stand out: his eccentric hair and his eccentric personality. Currently, his hair is a mix of bright people, streaks of bleached yellow and a natural brown; he casually mentions that he is growing the color out for graduate school interviews, which will revolve around Logue’s intensive research and his unique academic experiences.

Interested in behavioral psychology, he joined a research project studying the Ecus pugilator, or native saltmarsh fiddler crabs’ behavioral cycles with biology professor Dr. McLain.

Logue will attend Mercer University to earn his Master’s in Biomedical Research. He said, “I will be more than prepared. The University Honors Program has done that for me.”

How people develop their relationship to God is often a line of research left to religious studies scholars and theologians. Leslie Fouraker, however, took a different route through psychology.

“I have a better understanding of how we organize God psychologically,” said Fouraker. She began examining the “god relationship in comparison to the adult relationship” during her sophomore honors research class. Fouraker based her comparison on “the three Abrahamic faiths which consider God a present, accessible force in the world.” This basis allowed Fouraker to compare “the personal relationship between individual and God” with the relationship between two individuals.

Two considerations that Fouraker made in her research are “the organization of the romantic relationship in comparison to the organization of the God relationship and the constructs of anxiety and avoidance in both relationships. To complete her research, Fouraker conducted surveys and had participants view secure and insecure images of people so she could review their response to the images. According to Fouraker, security is “characterized by feelings of trust and openness,” and insecurity is “characterized by feelings of anxiety and avoidance.” Fouraker then reviewed her data in hopes of discovering a correlation between people’s relationship with God and their relationship with other people. According to Fouraker, “as a person has higher anxiety, the more they have high avoidance.”

Fouraker’s advisor, Dr. Michael Nielsen, Chair of Psychology and Co-Editor of the Archive for the Psychology of Religion, said that Fouraker’s “natural curiosity and her careful approach to research are good combinations in a researcher. By engaging in research now, she will have the skills that will help her to succeed in graduate school.”

Fouraker hopes to use her research to help in her future career of becoming a counselor at a local church where she will help develop the relationships between parents, children, couples, and God.

I Javarysa Ryan

Undergraduate Research

Leslie Fouraker
Psychology
Images of God
Dr. Michael Nielsen

Undergraduate Research

Jordan Logue
Picture that influence competition for breeding form
Dr. Denson K. McLain

Accounting
Large Processes in Selection and Recruitment and the Financial Impact of a Bad Hire
Dr. Michael McDonald

There might be a bit of danger in searching for a job behind a research project with the words “financial impact of a bad hire” in the title. Gregg Vickers’ research, however, has prepared him for a career in accounting and management; he is fully prepared to take the Certified Public Accountant exam and continue his academic career at the University of Mississippi to earn a Master’s degree in Taxation this fall.

Upon entering Georgia Southern, Vickers participated in the Dixie Crystals Scholarship from the College of Business Administration. This award is given to freshmen based on academic record, relevant extracurricular activities, and potential for success. Beyond the scholarship

Gregg Vickers
Accounting
Large Processes in Selection and Recruitment and the Financial Impact of a Bad Hire
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Undergraduate Research

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Health Education and Promotion
Correlates of Physical Activity with Health Risk Behaviors and Academic Achievement in College Students
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Psychology
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Dr. Michael Nielsen

Kyrstyna Johnson
Health Education and Promotion
Correlates of Physical Activity with Health Risk Behaviors and Academic Achievement in College Students
Dr. Ashley Walker
An incident during the Honors alternative break trip to Camp Twin Lakes inspired recreation major Sara Curry’s research. At camp, she worked with developmental disabilities and witnessed one of her campers suffer a seizure while on the climbing wall. This experience sparked Curry’s interest, making her one of her campers suffer a seizure while on the climb.

Camp Twin Lakes partners with Camp Blue Skies, a camp for adults with cognitive disabilities, during Georgia Southern’s spring break week, and they have welcomed Georgia Southern students on this alternative break trip since 2011. This incredible trip inspired her to inquire further into research surrounding adults with disabilities. She has sought to identify what motivates people with physical disabilities to participate in competitive sports and plans to use the results to help community programs for adults with disabilities meet the needs of the athletes.

Her mentor, Dr. Brent Wolfe, recognized that there is “a call for research in this area” and added that “few undergraduates have this opportunity to help build foundations within their region of study.”

Curry began her research in the summer of 2012, traveling across the state of Georgia to interview fourteen physically disabled athletes. Many of these athletes participate in the Atlantic Lawn Tennis Association while others play on one of the eleven sports teams within the Shepherd Center in Atlanta.

Curry recognizes that she could not have completed this massive project without Dr. Wolfe. She explains that Dr. Wolfe was “very flexible and reliable,” helping her on each step of the way. Curry desires to be “a recreation therapist, which involves using recreation and activity interventions to help improve people with disabilities or diseases overall functioning.”

Curry recently received news of her acceptance to an internship position at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta. In Dr. Wolfe’s opinion, the capstone project gives students two major opportunities: to build working relationships with a faculty mentor and to fully immerse them into the specific topic. Curry and Dr. Wolfe designed the research process to be similar to the writing process for a journal article. Their goal is to submit the thesis for publication.

Curry is grateful for all the support she received from Dr. Wolfe and from the Honors Program. “I would tell students to make the capstone project fit their interests and to try to extend beyond normal research topics,” she said.

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The condition of the environment is a pressing and a widely discussed topic which draws the attention of both mainstream news coverage as well as academic research. While many students choose to raise awareness about environmental issues through educational handouts and demonstrations, chemistry major Amy Pressley chose to pursue lab research as an opportunity to help make a difference.

Pressley began her research experience as a freshman at Georgia Southern, working with her mentor Dr. Shannon Davis and other students in an environmental research project. The research aimed to specifically identify an enzyme that would act as a natural catalyst and reduce greenhouse gases emitted into the environment during the commercial production of nylon. Dr. Davis was Pressley’s first chemistry professor at Georgia Southern, and Pressley’s project is the compilation of the discoveries they made together during her five semesters in lab. Aware that many undergraduate students are not able to complete such expensive research, Pressley is grateful for what she has been able to learn from those first-hand experiences. “Doing research greatly affected my life, because it taught me to be consistent, reliable, and independent,” Pressley said. “You learn things about chemistry in a research lab that you could never learn in the classroom. You must determine your own conclusions—there is no answer book because no one has ever done what you are doing before. It teaches you a whole new way to approach the unknown.”

Pressley’s mentor Dr. Davis agrees that undergraduate research is invaluable for students as they prepare for their future careers. “Even students who may not be able to carry out a research project in their field over a long period of time provides insights into what working in this field may actually be like,” Dr. Davis said. “This is an extraordinarily valuable experience as students begin to think about what it’s like once their time at GSU is over.”

Through her research, Pressley has had the opportunity to share the project’s findings at three different American Chemical Society conferences. Her time in the lab also helped the senior chemistry major gain a Research Experiences for Undergraduates program experience with the Advanced Materials Research Institute at the University of New Orleans during the summer of 2012.

Following graduation Pressley plans to attend pharmacy school, driven by the desire to use her knowledge and experience to help others through medicine. She credits her successful undergraduate career not only to the opportunities she received through the Chemistry department and professors, but also to the connections she gained through the Honors Program. “What I enjoy most about being in the Honors Program are the connections I have made with people in all majors, both students and teachers who I would have not otherwise had the chance to meet. The Honors Program is full of wonderful, ambitious people who I can connect and relate to. I know there are always people who I can go to for some solid advice and some fresh motivation.”

Anna McGaughey
Nursing
Diabetes Education for the Underserved in Bulloch County Area
Dr. Rose Mary Gee

Anna McGaughey

Denmark is often cited as having the happiest population in the world. This status intrigued nursing major Anna McGaughey when she traveled to Denmark on a semester-long study abroad trip. During her time in Denmark, she noticed the preventative healthcare programs and the measures taken to educate patients. McGaughey believes it is important for patients who are faced with chronic diseases to be knowledgeable of the disease in order to live a healthy lifestyle and effectively battle the symptoms of the disease. For a year and a half, McGaughey has been working to increase patients’ educational awareness of diabetes in the Bulloch County area. McGaughey became passionate about educating patients about diabetes after learning of the lack of patient education in the region through nursing clinical trials and receiving information from volunteers at local clinics. However, instead of providing a typical classroom session to teach patients about diabetes, McGaughey is working to create a video that uses both visual and auditory techniques to deliver the message about the effects of diabetes. McGaughey will work to place the video into local waiting rooms of area hospitals and clinics. McGaughey said that hospitals and clinics will be able to “play [the video] in their waiting rooms or they can hand it out to patients,” in order to promote a mass education program that can be spread to both the patients and their family and friends.

