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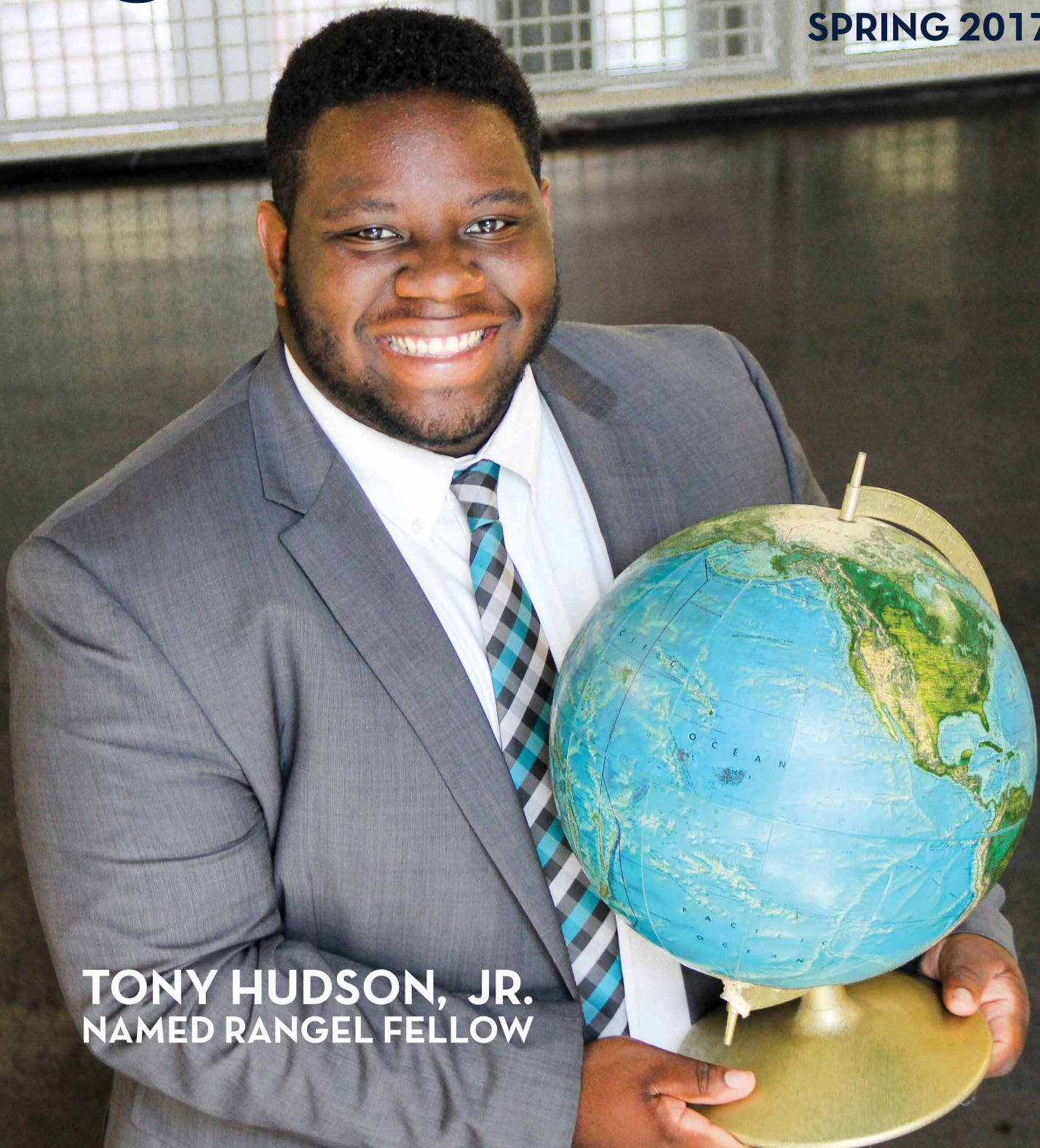
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HONORS

@ GEORGIA SOUTHERN

SPRING 2017



TONY HUDSON, JR.
NAMED RANGEL FELLOW

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dr. Steven Engel
Director, University Honors Program

If you are curious about the hard work our students develop during the year, you need look no further than the pages of this magazine. The Honors Program saw a large number of students present their research at local, regional, and national conferences this year, and we have stories on a good number of those presentations. Quite honestly, though, there is no substitute for hearing the students in person and asking them questions about their work. You will find photographs of our Spring Honors Research Symposium in these pages as well.

