Honors @ Georgia Southern

University Honors Program Students and Staff

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dr. Steven Engel
Director, University Honors Program

I am very excited that we are able to share the stories of Cassie and Kate Beasley in this issue. As I complete my eleventh year as Honors Program Director, I reflect with pride upon the many outstanding students we have been able to support and challenge in their studies. Cassie was among the very first students I recruited and offered a 1906 Scholarship and Kate followed in the next year. I was lucky enough to teach both of them in honors seminars. I was struck at first at how similar they were in class—both were generally reserved but when they spoke it was incredibly insightful. Still, despite their similarities, they have very different personalities. Kate has a dry sense of humor that will make you chuckle whereas Cassie tells stories that can not help but lead you to join her in a full-throated laugh. I am thrilled (but not surprised) to see the success they are having in their young careers.

This year, enrollment in the University Honors Program reached over 500 students. While bigger does not equal better, I am delighted that we are able to offer more students these intellectually challenging opportunities. This year’s issue of Honors @ Georgia Southern includes a sampling of the many success stories of our honors students and our honors alumni. Please feel free to let me know if you wish to share your story in next year’s issue or in one of our monthly newsletters.

Sincerely yours,

Steve 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 opinions. The culmination of the undergraduate experience is an independent research or creative project designed to exemplify a critical approach to inquiry.

Civic Responsibility
Honors students will demonstrate an ethic of civic responsibility and exemplify the motto of the program, “Humility 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.

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.

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.

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To learn more about the University Honors Program, visit our website: GEORGIASOUTHERN.EDU/HONORS

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On the cover: Honors alumnae Cassie (right) and Kate (left) Beasley with the books they have or will have published since graduation.
SISTERS, HONORS ALUMNAE PUBLISH FIRST BOOKS

MANY ESTEEMED WRITERS BEGIN their careers in the college classroom. F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote his first novel, *This Side of Paradise*, in lieu of studying for his classes at Princeton University. David Foster Wallace’s senior thesis culminated in his first published work, *The Broom of the System*. Donna Tartt spent her college years writing *The Secret History*, which launched her into literary stardom only a few years after graduation. Following in this tradition are Honors Program alumnae Kate and Cassie Beasley, who discovered their passions for novel-writing during their undergraduate years at Georgia Southern. As 1906 Scholars in the University Honors Program, they took a nontraditional approach to their Honors theses by embarking on writing their first novels.

“I grew a lot as a writer because of the Honors Program,” said Cassie, “The capstone requirement took me out of my comfort zone, which was writing short stories and poetry. It gave me the push I needed to tackle one of my first novel-length projects. I worked with my advanced fiction professor, Laura Valeri, on a Young Adult (YA) novel, and just having that structure in place that forced me to commit to a longer, more difficult piece was very helpful.”

Kate worked on a middle grade novel under the guidance of Professor Sonya Huber. “It was the first time I’d ever worked on a novel-length project,” she said, “and that experience helped me realize that this was the kind of writing I wanted to do.”

Six years later, the Beasley sisters have not stopped writing. Although their honors theses did not culminate in their first published books, they gave Cassie and Kate the space to explore their talents and prepare themselves for their future careers as full-time novelists.

Cassie, in fact, recently made the New York Times Bestsellers List. From December 20th, 2015 to January 3rd, her first novel, a middle grade fantasy book titled *Circus Mirandus*, held the tenth spot on the middle grade bestselling list, and it took the ninth spot the following week. *Circus Mirandus* has collected other accolades, as well: it was a *New York Times Book Review* Notable Children’s Book of 2015 and one of Amazon’s Best Children’s Books of the Year.
Kate and Cassie come from Claxton, Georgia, a rural community perhaps best-known for their world-famous fruitcakes, and while small towns havea certain charm, family encouragement no doubt played a vital role in the cultivation of the Beasley sisters’ talents.

“Our parents were big readers,” Kate said. “They read a lot of sci-fi and fantasy, and so we always had these big bookshelves in our home. We’re both huge Michael Ende fans and 1960s Scholastic in writing and linguistics. But in spite of a childhood surrounded by books, neither Beasley sister entered college prepared to make creative writing yet of the year. “I didn’t declare a major until they made me,” Cassie admitted, “but I took an intro to creative writing class because I loved to read and knew I liked to write, but I didn’t know it was something I wanted to major in.”

Kate also fell in love with the writing classes, especially the workshops. In this unique type of class, a writer turns in his or her work to be read by all the members of the class, and any comments, advice, or criticisms are written on the page. The writer’s merits and faults is held in the writer’s presence, who must remain silent. Very few undergraduate programs provide students with workshop experience, let alone have a freelancing writing department. “Georgia Southern’s program really prepares you well for grad school and publishing, mainly because of the workshops,” Kate said. “I love being in a place where everyone has an opinion and you’re free to voice it.”

Topics covered in Georgia Southern’s comprehensive writing program spans from literary fiction to writing the unfinished. Among this eclectic array of classes, Kate and Cassie found themselves gravitating toward the children’s literature courses, especially Kate’s Intro to Children’s Literature and Cassie’s Reading and Reviewing Middle and Young Adult Literature. “I really started writing for children in grad school programs that emphasized this, and VCFA (Vermont College of Fine Arts) had one of the best programs in the country, and that’s why I chose it,” Cassie said.

Cassie was more ambivalent. While much of her writing was geared toward younger readers, she still found herself writing for adults. “I wasn’t one-hundred percent sure I wanted to write for middle grades and publishing, mainly because of the workshops,” Kate said. “I love being in a place where everyone has an opinion and you’re free to voice it.”

With their record of success, we doubt we’ll need to...

“I grew a lot as a writer because of the Honors Program.”

Cassie Beasley

Both debut novels follow headstrong fifth graders with lofty aspirations. Micah Tulloch escapes from his mean Aunt Gertrudis and fantasies of being a jockey to the fantastical Circus Mirandus, where he hopes to find a mysterious illusionist called The Lightbender who owes Micah’s dying Grandpa Ephraim amiracle. In order to show her absent brother just what she’s missing, Gertie Beece Foy sets out to claim the title of Beat Fifth Grader in the Universe, a mission that involves unseating current best fifth grader Mary Sue Spiney first.