McGaughey credits her advisor, Dr. Rose Mary Gee, for supplying “great advice” when she needs it. This close student-faculty relationship has helped McGaughey stay encouraged throughout her project because she has the constant support of a knowledgeable faculty advisor.

McGaughey says her project will help her nursing career because “a big part of nursing is educating people.” She has learned how to take a big topic, like diabetes, and compress it into a more understandable and relatable format for patients. Eventually, McGaughey hopes to obtain her Doctorate in nursing practice where she will continue to both help and educate patients about chronic illnesses and prevention.

Christina Belge
Public Relations
Problem Definition & General Semantics in Environmental Tax Reform: Assessing Language in Policy
Dr. Kevin Ward

Politicians often accuse opposing sides of resorting to “rhetoric” during their debates, but the way an issue is framed has always been about semantics. Christina Belge found herself in the middle of framing issues whether as a member of the Student Government Association or as a proponent of the recently approved Green Fee. Now Belge has written about the framing of issues in policy making for her thesis.

“My project is all about how a problem is framed and how it is put on the agenda,” Belge said.

Belge studied in-depth environmental public policies and the importance of language in discourse. She discovered that if the language of a piece makes the topic seem unapproachable or unrelated, it will never get addressed. “It’s labeled a tax instead of a fee, people will reject it, even if it is for a good cause,” Belge said.

“Christina is a bright young woman with a deep interest in environmental justice. She has taken the time to educate herself in semantics and policy alternatives,” Dr. Kevin Ward said.

Belge’s research grew out of her interests and actions in environmental issues. While at Georgia Southern, she has been president of Students for a Green Earth and a member of the Student Government Association. She also travelled to Botswana and Thailand for study abroad trips, sponsored partially by the University Honors Program. While she loved being overseas, the explorations helped her reaffirm her desire for a career working in American policy. Following graduation, Belge will serve as an AmeriCorps volunteer in Knoxville, Tennessee, working with the Knox County Development office on sustainability issues.

“I’m really happy with what I’ve done. I’ve had the ability to work with great professors on topics close to my heart,” Belge said.

Belge credits the University Honors Program with giving her invaluable relationships and helping set herself apart from other students. She said the ability to work with a mentor gave her a new focus on structure for her capstone project. A thesis can aid in writing, research design, developing an argument, and thinking critically,” said Ward. “Every undergraduate student should do one.”

Christina offered advice for future GSU students: “You are never stuck in a box. Go with the challenges you’ll face.”

Sarah Ryniker

Yantavia Ryan

Christina Belge
Public Relations
Problem Definition & General Semantics in Environmental Tax Reform: Assessing Language in Policy
Dr. Kevin Ward

Anna McGaughey
Nursing
Diabetes Education for the Underserved in Bulloch County Area
Dr. Rose Mary Gee

Laura Smith

Amy Pressley
Chemistry
Synthesis, Characterization, and Catalysis of Manganese-Amido Acid Complexes within Fagase-type Zeolite Compounds
Dr. L. Shannon Davis

Yantavia Ryan

Sarah Ryniker

Yantavia Ryan
When considering topics for her thesis project, Cifu knew from the start that she wanted to incorporate Inferno and its place in the world of literature. As the main motif of Inferno is Hell, she chose to examine how the concept of an underworld has manifested itself in literature over time. To develop comparisons, Cifu began researching literature from various time periods that also portrayed the underworld. She would ultimately choose to include several Greek and Roman epic poems, such as Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey and Virgil’s Aeneid, to examine their influence on the Inferno. She would also include writings after Dante, including John Milton’s Paradise Lost and No Exit by Jean Paul Sartre, to observe how Dante’s work influenced later literature. “I want to compare the descriptions of Hell before and after the Inferno, and show just how Inferno has shaped the depictions of Hell that follow,” Cifu said.

Dante’s work so intrigued Cifu that she made sure to visit his house in Florence, Italy, in July of 2011 during a study abroad experience in the region. “Being in Florence where there is so much history, and thinking about how many statues and paintings were inspired by Dante and his works, made me even more excited to go home and re-read Inferno and to dedicate myself to researching its influence on other literature,” she said.

Through her research, Cifu came to understand that the underworld in Homer’s works was not necessarily portrayed as a place of punishment. She also saw how the idea of after-death retribution became more pronounced in Virgil’s writings. As he was heavily influenced by Virgil, Dante incorporated the concept of an underworld as punishment for misdeeds into his writing. After Dante, the vision of Hell in literature became much more frightening than before, with the idea of punishment for sins taking on a heightened prevalence.

Cifu worked closely on her research with Dr. Hemchand Gossai, who encouraged her to study Inferno because it was her passion. He also suggested she might consider Inferno in a historical context to examine its broad impacts on literature. Dr. Gossai also critically reviewed drafts of Cifu’s work, spending copious amounts of time with Cifu on the editing process to produce a flawless paper. “Devin’s research allows us to see what influence these writings have on contemporary views of Heaven and Hell,” Dr. Gossai said. “It is a platform for understanding how our lives are shaped by our ideas of punishment in the afterlife.”

Cifu plans to remain at Georgia Southern to pursue a Master of Arts in Teaching. The graduating senior also has definite plans to incorporate Dante’s works in future research. “The more I work on this project, the more places I see his influence popping up in what I’m reading or watching on television,” she said.

Stephen Onks found a way to incorporate his True Blue Scholarship Southern spirit into both his coursework and his research. “I chose sport management as my major because I absolutely love sports, which is the same,” Onks said. It’s that passion for sports also inspired him to further pursue the topic through his honors thesis in which he demonstrates the effects of social media on a collegiate program to determine if programs utilize social media effectively.

Onks decided to use GSU athletic marketing for the case study of his research. Over the course of the project he has looked to specifically identify the effectiveness of Georgia Southern’s athletic marketing programs compared to those of other schools. Data was gathered on the number of followers on the school’s social media sites, Facebook, and Twitter.

“With our school changing athletic divisions, I think this information is relevant to understanding our current situation,” Onks said. “I am presented in another conference,” he explains. With the hours of field experience he gained while also playing a major interest in his field, and his determination, Onks hopes to one day manage an arena or stadium.

Of his time at Georgia Southern with the Honors Program, Onks shares, “I’ve met a lot of interesting people, my major is interesting, and my professors are fantastic.”

Capitalizing on the dream of every young boy after a good rainfall, Elijah O’Cain’s research keeps the biology major traipsing through the mud in search of empirical data. Studying the impacts of human development on marsh ecosystems, O’Cain focuses his attention on living organisms traditionally ignored during the construction of docks. Having grown up on St. Simon’s Island with his family’s private dock right out the back door, O’Cain was especially interested in studying the local ecosystems. His passion for the environment also played a large role in his research initiative.

“It’s important for people to realize their impact on their environment,” he said.

A study abroad trip to Switzerland with the Biology Department gave him another set of tools to use in his analysis and interpretation of results back home. O’Cain first began collecting data for his thesis during the summer of 2011 and finished the project during the following spring semester. He found that processing samples and interpreting the collected data proved a much more time-consuming effort. He finished sifting through the samples last September, approximately eighteen months after beginning the project. Conducting research throughout Glynn County’s coastal region, including Brunswick and St. Simon’s Island, O’Cain collected core samples of mud from under boat docks. These initial samples were then compared to samples collected from corresponding areas without boat docks. O’Cain hoped comparisons of the sample sets would exhibit differences in the quantity or diversity of organisms. The difference was not as dramatic as he had originally expected; however, his research did show there to be more of an effect on organisms in the spring time in comparison to the other times of the year. The number of organisms collected in marsh areas directly surrounding private docks was also significantly lower in samples collected in areas without docks. In particular, there was a greater impact on the nematode population because of the docks. O’Cain received funding from both the University Honors Program and the Biology Department to support the costs of research. He recently presented his research at the Benthic Ecology Meeting during spring break. Hoping to become a marine biologist, O’Cain feels this project has given him critical experience in the collection of data, identification of organisms, and the completion of thorough academic research.
Today many therapeutic options are available to assist patient recovery; however, senior Christine Fite decided to take a look at an alternative therapy many overlook: laughter. Fite shares that her own love of laughter sparked her interest in researching nurses’ perception of the phenomenon. As a nursing major, Fite specifically yearned to more fully understand the use of humor in the nursing field.