We were fortunate to have some Honors Program alumni join us at the symposium, and they were able to see first-hand how today's students are carrying on the legacy left behind by 35 years' worth of alumni. Yes, we celebrated 35 years of Honors at Georgia Southern with alumni, current students, faculty past and present, and the current honors administration in April. It was a fun evening of telling stories, advice for the current students, good food, and good music (provided by a band fronted by a current honors student).

While we looked to the past at that event, we also anticipate the future. As many of you have heard, Georgia Southern is consolidating with Armstrong State in Savannah, and so two strong honors programs will join together. You might remember from these pages a few issues ago that we partnered with Armstrong State's honors program to host the Southern Regional Honors Council annual meeting in Savannah, and we know from that success and our ongoing friendship that our joined future looks bright.

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 opinion. 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.



Honors student assistants bowl together
L-R: Aleyna Rentz, Elise Rustine, Sarah Ryniker, Brady Gwynn, Melissa Hinely, and Kelley Nemec

FEATURED



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On the cover: Tony Hudson Jr., recipient of a Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship

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HONORS @ GEORGIA SOUTHERN



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STEPPING ONTO THE WORLD STAGE

HUDSON WINS RANGEL INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FELLOWSHIP

While sightseeing in Washington, D.C., Tony Hudson, Jr. (international studies '17) received a phone call that would alter his future. He had come to city as one of sixty interviewees chosen from several hundred applicants for the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship, a nationally competitive award that provides graduate students with funding for study, internships, and entry into the Foreign Service. The day after completing his interview, Hudson decided to explore the city, and it was while visiting the Smithsonian Post Office that the news was delivered to him—he was named one of this year's thirty Rangel Fellows.

The chief goal of the Rangel Fellowship is to prepare outstanding young people for careers in foreign affairs, a subject with which Hudson has become well-acquainted with during his time at Georgia Southern, particularly through writing his honors thesis, "Individual Domestic Terrorism: An analysis of the Motivations and Radicalization of Terrorism in the United States." Mentored by Dr. Srobana Bhattacharya, Hudson's thesis took root during her terrorism class.

"It started off when I took the international terrorism class here at Georgia Southern with Dr. Bhattacharya," Hudson said. "I was really intrigued about the entire concept of how do we counteract terrorism. I wanted to look at more so what is happening here in the United States. Where does that fear come from? These experiences at Georgia Southern are what lead me to choosing the topic. Also, I love international security, so it was a natural fit."

Hudson researched individual terrorist attacks in the United States and tried to discern what motivated these individuals to engage in political violence. His qualitative analysis examined rational choice as well as socio-psychological theories, factors that all enter into the radicalization process.

Of the writing process, Hudson said, "Writing, especially this type of writing, is a marathon. My mentors were very supportive, especially Dr. Bhattacharya. She had to push me. There was definitely plenty of constructive criticism throughout the process. All of my mentors have provided me with support, whether it was reading over different sections or pushing me to give more and do more."

Dr. Jamie Scalera, honors coordinator for the Department of Political Science and International Studies, praised his efforts. "I saw Tony refine his talents through his honors thesis, and especially working with his mentor Dr. Srobana Bhattacharya. His accomplishments speak not only to his work ethic, but also to the quality of our program at GSU. Tony made full use of our program to help him succeed: rigorous courses,

independent honors research, study abroad, and extra curriculars."