“\"I Grew A Lot As A Writer Because Of The Honors Program.\"”

Cassie Beasley

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Jenny Shaffer
Germany
Research in Engineering
Thing into the Real Classroom and Out of the Z

Zack Davidson
Germany one does not usually visit while material science and let her see parts of Project also bolstered Shaffer’s interest in Walter’s thesis highly successful, but this treatment and tested it on our steels.”

see which one worked best. Then I took that different types of heat treatments, and then industry was using, run them through several said Shaffer. “My job was to take metals the wear resistance at higher temperatures,” Shaffer’s second summer in Germany found Shaffer’s second summer in Germany found her outside the traditional college experience, conducting cutting-edge research in her field alongside professionals instead of sitting in a classroom. As one of 312 recipients of the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) Research Internship in Science and Engineering, Shaffer (German/mechanical engineering) spent three months at Coca-Cola’s Technology Plaza in Atlanta as a data analytics platform developer/administrator, where he worked primarily with a program called Splunk. His job was to develop and deploy an enhanced monitoring and reporting solution for the IT operations activity of job scheduling, such as running the payroll system. Davidson’s task not only required him to build search scripts and dashboards for monitoring and reporting solutions activity of job scheduling, but also to update an outdated system, but he also had to learn how to use Splunk, a program with which he had little experience.

“This was a golden opportunity. I learned a lot about Splunk, and in that time, I went from knowing nothing about Splunk to teaching other interns and employees how to use it. People were actually coming to my meetings just to hear me talk about it.” After learning how to navigate Splunk, Davidson was able to create and deploy an enterprise production ready application in only four weeks. Not only that, but he also gained valuable insight into working in the IT field. “I completed this internship because I wanted to learn as much as possible,” said Davidson. “I don’t want to just be a guy with a degree, I like to go to new environments and blow people away.” After graduation, he plans to do just that as he moves to Austin, Texas to work as a Software Developer for General Motors.

The typical study abroad program usually allows students to experience another culture through a classroom environment, but Jenny Shaffer’s second summer in Germany found her outside the traditional college experience, conducting cutting-edge research in her field alongside professionals instead of sitting in a classroom. As one of 312 recipients of the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) Research Internship in Science and Engineering, Shaffer (German/mechanical engineering) spent three months at Ruhr-Universität in Bochum, one of Germany’s industrial hubs. Her internship focused on material science, a subfield of mechanical engineering built on researching new materials and improving materials already in use. She assisted a doctoral candidate, Maximilian Walter, with his thesis research on the development of new high speed steels to compete to the industry standard. Not only was their preliminary work on Walter’s thesis highly successful, but this project also bolstered Shaffer’s interest in material science and let her see parts of Germany one does not usually visit while studying abroad. Last summer, she joined several Georgia Southern students in Regensburg for a cultural immersion study abroad trip. “Regensburg was much more rural than Bochum, but the cultural immersion aspect of last summer’s trip gave me the language skills to connect with my coworkers,” said Shaffer. Bochum was not the only new landmark on Shaffer’s itinerary. During one weekend, she gathered with her fellow DAAD interns in Heidelberg, a city of florishing culture and historical charm, where hundreds of students from varying fields exchanged and presented their research. “I love getting to hear the other interns talk about their research,” said Shaffer. “It was cool to see students so passionate about what they were studying.”

This summer she will return to Germany a third time for another exciting research opportunity. Shaffer received another internship through the DAAD RISE Professional Program, this time with Bosch, a multinational engineering and electronics company, in Stuttgart, Germany. Her position will require her to investigate the effects of environmental load and design geometry on localized corrosion behavior of aluminum and aluminum-alloy automotive parts. Shaffer said, “I’m really excited to get to work with such a well-known company in the automotive field.”
Theis explained. “We wanted to know if other hydrides, and I became interested in it as well,” Theis said. “My mentor, Dr. Fortenberry, was very interested in the recent discovery of argon hydride, and I became interested in it as well.” Theis explained. “We wanted to know if other bonds like this were possible.”

Because these chemical bonds can only occur in space, Theis’ research is grounded in theory. She tested four different reactions that could produce molecules similar to the one found in space. Her research gives optimism to the search for other noble gas molecules.

“The molecule had the highest bond strength of all the ones we tested, meaning it has a high potential of being found in space.” In addition to presenting at SARC in January, Theis also presented at the National American Chemistry Society meeting in Boston last August. Theis learned a lot at both conferences, which drew professors, scientists, and students from all over the world, and found them to be excellent opportunities for meeting professionals in her field and individuals who shared her passion for astrochemistry.

“It is truly gratifying to know that people took interest in my research and appreciated all my hard work,” she said. “These conferences are a great place for networking and just getting to talk about things you enjoy. It was great to be able to see all the research that’s out there.”

Her preliminary results suggest that vaccine percentages above ninety per cent could produce molecules similar to the ones found in space. Theis’ research is grounded in theory. Her preliminary results suggest that vaccine percentages above ninety per cent could produce molecules similar to the ones found in space. Theis’ research is grounded in theory.

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CONOR RENTZ’S FILM CAREER TAKES FLIGHT

Connor Rentz (film & production ‘19) is a film student who finds working on his short films to be his commitment to and passion for filmmaking. His latest short film, Spectrum, was his first nationally distributed film. This fall, Welty will move to Nashville, Tennessee, where she will begin graduate research at Vanderbilt University’s PhD program in Biostatistics.

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Re. . . search
Buffering. . . has tasked himself with trying to figure out cannot sustain that level of activity, so Daly of the Internet’s traffic. Currently, networks predict that multimedia, particularly high-definition video, will account for nearly all we’re trying to move forward with.”

“Predicting H.265 Video Traffic Using Neural Collin Daly’s (electrical engineering ’16) honors thesis deals with a problem we have all encountered—video buffering on the Internet. Many Netflix binges have been interrupted due to that pesky rotating circle, signifying a discrepancy between the bandwidth needed to play the video and the bandwidth that is actually available, but Daly’s research strives to find a solution. His thesis, entitled “Predicting H.265 Video Traffic Using Neural Networks,” focuses on using artificial neural networks to replicate how the brain works. In other words, we’re using many slower, more accurate calculations at the same time rather than a series of faster, less efficient, and more error-prone calculations so we can figure out how much bandwidth is required to play high-definition videos without waiting for them to buffer.”