Fite first considered the topic of laughter and therapy during her freshman year at Georgia Southern. While she admits that at the time of her first proposal she did not know if there was such a thing as “laughing therapy,” her interest in the topic encouraged her to pursue the project. Fite later learned that studies have been completed concerning the effectiveness of laughing as an alternative therapy, but also discovered that it was an area in want of more extensive research. Following the recommendation of her Honors Peer Leader, she contacted Dr. Rose Mary Gee, a nursing professor who has worked with Fite throughout the course of her research.

To gain balanced feedback, Fite distributed 180 surveys to nurses working in a hospital environment, hoping to analyze the role humor plays in their treatment of patients. “Christine has had to work with multiple committees and agencies to complete her project allowing her to further enhance her communication, writing, and management skills,” Dr. Gee said.

Fite knows her research experience will be a great asset to her future career in the nursing field. Her work gave her insight and different perspectives on the many ways nurses can help their patients. And of course, she has a stronger understanding of the power of laughter for her future patients.

“Christine is tenacious and when she commits to a project she works to finish the project. The question is whether or not the student to examine, explore, or investigate and participate in an individualized project or learning experience more in depth in an area of personal interest. Her research has facilitated her development of critical thinking and problem solving skills and has offered her the experience to successfully solve, maneuver around and through, or manage ‘real-life’ problems,” said Dr. Gee.

Fite plans to spend time working as a nurse before continuing her education to attain a doctorate degree in the field of Nursing.

The clients would not provide enough feedback to construct a site and groups had a hard time completing work.

This is also a problem he would later face while working on his capstone project. “I was actually trying to make a website for a client who wanted a multi-user blog. I would use Adobe Photoshop and plan out certain web interfaces; she would tell me she liked and did not like in the different designs,” he says.

Hunt’s interactions with his client really fueled his research. Hunt’s work for the website helped him realize that the most effective method in web design was difficult for him to actually constitute as data. “Most of my research is qualitative and not quantitative; my advisor, Dr. John O’Malley, helped me in how I could make my project a data based research project.”

In February, Hunt presented his findings at the Southeastern Decision Sciences Institute Conference in Charleston, South Carolina with Dr. O’Malley. Hunt will soon begin work in video production at North Point Ministries in Alpharetta, Georgia. “Having a web site will help small organizations network with others and become well-rounded,” Hunt said.

Caitlin Tongco

Theatre and Spanish double major Zoë Campbell has been involved with theatrical performances on campus since her freshman year at Georgia Southern. Her interest in set design grew as she took classes in theatre and her capstone project, in which she designed a set for a theatre department production. The set for The Triangle Factory Fire Project was a challenging design project. Campbell knew that her work needed to set the tone for the thought-provoking play, which told the story of the tragic Triangle Shirtswaist Factory fire that killed 146 women factory workers and the resulting court trials of the factory owners. Inspired by Ming Cho Lee’s set designs and the architecture of Spain she had observed while studying abroad in Sagovia, Campbell proposed that the theatre department consider a style of set they had never implemented before. She mapped out a set structure that would be made completely out of metal, with detachable parts which would fall to represent the building collapsing as the play progressed.

The theatre program decided to try this innovative set design style. “We have used some metal for framing and other aspects of design, but never an entire set.”

Campbell said. “The students and professors had to learn all new skills to accomplish this.” Those skills included learning how to safely weld metal and successfully convey the scene from the skeletal set to a look that was realistic. Zoë’s mentor, Kelly Berry, helped her throughout the process. Mr. Berry has been Campbell’s advisor and one of her professors since she arrived on campus as a freshman; he also taught her course in set design, mentored her in several productions, and helped guide her in the areas of theatre which have increasingly become her passion.

Berry enjoyed the time he spent mentoring and teaching Campbell this craft, and believes that Campbell’s experience will help her excel in her future career goals.

“Zoë’s design for The Triangle Factory Fire Project is just one more skill set she is graduating with. What made this design work is that Zoë brought a complete understanding of theatre production to this project,” Berry said. “She embodies exactly what we are trying to do in the theatre program and that is to produce a theatre practitioner, who can function in not just one position, but in multiple positions in theatre.”

Once Campbell graduates, she hopes to continue pursuing her love of theatre. She would like to not only work in set design but also to use the skills she has learned at Georgia Southern to be involved in stage management, lighting, and audio for theatre productions. She is grateful for the experience she gained while working on her capstone project and believes it will prove beneficial in her chosen field. “I am now a better carpenter because I understand the thought process of a designer, and it helped me in stage managing because I am able to better understand ground plans,” Campbell said. “I also learned how to weld and how to work with different metals, and all of these aspects have helped expand on my resume as I enter the career field.”

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Kelly Berry
Angelika Foucher

International Studies

When Cultural Narratives Collide: The Role of the Homosexual Community in Defining French Identity

Danielle Smith

When undergraduate students study abroad, they are often inspired by the people, architecture, food, and culture of the society they have traveled to explore. When Angelika Foucher studied abroad in France, she too was inspired by all things French, but she also found herself intrigued by a more complex element of French society. As an international studies major, societal conflicts have always been of interest to Foucher, and her summer experience introduced her to the struggle within French society between the French government and the country’s homosexual community.

Before deciding to study abroad, Foucher had already been exposed to the issues surrounding French society and culture. For her senior journalism student, Angelika Foucher studied abroad in France, Angelika Foucher studied abroad in France. She decided to conduct a study of French public opinion concerning homosexuality to better understand the societal opinion. Foucher created an original survey which aimed to quantify the nature of the French conflict. The initial sections of the survey asked participants to specify their age, religion, political views, occupation, and other demographic information in order for her to understand the population that would be represented through the study’s end results. The remainder of the survey focused on comprehending the participants’ views and comfort levels with the topic of homosexuality.

Foucher then analyzed the responses to evaluate correlations between specific demographic groups and their opinions. After collecting sufficient data, Foucher’s experience will be beneficial as she pursues her future goals, as she gained much more than language and cultural knowledge. “Through her research, she’s clearly proven the ability to think analytically about complex theories and subjects, work independently, communicate with diverse groups, and see a long-term project through from beginning to end,” Smith said. “These are invaluable skills that employers can’t teach, but are certainly highly valued in any workforce setting.”

Foucher’s time in France studying the language, culture, and people helped her decide to continue working with the French people. She has applied to teach English in France, and hopes to pursue a Master’s degree at the University of Nantes, where she studied abroad. “French language, culture, and people helped her decide to continue working with the French people. Her experiences are highly valued in any workforce setting.”

Foucher received guidance throughout her study from her mentor, Danielle Smith. “Ms. Smith believes that Foucher’s experience will be beneficial as she pursues her future goals, as she gained much more than language and cultural knowledge. “Through her research, she’s clearly proven the ability to think analytically about complex theories and subjects, work independently, communicate with diverse groups, and see a long-term project through from beginning to end,” Smith said. “These are invaluable skills that employers can’t teach, but are certainly highly valued in any workforce setting.”

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Foucher conducted these surveys while studying in Nantes, France during the fall semester of 2012, which gave her an opportunity to closely interact with the French people and develop first-hand knowledge of the climate of views and opinions in the region.

“From my research, I concluded that the right-wing politicians try to maintain a narrow idea of what French identity is. They focus on external rather than internal issues,” Foucher said. “The push in journalism at Georgia Southern is to really incorporate everything at the same time,” Demarko said. “If you were to survey the public opinion concerning homosexuality...”

Demarko narrowed her thesis project down to content analysis of two journalistic sources: The Los Angeles Times newspaper and Sports Illustrated magazine. She sorted through these sources to find references to Twitter, the social media site that was launched in 2006. In her research, Demarko has found that Twitter references have increased exponentially since the site’s launch.