In addition to accepting the Rangel Fellowship, Hudson was admitted to Pennsylvania State University, where he will work with experts in his field while pursuing his Masters in International Affairs. Pennsylvania is just one of the many new places Hudson's fellowship will take him. This summer will find him in Washington again, completing a congressional internship, while next summer he will work for one of the United States Embassy's headquarters in another country. Although he does not know where he will end up yet, he has his fingers crossed for the Middle East or North Africa, areas he has become interested in through his studies. After graduating from graduate school, Hudson will serve as a diplomat for the State Department for five years, a future about which Hudson is keeping an open mind.

"My ultimate hope is to stay on and maintain my role as diplomat, although I'm also interested in working with different bureaus of the State Department. I want to be where the action is. I am not one-hundred percent sure what my future holds, but maybe I'll take a stab at running for office. International politics are something I am definitely interested in. I'm just excited to make a difference in the world."

Georgia Southern will certainly miss him while he is gone. Dr. Scalera said, "Tony's acceptance to the Rangel Fellowship and to Pennsylvania State University are significant accomplishments. They speak to Tony's unusual talent and motivation. I think he has a deeper appreciation for the collaborative nature of academic research and has positioned himself well for his graduate studies."

**"HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS
SPEAK NOT ONLY TO HIS
WORK ETHIC, BUT ALSO
TO THE QUALITY OF OUR
PROGRAM AT GSU."**

DR. JAMIE SCALERA



A CLEAR PATH ON CUMBERLAND ISLAND

The slam of a machete against the trunk of a tree. The sharp clip of a lopper. The soft hum of a saw. These sounds provided the soundtrack for the May 2016 alternative break trip. Under the leadership of faculty mentor Dr. John Peden and Cumberland Island volunteer coordinator Laura Buckmaster, seventeen Honors students spent five days camping on Cumberland Island while helping to make it a more accessible place for visitors.

The group worked hard in the May heat and humidity to make one of the overgrown trails walkable for the island's visitors. Each person had either a lopper, a saw, or a rake with which to widen the trail, which stretches two miles inland from the beach. The hardest task that the group faced was pulling down a never-ending wall of vines that had overtaken the trail. Though this task was difficult, teamwork made it possible to complete.

"Working on the trail was overwhelming and physically demanding, but also really rewarding when we were able to look down it and see all of our progress," said Abby Slattery.

In their down time, students were able to learn about Cumberland Island's history and natural environment. They explored several of the famous Carnegie family houses located on the island, such as Plum Orchard and The Dungeness Ruins. They also saw the island's fourth sea turtle nest out of an expected 500 to 700 nests for the year.

Caitlin Hall said, "My favorite part of the trip was getting to hold a sea turtle egg, because not many people get to have that experience."

In addition to the sea turtles, the campers encountered lots of other wildlife, including several snakes, an alligator with her newly-hatched young, and the wild horses for which Cumberland Island is famous. Buckmaster explained their origin. "There is a stable population of 125 horses on the Island. They were brought over by the Carnegies as farm

horses and never left."

After three nights on the Island, the group camped on the mainland in preparation for an early morning of sea kayaking. They spent around three hours on the ocean, kayaking a total of eight miles and passing landmarks including the Saint Simon's Sound and Fancy Bluff Creek.

Afterwards, they ended the trip with a last meal together and reminisced over the week. Trip leaders Leah Anderson and Garrett Metropol were grateful for the opportunity to work with such an enthusiastic group. Anderson said, "Everything we did was strenuous work, whether it be sea kayaking or clearing trails. No matter what, everyone was awesome and had great attitudes."

Metropol agreed, "It was really enjoyable. Everyone wanted to help with anything before we even asked."

One of the greatest takeaways from the trip was personal and group growth. Cara Perrella said, "I went on this trip to push myself and try new things, and I didn't expect to like it as much as I did." For many people, this was their first time camping, and the new and experienced campers helped each other along the way, whether it be setting up a tent, helping make dinner or stuffing a sleeping bag into its tote. Slattery said, "Everyone was really comfortable with one another and was able to show their true personalities."