This experiment involved comparing two different styles of network, a recurrent system using error correction and one that did not. Of the two, the former proved to be a much better system and will be used as a basis for further research. In the meantime, Daly took his findings to both the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council conference at Augusta University and the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) conference at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. At both meetings, Daly had the distinction of being the only undergraduate representing Georgia Southern.

“Attending both conferences gave me a lot of perspective,” said Daly. “The engineering conference was obviously much more tailored to my project, so there was much more general interest and many technical questions. It was interesting to see the other side of the general honors conference, though, because you get feedback from students coming from different disciplines, bringing fresh perspectives to your project.”

Daly’s hard work won him second place in the undergraduate research division of the ASEE conference, an award well-deserved. “Conferences like these are really encouraging,” he said. “They give you the opportunity to realize that there is an outlet for research, and that we can contribute to conversations in our fields in meaningful ways.”

Marketing and logistics and intermodal transportation double major Taylor Yancey (’17) was recently awarded the National Retail Foundation’s (NRF) Rising Star Scholarship, winning an all-expense paid trip to New York City, where she attended the NRF’s Gala, an exclusive party kicking off the BIG Show event for its corporate members.

“It was pretty intimidating being in a room full of important people; everyone in that room was a CEO. I even got to meet famous designer Tory Burch!”

Yancey first heard about the scholarship from Dr. Trey Denton, Honors Coordinator for the College of Business, who recommended her for the award. Dr. Denton directed her to Dr. Kathleen Gruben, who helped her complete her application, which consisted of an essay about how Yancey saw herself going into retail in the future. The plans she outlined in that essay have quickly become a reality.

Yancey attended a career fair while on her trip to New York and had the opportunity to speak with Ryan Foster, the Senior Director of Disenchantment at Walmart. He spoke in front of a large group of students, but Yancey knew she was only one of two students in attendance who had a focus on logistics and made a point to introduce herself directly. That initiative opened up a new opportunity for her.

“He was very excited and we talked for a minute before he said that he knew he needed to interview me. We set up a time, went through the interview, and he hired me after one interview,” said Yancey. “I traveled to Bentonville, Ark. this Spring Break to tour their facility and finish up some paperwork. I will be starting June of 2017. I’m very excited for this opportunity.”

Yancey feels extremely grateful to already have a job lined up after graduation. “I’m nervous but excited,” she said of this opportunity. “I can’t wait to see what this new adventure will bring!”

Matthew Anderson
AWARD-WINNING HEAD-SCRATCHING RESEARCH

By joining this ongoing project, Anderson has the opportunity to work with both biology and matters concerning public health. Their research focuses on understanding the role endosymbionts have in lice. This can help identify new treatments for lice, which are becoming increasingly difficult to eradicate, primarily through detecting an endosymbiont called Wolbachia. Endosymbionts are bacteria that live inside other cells and provide benefits to their hosts, such as synthesizing nutrients to provide the cell with nourishment, so creating an antibiotic to kill them could help treat difficult cases of lice.

“Already-existing studies suggest Wolbachia should be present in lice,” said Anderson. “Our goal is to identify it and understand the metabolic role it provides to lice. Just knowing it’s there can provide useful insight into the treatment and evolution of lice in general.”

Anderson’s role in this project began this January, and he is excited to see where it goes in the future. He said, “It’s an honor to get to work with Dr. Eremeeva. She’s got so much knowledge on microbiology—it’s amazing really. She has been very supportive, and I am lucky to have this opportunity. I can’t wait for people to see our work at the symposium next spring.”

Taylor Yancey
WINNING AN AWARD, EARNING A JOB

Head lice—the mere mention of these pesky creatures is often enough to make anyone cringe or scratch a phantom itch on their scalp, but for Matthew Anderson (’17 mathematics), lice have given him an itch for research.

Working alongside Dr. Marina Ereemeva, Anderson has investigated new approaches to the treatment of human head louse infestations, and his hard work was recently awarded with the 2016 ASM Undergraduate Research Fellowship (URF) Program Award by the Education Board of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM).

This award provides a stipend for guided research during the summer and pays his travel expenses to attend the 2017 ASM Research Capstone Institute. Additionally, he will present his research at the ASM Microbe Meeting in New Orleans.

Anderson was introduced to this project this summer after taking a course taught by Dr. Kathleen Gruben.

“During a research seminar we were discussing different ways to identify Wolbachia to determine if they were present in lice. I really wanted to get involved and started to see if there were any projects out there,” Anderson said. “I approached Dr. Gruben and she introduced me to Dr. Marina Eremeeva. She's got so much knowledge on microbiology—it's amazing really. She has been very supportive, and I am lucky to have this opportunity. I can't wait for people to see our work at the symposium next spring.”

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HONORS STUDENTS FIND SUCCESS IN MOCK MEDIATION COMPETITIONS

Georgia Southern’s Mock Mediation Club is one of the largest and most successful mediation teams in the United States. Thanks to the efforts of its thirty-five members, it has brought home endless accolades from both regional and national tournaments. Only two years ago, however, it was not even recognized for the student body. We’ve also been working with service-learning by teaching at-risk youth mediation skills.”

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During a presentation at World Congress, we had to admit that we weren’t going to be able to go to nationals, due to funding,” said John, “but then one of the judges offered us a generous donation and said, “If you give this, will you go?”

This pivotal moment in Mock Mediation Club’s growth allowed the club to win in 2014 nationals during its first year of existence, as well as to receive support from the university. Since then, the club has expanded from John and his two friends to include thirty-five people, including honors students Jessica Shanken (international studies ’16), Giselle Devol (communication studies ’16), and Brandi Hawkins (pre-nursing ’18). Each of these students fill a leadership role in the club and have contributed to its success in many areas, from competition to service-learning.

“Mock mediation isn’t just about competing,” said Shanken, president of Mock Mediation Club. “We’re trying to work with other student organizations to do something for the student body. We’ve also been working with service-learning by teaching at-risk youth mediation skills.”