“Every day, new technological advancements change the world a little bit more—especially in the way information is moved. Senior journalism student Natalie Demarko is endeavoring to understand the amount and effects of change in the dissemination of information, and she has turned her focus to the use of Twitter in reporting,” Laura Smith said.

Demarko’s research project is excellent preparation for graduate school. Not only will this make Natalie more attractive to schools, but it will get her ahead of other students inside the program because she will be used to the research aspect already,” Bernard said.

Working on a long term project has taught her responsibility, and it has been a completely different experience from anything she has ever done, she said. Natalie is conscientious and smart, and so easy to work with. She exemplifies an honors student,” her mentor Dr. Camille Broadway said.

Demarko is planning to incorporate her capstone work in future graduate studies. “I feel like I am ahead of many others,” Demarko said. “The Honors Capstone project is excellent preparation for graduate school. Not only will this make Natalie more attractive to schools, but it will get her ahead of other students inside the program because she will be used to the research aspect already,” Broadway said.

As a result, not only has he gotten some interesting results, but he’ll be able to draw conclusions backed by some statistical support. It’s been great fun, and I’ve little doubt that he’ll do very well in his chosen profession.”

When asked how his research and time in the Honors Program will influence his career in the medical field, Corbin said, “I feel that my research experience through the Honors Program better equipped me for my future in medicine. Having a basis to start with this project has given me the necessary tools to pursue medical research in the future.”

Through his experiment, Corbin hoped to determine what effects, if any, a weevil has on plant seeds that are ordinarily protected by a symbiotic relationship with ants. The weevils were placed in a testing environment consisting of plant species Richardia spp. and ant species brachymyrmex patagonicus, both native to South America. Corbin also implemented a control environment consisting of both Richardia spp. and the weevil species, comparing the results to the treatment environment which contained all three species.

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“Since the ants are not typically aggressive towards North American weevil species, Corbin’s research aims to identify the effect of the ants’ presence on the seeds when faced with the new condition.”

Invasive species—should they be considered the bullies of the natural world? How do they truly affect the environment? Biological sciences major, Bradley Corbin, has set out to begin answering these questions in his thesis research while also satisfying his undying interest in invasive species and their effect on local environments.

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Improved roadways have been a focus of research since the first routes connecting cities and towns were developed in ancient times. Our modern highways are no different, and new materials are being developed. Civil engineering major Matthew Earnest has been busy at work on one such new paving material—crumb rubber modified asphalt. Earnest has been investigating the optimization of crumb rubber modified asphalt under the guidance of Dr. Junan Shen, who had a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). According to Earnest, the Department of Transportation started paving with rubberized asphalt prior to the implementation of his phase of the research in which he tested the optimization of rubberized asphalt binders with TOR. The asphalt makes use of crumb rubber that has been processed from scrap tires.

To collect data, Earnest traveled to a section of Interstate-75 in Valdosta, a section of Interstate-20 in Augusta, and another section of Interstate-20 in Perry, all of which have one side of the interstates paved with rubberized asphalt and the other not. At the sites Earnest gathered samples of the road to test the differences.

Crumb rubber-modified asphalt contains an additive called TOR, which creates a reaction within the asphalt to help bind it and keep it stable. In Earnest’s words, “thick and hard to work with.” Normally, in order to lay rubberized asphalt, people must use “special equipment to pump it because it is thick and viscous,” said Earnest. “The new additive, TOR, combines asphalt and crumb in a way that makes the asphalt less viscous and easier to work with.”

Earnest evaluated the durability to determine if it remained the same with or without the additive because no prior research of the durability existed. “As an advisor,” said Dr. Shen, “I show him where to go, but I do not tell him how to go. He needs to figure out the way step by step and then to discuss with me the reason and the possibility.”

As the research progresses, the Georgia Southern graduate program for a Master of Science in Applied Engineering will make sure to conduct both tests directly before finals to ensure the students had already made sure to conduct both tests directly before finals to ensure the students had already made sure to conduct both tests directly before finals to ensure the students had already made sure to conduct both tests directly before finals to ensure the students had already made sure to conduct both tests directly before finals to ensure the students had already made sure to conduct both tests directly before finals to ensure the students had already

Hayley Spencer
Mathematics
Making Connections: How Trigonometric Concepts are Connected to Geometry and Arithmetic
Dr. Joy Darley

“Math is hard” is still too common a refrain from a number of high school and college students. Why this should be, despite the requirement to take math every year in school, is perplexing. Math major Hayley Spencer also noticed how many high school and college students struggled with math, and she decided to examine the cause of the difficulty and to identify what specific area in math gives students the most difficulty.

Spencer designed a unique test which she hoped would point directly to the concepts which gave students the most challenge. The questions were organized into seven families with three sections each: the first section contained trigonometric problems, the second was comprised of algebraic equations, and the last focused on only simple math problems. Spencer’s test sought to determine at which specific point a student struggled on the exam. She hoped this knowledge would point to the exact concept the student was struggling to fully comprehend.

Spencer procured the test in two trigonometry classes at Georgia Southern, both times during the fall 2012 semester. Spencer made sure to conduct both tests directly before finals to ensure the students had already studied the concepts covered on both tests. Ultimately, the results varied dramatically. Some students were able to solve the trigonometric equations, some stumbled on the problems in algebra, and some struggled to complete even the most simple math equations. “There doesn’t seem to be a common area,” Spencer said. “Each student had a different problem.”

Spencer can see the implications her research will have on teaching methods in the classroom. “It’s all about teaching, so it will help to understand what students need,” Spencer said. “If someone is struggling on a problem, what have they missed? This project has helped me to figure that out.”

Spencer plans to intern with Koch Industries, Solicits as a Benefits Analyst after graduation.

Casey Wesselman
Biology
Comparative Morphology of Antennal Setae of Three Disjunct Populations of Wyeomyia smithii (Diptera: Culicidae)
Dr. William Irby

Pitcher-plant mosquitoes are carnivorous plants that live in swampy areas where the soil and substrate, Wesselman said, “don’t have enough nutrients, especially nitrogen, something that is relatively abundant in different insects.”

Pitcher plant mosquitoes are considered easy to culture in the laboratory. “They live with the pitcher plant, and larvae and hatch and change and Policy in Tudor, England,” examined historic Tudor documents to understand how the Monarchs’ advisers lived, worked, and counseled. Litton traveled to London, England, on a study abroad program, primarily funded by the University Honors Program and the Continuing Honors Scholarship. She spent time working on an auxiliary project in the National Archives of the United Kingdom in Kew, and soon her curiosity caught flame.

“Everything became more real overseas. Nothing in these documents was standardized. Nothing was spelled the same. Defining the complex evolutionary path the Tudor family traveled on was an amazing task,” Litton said. This year, Litton presented her work at CURIO, the undergraduate research symposium hosted by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLASS) at Georgia Southern. Her work is being applied to a poster advertising and encouraging the undergraduate research opportunities for students in CLASS.

“With all the work, time, and effort I put into this project, I’m really proud of my accomplishments. He’ll be my undergraduate research mentor, Dr. Robert Batchelor. It’s always been my motto to immerse myself in my class, and doing this thesis project has taken my work to the next level,” Litton said. “It’s been an extraordinary, long study sessions, and the hardest I’ve ever worked. But when it comes down to it, the project is better than anything I’ve ever done before.”

Litton credits her advancement to her mentor, Dr. Robert Batchelor. In the fall, Litton will return to Georgia Southern to work on her Master of Arts degree in History. “I want to bring history to the public. I’m really happy I stuck with the honors program. It prepared me for graduate school.”

Sarah Ryniker

Casey Wesselman
Biology
Comparative Morphology of Antennal Setae of Three Disjunct Populations of Wyeomyia smithii (Diptera: Culicidae)
Dr. William Irby

Most people try to avoid the mosquito, but field research in biology took Casey Wesselman on a search for mosquitoes in their habitat. Inspired by his experiences in Dr. William Irby’s freshman biology class, learning about pitcher plants, and going into the field with Dr. Irby, Wesselman began to map out his thesis research: a comparison of antenna morphology of disjunct populations of the purple pitcher plant mosquito. Wesselman found that mosquitoes can be symbiont. “They live within the pitcher plants, or they can also be symbiont. They live with the pitcher plant, and larvae and hatch and change and Policy in Tudor, England,” examined historic Tudor documents to understand how the Monarchs’ advisers lived, worked, and counseled. Litton traveled to London, England, on a study abroad program, primarily funded by the University Honors Program and the Continuing Honors Scholarship. She spent time working on an auxiliary project in the National Archives of the United Kingdom in Kew, and soon her curiosity caught flame.