Devol, the Vice President of Public Relations and Community Engagement, elaborated on the club’s community involvement: “Next semester we’re planning to become more involved with campus by collaborating with other organizations and finding opportunities to spread conflict resolution skills to fellow students.”

In addition to their community involvement, the Mock Mediation Club has found immense success at various tournaments. At last year’s Regional Mediation Tournament, hosted by Brenau University from October 8-9, the club received several awards, including four of the top twenty advocates, two of the top ten individual mediators, one of the top six teams in the advocate/client team category, and one of the top six teams in the mediation team category. These awards qualified the team for the undergraduate international competition in Des Moines, Iowa, which took place in early November.

Shanken said, “Getting ready for competition this year was hectic, yet so rewarding. It was so cool to see everyone so excited, lights in their eyes, as we prepared for competition in Iowa.”

But even for a team that consistently excels, winning is not everything. One of the club’s primary focuses is helping its members develop leadership and communication skills. Hawkins, the club’s secretary, spoke about how joining Mock Mediation Club helped her.

“devolving her step out of her comfort zone. When I first started college, I was really shy, but I wanted to keep up the level of involvement I had in high school. After observing a competition, I thought, “If they can do this, I can, too,” and from there, I jumped into it. Now I’m not afraid to speak at rotunda tables or at meetings. Mediation has expanded my leadership abilities—I’ve come such a long way.”

Perhaps the Mock Mediation Club’s achievements can be credited to their focus on the personal growth and development of each of their members, as well as their dedication to further understanding mediation techniques.

“We don’t go to competition to win, but to learn,” said Shanken, “and that’s why we win.”

With hundreds of literary magazines in circulation and thousands of writers peddling their prose and poetry, sometimes writing can feel like shouting into an echo chamber. Short stories languish in obscure magazines; journals go under a month after their creation. While breaking into the literary scene can be a daunting expedition, four writing and linguistics majors, three of them honors students, joined forces to found a publication with potential staying power.

Over Christmas break, Ben Baker, Devan Pride, Kristen Flippo, and Aleyna Rentz created Moonglasses Magazine, a bimonthly online journal devoted to humorous, experimental writing.

“We all started with Ben,” Flippo said. “He’s one of the fewest-talented writers in our department, but all his fiction is so weird that it doesn’t quite fit the traditional aesthetic of most literary journals, so we thought, why not fill that space by creating our own journal?”

After coming up with a clear focus for the magazine, the students were eager to begin working on it right away.

Pride (’17) said, “When we first threw around the idea of starting a publication, I was really excited for the chance to contribute to something that will last, something that will give us a chance to break into the publishing world. It’s a learning experience for all of us.”

Getting Moonglasses off the ground involved meticulous planning: its founders had to decide on its aesthetic, submission guidelines, and publication dates, among other details. Writing and linguistics professor Jared Yates Sexton provided guidance and feedback during the process of creating the magazine.

“Moonglasses magazine has been such a fun, rewarding experience,” Sexton said.

Working on this magazine with my friends has been such a learning experience, for us as well as for the writers we publish,” said Pride.

“I just want Moonglasses to bring as much joy to our readers as it brings to us.”

To learn more about Moonglasses Magazine, visit www.moonglassesmag.com/submission-guidelines for information on submitting work to Moonglasses.
Sarah Roessler (chemistry ’16) is on the leading edge of the search for blood substitutes administered in treating traumatic injuries. Her research on click reactions in certain polymers used in these substitutes is the focus of her thesis and a recent presentation at the American Chemical Society (ACS) in San Diego. Roessler’s poster presentation in the Chemical Education Division (CHED) provided an overview of her research project, titled “Incorporation of TEMPO and PEG functionalities into ROMP polymers via click reaction.”

This research focused on the development of ROMP (Ring Opening Metathesis Polymerization) polymers containing the functional groups 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperdin-1-oxyl (TEMPO) and polyethylene glycol (PEG). Both of these functional groups are known to have a detoxifying effect on cell-free hemoglobin and effect vasodilation in the bloodstream.

“This was interesting to me because, when bonded to cell-free hemoglobin, the polymers may be useful for the treatment of severe traumatic brain injuries as they convert the reactive oxygen species (ROS), in particular the superoxide anion, released by the cell-free hemoglobin into less harmful species,” said Roessler. “Such modified hemoglobin solutions could be used as a blood substitute with a better shelf life than donor blood, also while possessing a high compatibility with any recipient.”

Her mentor, Dr. Hans-Joerg Schanz, commended Roessler’s initiative on the project. “Sarah was an extremely interested and motivated research student who personally invested a lot of time and energy into the understanding of the click reaction with the ROMP monomers,” he said. “Not only did she optimize the reaction conditions for the click, but she also managed to synthesize the ROMP monomers, “he said. “Not only did she optimize the reaction and energy into the understanding of the click reaction with the ROMP monomers,” he said. “Not only did she optimize the reaction conditions for the click, but she also managed to synthesize the first polymers in this project. She was taking us a real step forward in accomplishing our goal of synthesizing a new generation of hemoglobin-based oxygen carriers.”

Presenting at the conference gave Roessler the opportunity to meet many like-minded scholars in her field, including other students interested in the polymer aspect and the click reaction of her project.

“I encountered someone who was also working with click reactions, but to create dual-action antibiotics, which shows how important researching this type of method is for the future of healthcare,” said Roessler. “I also met a representative from the University of Kansas who was interested in my research and approached me about graduate school.”

In addition to networking opportunities, ACS provided Roessler with the chance to interact with vendors and companies looking to hire new graduates. One of her favorite parts of the conference involved exhibitors showcasing new technological developments related to scientific equipment.

“I was most fascinated by the laboratory robotics being developed to perform many advanced functions related to experimentation and research,” Roessler said.

Perhaps one of the best perks of presenting research in San Diego was getting to experience the city itself. In her free time, Roessler visited such iconic spots as Coronado Beach and the San Diego Zoo, adding a touch of biology to an otherwise chemistry-centric trip.

“Diego was getting to experience the city itself. In her free time, Roessler visited such iconic spots as Coronado Beach and the San Diego Zoo, adding a touch of biology to an otherwise chemistry-centric trip.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to attend my first ACS National meeting and visit the beautiful city of San Diego,” said Roessler. “This experience allowed me to appreciate the ability to network with peers and experts in chemistry and related disciplines as well as further broaden my appreciation for scientific research.”

HONORS OUTDOORS

In summer 2015, honors students found the outdoors to be their classroom. Eleven students trekked to Red River Gorge, Kentucky, for the latest addition to the University Honors Program’s line-up of alternative break trips. Developed by Julie Swatek (’16) and Justin Yun (’16), two honors outdoor recreation majors, the five-day trip featured day-hikes, volunteer work, and kayaking. Both students worked with Dr. John Peden, who also went on the trip.

Students volunteered at Daniel Boone National Forest doing cleanup and maintenance. The National Park Service strives to promote the management of natural resources, so Yun felt this was a good match for the University Honors Program. “The honors program focuses on civic responsibility and we wanted to reproduce that in the wilderness, too,” Yun said. On the way back from Kentucky, the group stopped in Boone, North Carolina, and took inflatable kayaks down Wilson Creek.

This May, Dr. Peden and two returning students from last year’s trip—Leah Anderson (recreation ’18) and Garrett Metropol (mechanical engineering ’18)—will lead a group on a weeklong trip to Cumberland Island.

The Honors Inquiry in Ireland program continues to result in outstanding opportunities for students. In 2015, ten honors students traveled to Southeastern Ireland to investigate the push and pull factors that contributed to migration from County Wexford, Ireland to Savannah, Georgia. As part of the ongoing transatlantic research project entitled the Wexford-Savannah Axis, and led by Dr. Steven Engel and Dr. Howard Keeley, honors students spent two weeks looking for answers to such questions as why Wexfordians immigrated to Savannah and what they left behind.

Partnered with the Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT), honors students analyzed primary sources at locations such as the Wexford County Archives, the newly-created Graves Archive at WIT, and even the National Archives of Ireland and the National Library in Dublin. Some answers, however, could not be found on paper.

“This trip taught me that primary research isn’t just sitting in archives,” said Kayla Allen (civil engineering ’18). “Primary research involves getting out there and seeing the places you’re studying for yourself.”

In November, this project was awarded a $35,000 grant from the Irish Government Department of Foreign Affairs to promote broader understanding of Wexford heritage among Savannah’s Irish-American community. Past participants in the research, Alyena Banta, Olivia Perdue, Brittany Sealey, and Scott Oswald, delivered poster presentations of their findings to a group of about 100 at the Savannah Golf Club at an event to formally announce the grant.

Oswald said, “Presenting in Savannah was such a positive experience. It’s great to see so much community interest in our research.”

A group of 14 students, including four past participants, will continue the research project in May and June 2016.

HONORS IN IRELAND

This semester, we welcomed new administrative assistant Sue Guadagno to the Honors staff. She joined us from the Department of Foreign Languages, where she was the administrative assistant for three years. A Georgia Southern employee since 2006, Guadagno is excited about working with both Honors students and staff.

“While researching the position, one of the things that really stood out to me was the longevity of the previous administrative assistant,” said Guadagno. “If somebody stays in one department for that long, then you know that department must have something good going on.”

She also was impressed by the Honors Program’s mission to facilitate the education of students holistically in such areas as academics, leadership, and service-learning.

“I was really impressed by what I saw when reading about the Honors Program’s goals and accomplishments,” said Guadagno. “As a parent, I think it’s a great program for making sure students are well-rounded and engaged in exciting learning opportunities. I’m glad I get to be involved in it.

Next time you come by the Eubion House, be sure to give our new administrative assistant a warm welcome!
PROJECT PURA VIDA!

The Program returned to Costa Rica this past March for the second year of Project Pura Vida! Six students joined Dra. Leticia McGrath in volunteering at the Costa Rican Humanitarian Foundation (CRHF) in La Carpio. Students met with CRHF founder Gail Nystrom and learned about the work that organization does in assisting the Nicaraguan refugee community.

Bailey Kirk, who went on the trip last year and this year returned in a leadership role said, “I don’t know what was the most amazing part of the Pura Vida trip, meeting new people, being in the gorgeous environment, or interacting with the people of La Carpio.”

Students worked on various physical improvements in the community, including painting a house for one of the older residents. “This year, we were given the opportunity to help with the elderly of La Carpio,” Kirk said. “We heard their personal stories of arriving to Costa Rica from Nicaragua and how their lives have changed drastically. There is so much more to be done within La Caprio, but with the Costa Rican Humanitarian Foundation they are well on their way to becoming a great community.”

CAMP BLUE SKIES

The Honors Alternative Break Trip to work with Camp Blue Skies at Camp Twin Lakes had another successful spring break. Now in its sixth year, the longest running Honors trip took 20 students to work at camp as cabin counselors and activity leaders for adults with developmental disabilities.

Dr. Brent Wolfe, who leads the trip with Dr. Jerri Kropp, describes Camp Blue Skies as “a place where those typically ignored and marginalized by society are embraced and accepted. These amazing individuals become the therapists and counselors for all the volunteers and teach us the value of life and what it means to be human.”

Students participated with campers in all sorts of outdoor and recreational activities from arts and crafts to yoga and zip-line. This year, Sarah Holmes returned for her fourth year of work at the camp. Erica Teihaber and Madison Monk (also multiple-year participants), completed honors thesis projects that involved research focused on Camp Blue Skies at Camp Twin Lakes.
Rushing into Retirement

In the Eidson House kitchen, a sign tacked to the bulletin board reads “Please keep our kitchen clean! Remember, your mother doesn’t live here!” Under this admonition, an anonymous Honors student scribbled their rebuttal: “Mrs. Rushing is our mother! But she just works here.”

Even if she did not literally live at the Eidson House, administrative assistant Linda Rushing served as a maternal figure for students from both the Bell Honors Program and University Honors Program for the past fourteen years.

“When your family lives far away like mine, Linda’s like an extended family member,” said Alicia Carter (psychology/sociology ’15), one of the many students who frequently stopped by the Eidson House. “She makes you feel at home.”