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Sarah Ryniker
Some elements can change color, interesting pottery glaze colors in her Honors experiential learning project, helped with this annual service project as both beautiful pottery bowls to fill with delicious Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art create ceramic arts into action. Students in the Jeff Schmuki An Elemental Exploration of the Ceramic Arts Amy’s research. Visit our Nadim Khatib notes, “Joining the Honors Program has been one of the best decisions I’ve made as an undergraduate.” Nadim Khatib recognizes that if not for Honors Program funding, he may not have been able to attend the conference where his paper was presented, and his research topic was accepted. Khatib has traveled to major psychology conferences with the assistance of the Honors Program, and both in the form of travel grants. He also recently presented his research at the Honors Psychology Conference held at Georgia Southern University. Nadim Khatib Psychology Field of Gender Stereotypes on Implicit Affect and Females’ Leadership Aspirations Dr. Amy Hackney With the assistance of his advisor, Dr. Amy Hackney, he formulated an experiment. He asked young women to read a randomized mock article about a female politician—one article was neutral, one sexualized the woman, and one called the woman overly aggressive. The women were then asked whether or not they would prefer to be the leader in an exercise. Since that first iteration, the experiment has been modified to gather more comprehensive results. The testing now includes both male and female subjects and uses the Implicit Positive and Negative Affect Test (IPNAT) as the diagnostic tool. So far his findings have proved interesting but not definitive. Still, Khatib is eager to continue down this avenue of research to see what other conclusions can be drawn.

Amy Bryan An Elementary Exploration of the Ceramic Arts Jeff Schmuki The Empty Bowl Project puts the ceramic arts into action. Students in the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art create beautiful pottery bowls to fill with delicious food. Nadim Khatib, who is interested in Nadim Khatib since his pale pink and shift from blue to purple. over the color palette from lime green to used, and her results are anything but more comprehensive results. The testing now includes both male and female subjects and uses the Implicit Positive and Negative Affect Test (IPNAT) as the diagnostic tool. So far his findings have proved interesting but not definitive. Still, Khatib is eager to continue down this avenue of research to see what other conclusions can be drawn.

Zachary Riddle Finance Riddle Technology Solutions Providing Innovative Technology Solutions to Residential & Commercial Clients Dr. John Hatem Securely established as a leading IT consultant in the Southeast long before his graduation from Georgia Southern, Zach Riddle personally describes his story as the journey from neighborhood geeks to technology entrepreneur. “When I was only ten, neighbors would ask me for assistance with their computers, phones, remote controls anything that responded to electricity,” shares the Finance major. This initial childhood interest in all things electronic quickly developed into a full-fledged business plan, and by the time Riddle was only seventeen, Riddle Technology Solutions was officially established. Equipped with business cards, a website, and standardized operating procedures, the high school student set out to try his hand in the small business sector. During the first year of operation, Riddle Technology Solutions’ gross revenue provided approximately five hundred dollars per month in personal income. Between Riddle’s junior year of high school and his graduation from Georgia Southern University, it transformed from a one-man operation into a successful small business with multiple specialized employees, with company revenue averaging between $12,000 and $15,000 per month. Originally offering only basic computer repairs, the company now offers extensive IT services and advice as well as counsel for commercial enterprises. In the process of expansion, Riddle Technology Solutions became the first Apple Certified Consultants in Southeast Georgia. Riddle’s capstone research conducted a best business practices analysis of his own business operations in order to determine where Riddle Technology Solutions’ competitors were apart from the competition. Detailing the company’s high level of professionalism, emphasis on confidentiality and innovation, and his unwavering dedication to provide clients with this exceptionally high level of service every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Riddle’s midnight has been crucial in his success. Riddle explains, “Many technology firms become comfortable with implementing the same technology platforms and systems over and over again. They learn the little tricks and become hard pressed to change. Riddle Technology Solutions believes in the constant need to review every practice and procedure to find new technologies to fill any previous void and streamline systems.”

Courtney Smith Early Childhood Education “Find Me a岗位 Person is Actually Special!” Making Connections with ELL Using Multicultural Children’s Literature Dr. Michelle Reidel Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson Education major Courtney Smith has enjoyed working with English Language Learner (ELL) students since she began tutoring in ELL classes within the Bulloch County school system as part of an experiential learning project for the Honors Program. These tutoring opportunities inspired her senior research and later helped Smith realize her interest in becoming an elementary school ELL teacher. Her project investigates the correlations between ELL students, specifically children of Latin American descent, and their willingness to read. Smith believed that Latin American children would be more likely to enjoy reading if the fictional characters were more relatable to their culture. She examined the literature and formed her hypothesis in her research. “To see a child hug a book, as one child did during her interview, is moving on so many levels for me as an educator,” Smith said. “The spontaneous moments, such as when the child made the exclamation that became my title, speak volumes that data cannot. The students even seemed to respect me more because they knew I respected and valued their culture.” Smith’s project was guided by her mentors, Dr. Michelle Reidel and Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson, who provided assistance throughout the process, from the development of a topic to final presentation materials. “Courtney’s project illustrates the critical need of finding texts and topics that relate to the year of high school and his graduation from Georgia Southern University, it transformed from a one-man operation into a successful small business with multiple specialized employees, with company revenue averaging between $12,000 and $15,000 per month. Originally offering only basic computer repairs, the company now offers extensive IT services and advice as well as counsel for commercial enterprises. In the process of expansion, Riddle Technology Solutions became the first Apple Certified Consultants in Southeast Georgia. Riddle’s capstone research conducted a best business practices analysis of his own business operations in order to determine where Riddle Technology Solutions’ competitors were apart from the competition. Detailing the company’s high level of professionalism, emphasis on confidentiality and innovation, and his unwavering dedication to provide clients with this exceptionally high level of service every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Riddle’s midnight has been crucial in his success. Riddle explains, “Many technology firms become comfortable with implementing the same technology platforms and systems over and over again. They learn the little tricks and become hard pressed to change. Riddle Technology Solutions believes in the constant need to review every practice and procedure to find new technologies to fill any previous void and streamline systems.”

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Passion for environmental concerns drove Anni Rainio (pictured right) to switch majors from biology to marketing. This bold and seemingly contrary move came after a variety of experiential learning opportunities with non-profit environmental organizations. Studying both marketing and environmental concerns may be a unique mix; however, Rainio wants to bring marketing expertise to environmental practice. It is a combination that highlights her passion for the environment and builds on her fascination with the environmental practice. It is a combination concerns may be a unique mix; however, with non-profit environmental organizations.

Through her original research, Rainio analyzes how the economy affects environmental advertisements. While teaming up with Dr. Denton and Dr. Lindsey, two business professors, Rainio examines how the economy affects environmental advertising. 

Anni Rainio, Marketing, The Wall Street Journal

Throughout the undergraduate experience, students are bombarded with study abroad brochures filled with images of exotic places and trends of foreign languages. They are told to study abroad and to become engaged in the environment and in a global citizen, but for Sydney Robinson, study abroad truly changed her life and set her on the pathway for her Honors Capstone project.


In her time overseas, Robinson took two classes that were significant to her thesis project because she was the only American and oftenentimes the discussion-based classes tend to conversations over United Nations law, Robinson said.

Robinson noted that the U.S. has a greater fear of losing sovereignty, but also said that the European Union was the only organization comfortable with sharing authority.

They take the Union Nations more seriosuly overseas. People just don’t notice the United Nations over here,” she adds. Robinson received funding for her trip abroad through the University Honors Program.

Through her original research, Rainio analyzes how the economy affects environmental ads. As for Rainio, her future includes becoming an executive team leader at Target. Because of her passion for the environment, Rainio hopes to pursue a career in environmental advertising. 