For many students like Carter, Rushing’s retirement feels more like a family member moving away. After all, Rushing has been part of the university system for the past thirty-one years. She first began working on campus in 1984 as part of the USA Cooperative Extension Service, a job that found her in Extension Service, a job that found her in the Rosenwald Building helping coordinate conferences for agricultural specialists. In 1990, Rushing accepted her first position as a Georgia Southern employee at the newly-opened University Union, known to current students as the Russell Union. Her new job allowed her to experience the grand opening of Georgia Southern’s first student union.

“She never had anything like that building on campus before,” said Rushing. “I remember they invited celebrities and performers to the opening. It was so much fun to help with the grand opening.”

After seven years working for the director of the student union, Rushing moved into a secretary position under the Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Jack Nolan. This job inadvertently led her to the Honors Program.

“It was actually quite by accident,” Rushing said of her transition from Student Affairs to Honors.

When Dr. Nolan had to leave the University to tend to his wife’s health problems, his replacement came in with her own secretaries, leaving Rushing without a job. She applied for several open positions on campus, including two part-time secretary jobs, one for the Bell Honors Program and the other for the University Honors Program, which were separate at the time. While she was surprised to get both, Dr. Hans Joiner, the Bell Honors Program Director, knew he wanted to hire Rushing the moment he spotted her name in the pool of applicants.

“I knew from what Dr. Nolan told me that she’d be a gem for Bell Honors—she was good with students and really cared about her job,” said Dr. Joiner. “I jumped at the chance to hire her, and she’s been in that chair ever since.”

Until the integration of Bell Honors and University Honors, Rushing worked for Dr. Joiner in the morning and Dr. Martha Abell, the University Honors Program director, in the afternoon.

Dr. Abell said, “She was a really big help when Bell Honors merged with the University Honors Program. She made the transition a lot easier for students.”

Since 2005, she worked with Honors Director Dr. Steven Engel, the longest amount of time she has spent with any one supervisor. “Linda has truly been the constant for the Honors Program since the turn of the century,” said Dr. Engel. “When she started with the program we had less than 200 honors students. Now we have over 500. She truly cares about the students and that has made all the difference for so many of them over the years.” For Rushing, the students have made the past several years worthwhile.

“Linda has truly been the constant for the Honors Program since the turn of the century.”
DR. STEVEN ENGEL
Director, University Honors Program

In regard to Rushing’s relationships with everyone both in the Honors Program and across the University, it is easy to see why she initially had reservations about retiring.

“I never really planned to retire, but I think while I’m in good health I should get out and do things I don’t have time to do while I’m working,” said Rushing.

Her plans include visiting family and friends, volunteering at a local church camp this summer, and, perhaps most important, spending time with her two grandchildren, Cal and Lucy.

“Even though they’re little, we’ve already started talking about college,” said Rushing. “They said they’re coming here so they can live with me.”

While looking forward to spending retirement with her family, Rushing said she’ll miss the family she has within the Honors Program.

“The students I originally started working with are all grown up, and some are married and have children. Seeing what they accomplished after graduation is so awesome. They’re like my children,” said Rushing. “It’s a bittersweet goodbye when they leave, and I’m going to feel the same way when I leave.”

It was bittersweet goodbye for both the students and faculty in the Honors Program, as well, because for us, Linda was not just an administrative assistant; she’s family—even if she does not actually live at the Eidson House.
One of the Honors Program’s missions is to provide bright and motivated students with an interactive, academically-enriching community, and this year’s inaugural Honors Living Learning Community (LLC) took that experience to the next level.

**HONORS MOVES**

Last August, Honors freshmen settled into their new home away from home in Centennial Place Building 2. Their transition to dorm living was made easier by Honors volunteers, including Community Leaders and upperclassmen residents of the Honors LLC, who helped unload cars and transport students’ belongings to their new dorm rooms.

“The volunteers at move-in day were extremely helpful,” said Lilly Donnell (English & writing and linguistics ’19). “I appreciated having people there to help me get my stuff moved upstairs. It made me feel very welcome here.”

Following move-in day, members of the Honors LLC participated in a day of activities designed to get new students acquainted with one another and the Honors Program. The morning kicked off with Campus as Text, which required students to explore campus to formulate an understanding of how individual locations create one unified campus. Students shared their insightful findings with their peers and gained new perspectives on Georgia Southern University.

“It was a good time to interact with my peers in a fun way we might not be able to in class,” said Connor Rentz (film and production ’19). “It was a great way to get to know my classmates.”

**HONORS COMMON READ**

The day’s events also featured a discussion of the common read for Honors freshmen, The World Beyond Your Head: On Becoming an Individual in an Age of Distraction by Michael Crawford. The conversation was led by Dr. Steven Engel and Dr. Fred Richter, who discoursed with students on topics inspired by the book, ranging from distraction in the digital age to writer David Foster Wallace to what it means to be an honors student.

The book continued to be a focus in discussions in the Honors FYE classes and among the students in the community. The program is already looking forward to next year’s book.

**HONORS IN THE LLC**

The faculty who teach honors sections of the First-Year Experience course hosted various events in the Cafe and Community Rooms in the LLC. Dr. Chris Caplinger held a primaries debate viewing party for his course on Modern Political Debate, and Dr. Jerri Kropp and Dr. Trent Maurer met with their Animal-Assisted Therapy class to watch the film Dogs on the Inside about the use of therapy dogs in prisons.

The faculty who lead the Honors Program’s study abroad and alternative break trips held information sessions in Centennial Place, giving the students an opportunity to learn more about these trips and how to apply to participate. Dr. Leticia McGrath talked about Project Pura Vida! Honors in Costa Rica with the help of students who participated in last year’s trip. Dr. Jerri Kropp and Dr. Brent Wolfe recruited participants for Camp Blue Skies at Camp Twin Lakes. And Dr. Steven Engel and Dr. Howard Kaeley presented on the Honors Inquiry in Ireland study abroad trip.

**HONORS COOKS**

One of the more popular events during the year was Cooking with the Profs. Not quite a cooking show, but not exactly the classroom either, these events brought students and faculty together around food and fun. Faculty could share favorite meals and maybe a little history of the dish, and students helped out with the process and told their own culinary stories. Dr. Francis Desiderio kicked off the series with his recipe for marinara sauce. Dr. Howard Kaeley showed the students how to make pizza. Fried shrimp was on the menu when Dr. Brad Edwards visited. And Dr. Nathan Palmer created a bean dip.

“It was a good time to interact with my peers in a fun way we might not be able to in class.”

Connor Rentz
Film and Production ’19
GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

ALUMNUS NEWS

THOMAS EISENHART

Life has been busy for 2010 Honors alumnus Thomas Eisenhart since his graduation six years ago. After spending his first post-graduate year in Northern Ireland to study at Queen’s University, Belfast with a Rotary Foundation Ambassador Scholarship, Eisenhart returned to America to complete his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Despite the demands of graduate school, Eisenhart found time to pay his alma mater a visit on October 16, when he presented his research to the chemistry department. His talk, “Spectroscopic Monitoring of Proton-Coupled Electron Transfer Reactions,” documented his work over the past four years to develop new methods to better monitor a class of reactions, proton-coupled electron transfer, which play an important role in developing new energy technologies.

“Through my research, I’ve been able to deeply explore the chemistry associated with many of the energy challenges facing society today,” said Eisenhart, “and I’m glad I got to share this research with both students and members of the department.”

As a former 1906 scholar, Eisenhart was in these students’ position only a few years ago. He cites his time as an honors student as a period during which his intellectual curiosity was enhanced and his critical thinking skills sharpened.

“These two qualities,” Eisenhart said, “along with the drive needed to push through the ups and downs of graduate school, were key in helping me successfully work towards a Ph.D.”

His spirit of intellectual inquiry has led him to pursue opportunities outside the field of chemistry. Following graduation, Eisenhart will begin working in the management consulting industry, in which he will be able to break new ground in his professional life.

“I really enjoy problem solving, and this job will give me the opportunity to help solve some of the most complex and important issues facing large, global corporations,” said Eisenhart. “Also, while a Ph.D. in chemistry takes around five years, the typical client engagement is only a few months, so the opportunity to experience numerous industries and business models is also an exciting proposition.”

ADAM HILLS (BHP, English, 1988) received a Masters of Science in Management from Georgia Tech in 2000, and has worked in various areas of information security. He is now an industry analyst for Gartner, and helps clients optimize their security postures. He and his wife Courtney have two children, Walker (14) and Sadie (10).

ASHLEY ANDERSON (BHP, Art, Minor in Philosophy, 2020) currently lives and works in Atlanta, showing art frequently. He recently sold three of his pieces to the High Museum of Art for their exhibition “Sprint” which ran from July to October of 2015.

NATHAN DUNN (UHP, Math, 2011) currently works as an assistant actuary for USHealth Administrators in Texas.

MANDY (WOHMACK) NASWORTHY (UHP, Biology, 2011) attends the Medical College of Georgia where she is currently a senior medical student. She was married in July of 2015 to a fellow Georgia Southern University graduate.

JACOB TAYLOR (UHP, History, Geology, 2011) has been working in the field of outdoor education since his graduation. His work has included environmental programs, adventure programs, and at-risk programs. He has been running trips that involve hiking, canoeing, sea kayaking, sailing, caving, rock climbing, and abseiling from Australia, along the US East Coast, and now in the country parks of Hong Kong. He is also a Leave No Trace Master Educator, Life-Guard and CPR Instructor. Coastal Sea Kayak Coach, and a nationally recognized Assessor in Australia.

JENNYE WARD (UHP, Chemistry, 2011) moved to Atlanta, Georgia after her graduation, where she worked as an Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education Fellow in the Tobacco and Volatiles Branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for four years. While living in Atlanta, she attended the Georgia Institute of Technology and earned a Master of Science in Chemistry degree in December of 2014. She then moved to Albany, GA and joined the United States Department of Agriculture’s Science & Technology Program as a temporary hire in May 2015. She was then selected for a full-time Chemist position in July of 2015. She works at the National Science Laboratory (NSL) in Blakely, GA and in the new NSL-Blakely satellite laboratory in Dawson, GA. She currently lives in Albany, GA where she enjoys spending time with her fiancé, Jake Wallace, another University Honors Program alumnus, family, and friends.

NICOLE INNAMORATO (UHP, Biology, 2012) began working as a research technician in a neuroblastoma laboratory at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia soon after her graduation from Georgia Southern University. This two-year experience sparked her interest in cancer biology and reaffirmed her desire to pursue a PhD. She is now a first year graduate student at the Rockefeller University in New York City and she plans to join a thesis laboratory where she can study cancer or stem cell biology. She is also engaged to Ryan Plott, a Georgia Southern University Men’s Soccer Team alumnus now working in investment banking.

ALLYSON LUMPKIN (UHP, Multimedia Communications, 2012) currently works for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama as a Law Clerk.

CESAR PEREZ

Cesar Perez, a recent graduate in multimedia communications, got his start in the film industry by unusual means: he missed a casting call. “Magic Mike XXL was filming in Savannah, so I sent in my resume and got called in, but I wasn’t able to go because I had exams,” said Perez. Although Perez could not work on this particular film, the casting director, one of the biggest in the Southeast, asked Perez to keep in touch. This relationship ultimately led to stand-in roles in several films and TV shows filmed in the area, specifically in Georgia. Now, only a few months into his acting career, Perez has already worked alongside such household names as Robert DeNiro, Zac Efron, Danny McBride, and Adam Sandler—and that’s only naming a few.

Perez explained his role in these movies: “As a stand-in, you’re essentially an actor’s double, so you do everything they do in a scene. You help them set up the scene and prepare for filming it.”

Despite the jobs obvious perks, filming high-profile projects with Hollywood’s elite certainly isn’t an easy job. Sometimes, shoots can go on for hours, occasionally extending into the night.

“It is pretty exhausting work depending on the scene,” said Perez. “It’s time consuming, but everyone does their best to make sure everything goes smoothly. It’s all worth it for the finished product.”