“Her enthusiasm for the project, tenacity for completing her project, and her self-discipline are all super admirable traits,” Dr. Denton commends. “She is going to be a force for this world. Of that I have no doubt.”

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Anton Hughes has always been fascinated with the relationship dynamic of intercultural relationships, and the views people have on the subject. Being a part of an intercultural family himself, this has been a close subject for him. His capstone project gave him the perfect opportunity to research on how people perceive intercultural relationships, and where those viewpoints come from.

Anton Hughes, International Studies and Spanish, Complementary Colors: Perceptions of College Students Towards Interracial Dating

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“Sydney has shown a great deal of enthusiasm for her capstone project. Her interests in this topic, and her specialized knowledge of the European Union, have resulted in a unique approach to a very important topic for world politics,” Dr. Scalera said.

After graduation, Robinson will attend Georgetown University to pursue a law degree in Washington, D.C., in order to pursue international law. Dr. Scalera said, “The Honors Program at Georgia Southern offers students a unique opportunity for Georgia Southern students to become student-researchers. By conducting original research under the guidance and mentorship of our student-researchers, these students are engaging in a truly special educational experience.”

Sarah Byrskii

Sarah Ryniker

Passion for environmental concerns drove Anni Rainio (pictured right) to switch majors from biology to marketing. This bold and seemingly contrary move came after a variety of experiential learning opportunities with non-profit environmental organizations. Studying both marketing and environmental concerns may be a unique mix; however, Rainio wants to bring marketing expertise to environmental practice. It is a combination that highlights her passion for the environment and builds on her fascination with the environmental practice. It is a combination concerns may be a unique mix; however, with non-profit environmental organizations.

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Anni Rainio, Marketing, The Wall Street Journal
full citizen becomes particularly salient. Greenberg chose to tackle Aristotle’s contentious views through a case study of the “replicants” of the 1982 dystopian film *Blade Runner*. The replicants of the film were slaves initially created to serve a single purpose, yet, they have become sentient to their slavery and seek freedom through citizenship. Greenberg believes their struggle to gain freedom is fertile ground to test Aristotle’s theories of slavery. For example, despite escaping their physical bonds, the replicants continue to act in a manner typical of slaves. Greenberg posits that it is not physical constraints that make a slave, but rather fear and ignorance, and holds that this hypothesis is proven through the progression of the film. In the climactic moments of the movie (spoiler alert!), one replicant is given the honor of a free citizen upon his death, having overcome his fear and his confining self-image as a slave.

Greenberg hopes that his research will prove applicable in several ways, particularly in the education field concerning what it means to be a true citizen. Living in fear or choosing to cling to ignorance is not the mindset before summer vacation. She started by using mathematical manipulatives—physical objects such as pizzas and candy bars meant to represent abstract mathematical concepts such as fractions.

The Early Childhood Education major then took the project a step further by creating a “fraction number line”, a three foot long sheet of laminated paper numbered from zero to three, with each unit broken further into fractions. She had fraction number lines broken into thirds, fourths, and fifths. Like a more intellectually challenging game of hopscotch, the children were given word problems and straight math problems that they solved by hopping down the line.

In the post assessment testing and interview, many of the children noted that they really liked using the fraction number line. Dunn further noted that, “Getting students moving in a time where citizenship may make a person cringe; however, while others are naturally citizens.

Analysis of Aristoleian Themes in Ridley Scott’s *Empathy’s Role in Creating Citizens: An Political Science performance in American classrooms.

David Greenberg

Political Science

Empathy’s Role in Creating Citizens: An Analysis of Aristoleian Themes in Ridley Scott’s *Blade Runner*

Dr. Robert Pirro

People are some naturally slaves while others are naturally citizens. Reading such a cold statement may make a person cringe; however, the argument belongs to Aristotle, and David Greenberg has spent the past two years grappling with its ethical quandary. In a time where citizenship and legal status of immigrants are hotly contested, the topic of who qualifies as a slave is particularly important, since it is a standard unit of reference key to national standards. Dunn was deeply inspired by a class with Dr. Joy Darkey. Dunn collaborated with researchers at the University of Massachusetts in a survey of approximately fifty chemistry students to observe the students’ prioritization methods and thought process. In the survey, the students were asked what compound they would choose as a refrigerant: a toxic but effective compound or a relatively incapable compound still undergoing testing.

Dunn began working on her projects in June of 2012, and has had her research concerning chemistry education published through the University of Massachusetts. She presented her chemistry education project at the Southwestern Regional Meeting for American Chemical Society (SERCAMS) in November of 2012 in Raleigh, North Carolina in an undergraduate poster session, presenting with other researchers: Stephen Culipher, Dr. Hannah Sevian, and mentor Dr. Shainaz Landge. In addition to the SERCAMs presentation, she has also presented work entitled “Implementing Elaborate Visual Analogies in Organic Chemistry courses” at the Second Annual Scholarship of STEM Teaching and Learning Conference in March of 2013 with researchers Sharon Hines, Dr. Shainaz Landge, and Nazim Ali.

Dr. Darkey’s class and Dunn’s experiences during her Capstone research inspired the senior to research effective ways to help her students better understand concepts. She has recently started implementing the idea of using manipulatives for education beyond mathematics and feels that this is an effective way of teaching chemistry in a separate project she also examined effective styles of teaching chemistry. “When I’m able to apply the things I learn in a class in a more real-life situation, it definitely makes it more worthwhile,” stated Dunn, whose experiences have already proved to be an asset in the world beyond Georgia Southern, and she will attend Mercer University’s Walter F. George School of Law.

Greenberg notes, “The Honors Program takes the passive learning experience of academia in a post-No Child Left Behind world and makes it active. Instead of being taught, I learned. The difference is significant; its effect is intellectual, physical, and spiritual.”

Greenberg has himself achieved a greater degree of Aristotelian freedom through his time at Georgia Southern. Beth Martin

Beth Martin

Early Childhood Education

Integrating Manipulatives to Improve Fraction Concepts

Dr. Michelle Reidel

People often mow about how American school children are falling behind the rest of the developed world when it comes to mathematics scores. Senior Rachel Dunn aims to develop and implement teaching styles that will encourage strong mathematical performance in American classrooms. Dunn conducted her capstone research at a local elementary school in the last weeks of her time as a mathematics teacher at Boyd-Ichuman School in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Dr. Shainaz Landge

Chemistry

Microarray-Assisted Synthesis of Biologically Active Heterocycles

It is clear that Georgia Southern senior Janessa Dunn is a determined, hardworking student with a clear commitment to the world of chemistry. Not only did she complete an experiment exploring the sustainability of product creation, in a separate project she also examined effective styles of teaching chemistry. “When I’m able to apply the things I learn in a class in a more real-life setting, it definitely makes it more worthwhile,” stated Dunn, whose experiences have already proved to be an asset in the world beyond Georgia Southern, and she will attend Mercer University’s Walter F. George School of Law.

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Anna-Marie Thompson
Management and Marketing
The Showrooming Effect and the New Look of Retail for Consumers
Dr. Kathleen Gruben

Participation in an intercollegiate competition called aspire2retail, hosted by the National Retail Federation Foundation and American Express, provided just the spark Anna-Marie Thompson needed to find her research topic. Anna-Marie Thompson always knew she wanted a career in management and marketing, with an emphasis on retail management, and the aspire2retail event introduced her to the effects of showrooming in major retail stores.

“I was attracted to business because of the practical applications of the things I was learning. There was nothing that I did not find irrelevant to my future. Everything that I learned is valuable. Management gave me an overall understanding on the concept of business. Marketing would allow me to be creative and know how to focus more on customers.”

“Showrooming” is a recent development in the retail industry where consumers enter a brick-and-mortar store, try out a product, and then use their smartphones to price compare the item online,” Thompson explains. “My project is looking into the consumers’ viewpoint of why they showroom, how consumers are preferring to shop, what companies are doing or have done to combat its effects, and also take a look into emerging technologies that will change the way people shop in a retail store,” she said.

Her passion for leadership, intrigue with consumer behavior, and hobby of shopping have each helped Thompson develop her reseach project.

Her mentor, Dr. Kathleen Gruben, said, “Undergraduates do not usually receive these opportunities. It is a chance for students to intensify their work ethic and utilize their knowledge.” Through her participation in the Honors Program, Thompson said her thesis project has “given me a better understanding of different retail companies and the challenges that I will be faced with as a store manager.”