Perez’s initial goal was to work in television production, but he’s content with the unexpected turn his career has taken. For now, he plans to stick with acting, but he’s open to whatever comes his way.

“Since Georgia’s film industry has grown so much, I may stay here,” said Perez, “but if opportunity knocks, I’m willing to take it.”

YOUNG LUMPKIN

Mandy (Wommack) Nasworthy (UHP, Math, 2011) currently works as an assistant actuary for USHealth Administrators in Texas.

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ALLYSON LUMPKIN (UHP, Multimedia Communications, 2012) currently works for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama as a Law Clerk.
KELSY KEANE

After completing her English degree at Georgia Southern a little over a year ago, Honors alumna Kelsey Keane packed her bags for Kosovo, a small country located in Southeastern Europe. Keane settled into Mitrovicë, Kosovo in September 2014, where she worked as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant for nine months. “I was a cultural ambassador to high school and university students in Kosovo,” said Keane. “While abroad, my greatest responsibility was to implement Western classroom models with the city’s public high school encouraging engaged learning through student participation, extracurricular activities, and innovative curriculum development.”

Her positive impact on Mitrovicë was not limited to the classroom as Keane served as a guest lecturer at local nonprofits and universities concerning American culture and its higher education system. She also participated in teacher training programs, summer camp development, and community service projects throughout the city.

Keane’s recent return to her hometown of Savannah has provided her with the opportunity to fight economic inequality at home. She currently works as a loan officer for the United Way of the Coastal Empire annual giving campaign, a local organization whose mission is to combat poverty in certain counties of Southeast Georgia.

While Keane is not currently planning to work abroad in the near future, she is preparing for her next big adventure: law school. “Nine months living in Kosovo provided the context to establish my ideas on communal transitions from negative to positive peace,” said Keane. “My observations also led me to commit fully to the study of law as my research interests expanded to exploring legal codes’ impact on post-conflict societal progress.”

MENA HAMZAWA

Upon completion of her degree, Honors alumna Menahel Hamzawa interned with the Ole Miss Pride of the South band at the University of Mississippi. He is working on his Masters of Music in Music Education, and began her Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education in January of this year.

PHILIP STEVENS

(UHP, Physics, 2012) is currently a Junior Engineer at Bill Austin and Associates in Indiana.

BENNY RATLIFF

(UHP, Music, 2014) is currently a graduate assistant with the Ole Miss Pride of the South band at the University of Mississippi. He is working on his Masters of Music in Music Education, and assists with all aspects of the band program, both marching and concert band. After grad school, he plans to teach high school band for several years before returning to school to earn his PhD in Music Education.

DORA SUAREZ

(UHP, Philosophy and Modern Languages, 2014) will join the New School for Social Research in New York City to pursue a doctorate in Philosophy. She has been awarded the Pravoslav Scholarship.

ARIEL VIPOND

(UHP, French, Anthropology, 2014) accepted a position with Carine Companions for Independence in Santa Rosa, CA, as an Instructor Assistant in August of 2014. In May 2015 she was promoted to Apprentice Instructor and is currently training her first string of assistance dogs. The trajectory of Ariel’s post-collegiate career is due in large part to her involvement in Dr. Jerri Krapp’s and Dr. Trent Maure’s Animal-Assisted Therapy FYE course for three years of her undergraduate career; first, as a student, then later as a Peer Leader and a Service-Learning Facilitator.

TY VON PLINSKY

(UHP, Information Technology, 2014) interned twice at NPR since his graduation from Georgia Southern, and is currently a Technical Support Specialist at Discovery Communications.

JAMES DEVLIN

(UHP, Writing and Linguistics, 2015) is currently a graduate student at Georgia Southern University studying Student Affairs. He has started an assistantship with the Office of Student Organizations.

KAILEY HAMLEY

(UHP, Biology, 2015) is currently pursuing her Masters of Science in Biomedical Sciences at Clemson University. Her research is centered on studying projected populations of American pika populations in the Greater Yellowstone Region due to warmer climates.

KORI WILLIAMS

(UHP, Biology, 2015) is working a research assistant for the Associate Dean of Nursing Research in the College of Nursing at Augusta University. She is involved in piloting a study that tests the implications of diet changes for individuals affected by diabetes and colorectal cancer. The study includes clinical research, direct interaction with patients, and analysis of samples collected. In addition to this, Kori is undergoing training to become a Phlebotomy Certified Technician.
Courtney Hartman  
Early Childhood Education  
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Dr. Meza Williams-Johnson

Nathan Hayenga  
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Dr. Brian Fullam

Angela Winters  
History  
Sex and Law: The Making of the New Englishman, 1850-1920  
Dr. Robert Batchelor
HONORS BY THE NUMBERS 2015-2016

Honors 2015-2016 Data

501
Honors Students
(34% Men, 66% Women, 77% White, 23% Non-white)

443
Georgia Residents

20,818
Hours of Service and Leadership

93%
Freshman Retention Rate

140
Faculty Teach Honors Courses

98
Honors Courses Offered

2016 Incoming Freshman Class Projections

134 New Freshmen
122 Georgia Residents (91%)
12.45 Average SAT
28.8 Average ACT
3.81 Average GPA (Unweighted)

Honors Students by Academic College

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic College</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts and Social Sciences</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and Mathematics</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering &amp; Information Technology</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Administration</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Human Sciences</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undeclared</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Honors Freshman Retention Rates

- Fall 2005 Cohort: 90%
- Fall 2006 Cohort: 90%
- Fall 2007 Cohort: 94%
- Fall 2008 Cohort: 91%
- Fall 2009 Cohort: 91%
- Fall 2010 Cohort: 92%
- Fall 2011 Cohort: 87%
- Fall 2012 Cohort: 88%
- Fall 2013 Cohort: 93%
- Fall 2014 Cohort: 91%
- Fall 2015 Cohort: 90%

Number of Honors Students

- Fall 2006: 295
- Fall 2007: 306
- Fall 2008: 343
- Fall 2009: 406
- Fall 2010: 451
- Fall 2011: 456
- Fall 2012: 423
- Fall 2013: 461
- Fall 2014: 470
- Fall 2015: 501

Invest in Honors

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