This knowledge of different companies and potential challenges will aid Thompson’s work as a Retail Management Intern with Walt Disney World. Although she is going to begin work right after graduation, Thompson says she is still planning to help her Master’s Degree’s stall the road.

Caitlin Tonga

Each year thousands of undergraduate students submit applications to Physical Therapy (P.T.) Doctoral Programs, but never is an application sent without uncertainty. Questions swirl through the admissions offices think of the application?

Genevieve Lyke
A Qualitative Analysis of what Admission Departments of Doctor of Physical Therapy Programs Consider the Ideal Physical Therapy Student
Dr. Daniel Czech

“Whenever you can have that experience, it is invaluable for both student and faculty.” Dr. Czech said. “It’s an experience that will allow students to work one on one with faculty to achieve an academic goal,” said Czech. “I volunteer enough? Is my grade point average high enough? Exercise science major Genevieve Lyke was determined to answer these questions once and for all. Lyke interviewed ten Physical Therapy Doctoral Program Admission Officers from public universities across the country in order to conclude the characteristics of optimal candidates for P.T. programs. She believes that this project “will help me comprehend what admissions officers look for. I also think that the skills I will aid other students when filling out their applications.”

Lyke aims to become a physical therapist herself and has applied to over six graduate schools, including North Georgia College, Temple University, and Florida International, and this project will assist her with her own application process.

Dr. Czech points out that professors also learn during the process as well. He said “there were many times when I was learning and teaching with Genevieve. That makes it special.”

This experience may have furthered Lyke’s research skills, but it also opened up additional doors to opportunities, like presentation experiences at conferences across the United States, including participation at the National Collegiate Honors Council conference in Boston in November of 2012.

Kelsey Keane

Lindah Kotut
Computer Science
Abnormal Data Detection in Cyber Physical Systems (CPS)
Dr. Wenjia Li

It can be easily modified to custom fit any group of CPS to a better gauge of efficiency of these algorithms can be determined.” Since graduating Kotut has worked full time as a web developer with the marketing department at Georgia Southern while she continues to fine tune her algorithm. In the fall the GSU grad will begin study at Virginia Tech’s Computer Science graduate program.

Emilly Dodd

Sea turtle conservation is something that has always been close to heart for Georgia Southern senior Michael Samiratedu. His father was one of the very first sea turtle interns to begin working at Georgia Southern while he was exposed to them at a young age. After seeing these “majestic creatures” for the first time, he said, “I knew I wanted to work with the turtle capacity.”

In college, Samiratedu seized the opportunity to work on helping these animals while satisfying his intellectual curiosity. He was able to conduct research and work on this project during a couple of the summer breaks.

He monitored the thermal environment of loggerhead sea turtle nests in various sites located on St. Catherine’s Island, Georgia. His study included analysis of original and relocated sites as well as a control site. He used HOBO Pro V2 data loggers that were placed at the bottom, top, middle, and sides of the sites’ egg chambers. The data collected by the loggers helped determine the change in the temperature of the egg chamber over the course of the incubation process that typically lasted fifty to sixty days. Samiratedu’s project has helped realize that while he may be working locally, his research can potentially change the world. His experience has shown him what one person can truly do, and he will carry this with him in order to improve the field of medicine.

He will attend the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine - Georgia Campus in the fall and plans to become a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine.

Michael Samiratedu
Investigation of Beach Sand Temperature on St. Catherines Island to Predict Loggerhead Sea Turtle Hatchlings
Dr. Robert K. Vance

Kotut was mentored by Dr. Wenjia Li. She speaks to Dr. Li’s investment in the project’s success: “that he was just as interested in the outcome of the research as I was, aided in my confidence that my research was worthwhile—a good mindset to have, it turned out, for those days when nothing seemed to work.”

Speaking to the importance of the honors Capstone experience, Kotut says, “I had not realized just how competitive a student and researcher I had become until I began my graduate school search. My GRE and GPA were both glanced over, but the Capstone was reviewed. Thoroughly.”

Kotut hopes that the program she designed to test her results will prove invaluable in the research field. The honors student aims to make her program as open source. With the code publicly available Kotut says that...
Kurt McGee explored the subconscious minds of literary characters in works by William Faulkner and Virginia Woolf. In particular, McGee examined the presence of mental disorders in Faulkner’s *The Sound and the Fury* and *As I Lay Dying*, and in Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway*.

Each of the three novels was written in the stream of consciousness form, a narrative mode that portrays a character’s point of view by presenting their thoughts and feelings as they occur.

“There’s a Freudian trend in modernists to explore the experiences of the mind,” McGee said. “For instance, the term ‘psychopath’ only came about in the 1990's, but Faulkner was writing about it seventy years earlier.”

In Faulkner’s *The Sound and the Fury*, McGee examined the mental characteristics of Jason Compson II. Compson’s lack of emotion and inhuman treatment of his family first led McGee to identify Compson as a psychopath. Interestingly, it appears that McGee is the first scholar to suggest this identification of psychopath, as he could not find any supporting evidence for his findings.

McGee also studied the progression of schizophrenia in Faulkner’s character Darl Bundren in *As I Lay Dying*, as Bundren moves from experiencing hallucinations to having a complete psychotic breakdown, speaking to himself in third person.

In addition, McGee researched the portrayal of schizophrenia in Woolf’s character Septimus Warren Smith in *Mrs. Dalloway*. A World War I veteran, Smith suffers from “shell shock,” Smith often mixes up his hallucinations with literature, and after being forcibly committed to mental “check-ups,” he commits suicide. As Woolf has been thought to be a victim of schizophrenia herself, McGee found Smith’s mental disorder particularly illuminating as he researched the impact that Woolf’s disease had on her portrayal of Smith.

McGee believes his research has vast implications. “There are estimates that a large percentage of violent crimes committed in America are committed by psychopaths,” he said. “We walk by a few psychopaths on any given day.” McGee hopes his research will increase awareness of mental disease in the general public.

McGee worked with Dr. Heather Hossai to discuss interpretations of the novels and practical research and writing strategies. “McGee’s research is not only literary—it affects how people think about mental disease,” Dr. Gossai said. “There is not much information out there comparing literature with psychoanalysis. His research could become a platform for something more expansive.”
Several students, faculty, and administrators from the University Honors Program travelled to the National Collegiate Honors Conference in Boston, Massachusetts in November. Caroline Greene, Genevieve Lyke, Claire Goodwin, Kelsey Keane, Jack St. Jean, and Jordan Logue traveled with Dr. Engel, Dr. Desiderio, honors advisor Erin Martin, Dr. Brent Wolfe, and Dr. Jerri Kropp to spend five days in Boston, touring the city and participating in conference events. After seeing Harvard, Back Bay, Chinatown, Boston Harbor, and Cambridge through the City as Text program, students also participated in a discussion of the role of markets in society with Harvard professor Dr. Michael Sandel, enjoyed the student dances and musical acts, and spent time getting to know students from other honors programs from across the country. Lyke, St. Jean, and Logue each presented posters on their research, while Dr. Wolfe, Dr. Kropp, Dr. Desiderio, Goodwin, and Greene presented on the Honors Alternative Break Trip with Camp Blue Skies at Camp Twin Lakes. The presentations at the conference encompassed the full range of academics from caribou migrations to the idea of dystopia in literature and film to particle physics to the education reform. The 2013 conference is scheduled for November in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In March of 2013 two honors students, Jordan Logue and Kelsey Keane, traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, for the annual Southern Regional Honors Conference. Accompanied by Honors Director Dr. Steve Engel and Advisor Erin Martin, the students not only presented their original research projects but also began planning for next year’s meeting which will be co-hosted by Georgia Southern University and Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Georgia. Dr. Engel was also elected to the SRHC Executive Board.

Keane shares, "I am so appreciative of the opportunity to travel to conferences with the Honors Program. Presenting helps me learn to more clearly explain and expound upon my research; the audiences’ questions not only challenge my knowledge but often inspire ideas for ways to expand my study."

Attending many of the conference events which included an evening gala hosted at the Muhammad Ali Center, the students were also able to spend time exploring the city. Much time was spent trying local cuisines as well as visiting iconic sites such as the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory.

The University Honors Program encourages all current students to consider submitting poster or paper presentations to present at the 2014 SRHC Conference.
Honors 2012-2013 Data

- **423** Honors Students (40% Men; 60% Women, 80% Caucasian, 20% Non-white)
- **377** Georgia Residents (88%)
- **11** States Represented (including Georgia)
- **13** Countries Represented
- **92%** Freshman Retention Rate
- **98** Honors Courses Offered
- **7225** Hours of Service and Leadership
- **144** Faculty Teaching Honors Courses or Mentoring Honors Students

### Honors Students by Academic College

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic College</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts and Social Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science and Mathematics</td>
<td>97</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Human Sciences</td>
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### Number of Honors Students

- **Fall 2005**: 265
- **Fall 2006**: 295
- **Fall 2007**: 306
- **Fall 2008**: 343
- **Fall 2009**: 406
- **Fall 2010**: 451
- **Fall 2011**: 456
- **Fall 2012**: 423

### 2013 Incoming Freshman Class Projections

- **117** New Freshmen
- **104** Georgia Residents (89%)
- **7** States Represented
- **1254** Average SAT
- **28.1** Average ACT
- **3.74** Average GPA (unweighted)

### Honors Freshman Retention Rates

- **Fall 2005 Cohort**: 90%
- **Fall 2006 Cohort**: 90%
- **Fall 2007 Cohort**: 91%
- **Fall 2008 Cohort**: 91%
- **Fall 2009 Cohort**: 92%
- **Fall 2010 Cohort**: 92%
- **Fall 2011 Cohort**: 92%
- **Fall 2012 Cohort**: 92%

### Program Applicants

- **2005-2006**: 374
- **2006-2007**: 419
- **2007-2008**: 607
- **2008-2009**: 713
- **2009-2010**: 709
- **2010-2011**: 733
- **2011-2012**: 762
- **2012-2013**: 801
University Honors Program Alumnus Charles Minshew Part of Pulitzer Prize-Winning Team

University Honors Program Alumnus Charles Minshew can add Pulitzer Prize to his list of accomplishments. Minshew (Political Science, 2011) is on the team of the Denver Post reporters recognized by the Pulitzer Prize jury for their coverage of the Aurora, Colorado movie theater shootings on July 20, 2012. The Denver Post team won in the category of “Breaking News Reporting.” Particularly noted was the way the Denver Post “[used] journalistic tools, from Twitter and Facebook to video and written reports, both to capture a breaking story and provide context.” Minshew’s work at the Denver Post was as a Dow Jones News Fund summer intern, a competitive opportunity for students in journalism. Minshew’s contribution to the award-winning coverage of the Aurora shootings included his work as web producer to update the story online, using social media and interactive tools and developing the online timeline that provided context and updates as the story unfolded.

Minshew, currently enrolled in the Master’s program at the Missouri School of Journalism, said about the experience working on the story, “We spent every day making sure we were well informed about the theater shooting. That summer showed me what teamwork was all about. Everyone gave it their all.”

His mentor at Missouri, Assistant Professor Amy Simons said, “His dedication to his craft and willingness to take risks and experiment with new storytelling techniques and delivery methods is unequaled and something I very much admire. I look forward to watching him continue to grow as journalist and see where his promising career takes him.”

Earlier in the year, Minshew was among the throng of media covering the second inauguration of President Barack Obama. He was chosen from a competitive, nationwide pool of journalism graduate students to participate in PBS NewsHour’s “V 2012: College Tour Inauguration Multimedia Short Course.”

As a student in the University Honors Program, I was taught and challenged to go out into the world, ask questions, and to always strive to learn something new. I believe my time at Georgia Southern perfectly prepared me for these opportunities.” Minshew said.

Alumni Updates

Jessica Cain (UHP, Biology, 2012) is working on a Masters Degree in Environmental Science at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

Cassie Dierolf (UHP, International Studies, 2012) has been accepted (with funding) to University of Southern California’s East Asian Area Studies graduate program.

Cate Faulkner (UHP, International Studies and Spanish, 2012) will begin her studies in Social Services Administration at the University of Chicago in the fall. After her graduation she has been working at the Community Clinic in Springdale, Arkansas, working with clients, developing programming, and writing grants.

Jennifer Williams (UHP, Anthropology, 2010) is teaching English in Budapest, Hungary.

Bob Frigo (UHP, former Assistant Director) has been named Associate Director of the Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement at Elon University.
In October of 2012 over 125 guests gathered to celebrate the 30th anniversary of honors education at Georgia Southern University. Alumni of both the Bell Honors Program and the University Honors Program convened on campus to join current students and staff in commemorating a strong tradition of excellence.

Saturday evening events included a formal dinner with remarks from Dr. Hew Joiner, Founding Director of the Bell Honors Program, and Dr. Fred Richter, Founding Director of the University Honors Program. The meal provided an opportunity for alumni to reconnect with peers and for current students to meet the professors and alumni who set the cornerstone for the Program’s continued accomplishments. Dr. Michael Braz provided entertainment for all attending with an engaging piano performance.

Dinner was followed by more socializing during the “Honors After Hours” event at the Statesboro Holiday Inn with entertainment by Ryan and Patti Kelly.

Sunday’s events included breakfast as well as a rededication ceremony for the Bell Memorial Oak. While the ceremony looked back on the past thirty years, it also looked forward to the bright future of the University Honors Program.

The entire University Honors Program staff looks forward to welcoming you to campus soon.
The Bell Memorial Oak was dedicated in the memory of Orell Bernard “Red” Bell in February 1997. At the time, the tree was the largest and believed to be the oldest on the campus of Georgia Southern University. Mr. Bell was the long-time friend and benefactor of the O.B. “Red” Bell and Sue Floyd Bell Honors Program (1982-2007), a national model in honors education and the academic home for many honors students over its 25 years of existence. Mr. Bell was president of First Bulloch Bank during the 1970s and served as president of the Statesboro Rotary Club and the Statesboro-Bulloch Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife Suzy were enthusiastic supporters of the Bell Honors Program. The original Bell Oak was felled by wind on January 24, 2010. This newly planted Savannah Holly is dedicated in recognition of “Red” Bell’s lasting contribution to Georgia Southern University. Furthermore, the tree and this monument will remind all current and future honors students of the contributions and accomplishments of the faculty and students of the Bell Honors Program. The Savannah Holly as a species to replace the former oak was recommended by Dr. Hew Joiner and his wife Martha, noted native plant enthusiasts and protectors. This Holly diversifies the flora on campus representing the diverse preparation provided to Bell Honors students. As a native plant, particularly with the name “Savannah Holly,” it represents the deep local roots of honors education at Georgia Southern. And, every fall and winter as the red berries emerge, we will be reminded of “Red” Bell’s contributions. Its location close to Eidson House, home of the University Honors Program will insure that we keep this memory close to those who value it most.

Rededication of the Bell Memorial Tree

Invest in Honors

You can invest in the outstanding students of the University Honors Program by visiting our website and clicking “Invest in Honors.”

Sarah Simpson
Honors Study Abroad Scholarship

Exercise Science junior Sarah Simpson went to Italy last summer funded on an honors study abroad scholarship. This summer, she will return to Italy to conduct research for her Honors Thesis examining cultural approaches to exercise and nutrition. Continued investments in honors study abroad scholarships will enable more students to engage the global dimensions of pressing issues as they develop their own scholarly projects.

Jack St. Jean
Honors Undergraduate Research Fund Award

Biology senior Jack St. Jean is preparing himself for medical school by conducting research for his Honors Thesis in the lab of Dr. Quentin Fang in an effort to work toward new approaches for controlling tick-borne diseases. The Honors Undergraduate Research Fund has enabled him to present his research on a national stage at several professional conferences. Investments in this fund are critical to offer more students these experiences.

Caroline Greene
1906 Scholarship

Child and Family Development senior Caroline Greene was recruited to Georgia Southern with a 1906 Scholarship. She has attended the Honors Alternative Break program at Camp Twin Lakes working with adults with cognitive disabilities. Next year, she will write her Honors Thesis on perceptions of disabilities based on her work at this camp. Your investment helps us continue to offer talented students the opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others.
Apply to Honors at Georgia Southern