This opportunity to meet and work with more students within the Honors Program was something Abi Johnson did not take for granted. "My favorite thing about this week was getting to meet more people in the Honors Program because after freshman year, it is harder to get to know the new incoming students," she said. *The 2017 alternative break trip to Cumberland Island was in session as this went to press.*

A CONEY ISLAND OF HER MIND

Poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti's "A Coney Island of the Mind" wistfully looks back at a September day spent wandering Coney Island's boardwalk amidst jellybeans and licorice sticks, a time of youthful innocence now lost, retrievable only by memory. Since the publication of this poem in 1958, Coney Island has also moved past its prime, its original splendor existing only in the minds of those who had the privilege of witnessing the park firsthand. Senior writing and linguistics major Maggie Delisle, however, plans to transpose Coney Island's golden years from memory to the page, bringing them to life once again through her honors thesis. Her creative work, titled *Lights over Coney*, is a novel focusing on Luna Park, one of the original iconic parks built on the famous boardwalk, seen through the lens of a Jewish girl growing up on the island in the 1940s. One of the fiction writer's main concerns is authenticity, so Delisle spent a few days both in Brooklyn and on Coney Island participating in primary research for her novella. This research involved indulging in authentic Nathan's hot dogs, riding the Wonder Wheel, and doing everything just short of travelling back in time to see Luna Park as it must have existed for Lawrence Ferlinghetti so many years ago.

Delisle's interest in Coney Island dates back to when she was a kid wandering through the Tybee Island Light Station and Museum, which features an exhibit on a defunct Tybee Island carnival.

"I was obsessed with it when I was younger," said Delisle. "And although the Tybee carnival was very old, Coney Island was the very first amusement park in United States, so I started to do research on it, and I've been really interested in it ever since."

Luna Park in particular stood out to Delisle. Built in 1903, its 260,000 lights illuminated the coast line until the park tragically burned down in 1944 and was eventually replaced with a five building apartment complex. Unable to witness the beauty of Luna Park firsthand, Delisle turned to archival material, a search for information that took her to the Brooklyn Public Library, The Coney Island Public Library, the Coney Island Museum, and the large New York Public Library.

Delisle said, "One artifact I found was a microfilm on the burning of Luna Park. There was even a photo. I actually had tears in my eyes. Seeing this piece of history was more than I would have ever imagined. It just made the project that much more real to me."

Other sources she utilized included pamphlets and postcards from the early 1900s, census records for Jewish neighborhoods, and a document outlining a plan to revitalize Coney Island in the 1970s. Although these sources proved immensely helpful for Delisle, her most valuable research extended outside the archives and onto the streets of Coney Island. Not only did she get to experience the setting of her novella firsthand—she was able to live in it for a few days by staying in a historical Jewish neighborhood.

"Just being in the area helped me figure things out, because Jewish populations in New York are very different from what you'd expect," Delisle said. "It's very much traditional. People dress conservatively. I stayed on Ocean Parkway, which is a very important road in Coney Island's history. It helped connect Brooklyn to Coney Island, and it really helped me get a feel for my novella's setting."

In addition to snapping photographs and experiencing the locale for her novella, she had the chance to interview several locals.

"I mainly talked to shop owners who'd been in the area for a long time, including a woman who was in a documentary about Coney Island," said Delisle. "The people that I met kept asking me, 'you're going to let me read this when you're done, right?' Which was very intimidating. I hope I'll be able to produce something that will make them proud."

Delisle recently presented the first fifty pages of her novel at the Honors Research Symposium, where she explained her research, read a section of work, and expressed plans for the future.

"After graduation, I'm going to study fiction in Georgia College and State's MFA program in creative writing, where I plan to finish my novel. I'm excited to see it finally completed."



Delisle presents her work at the Spring 2017 Honors Research Symposium

HONORS STUDENTS CROSS THE EQUATOR

The best way to learn about a culture is to immerse oneself in it. For five honors students studying abroad in Argentina this summer, this meant exploring neighborhoods in Buenos Aires, marveling at waterfalls, tutoring local children, and even taking a little time to pursue individual research. Kyle Hess, Bernadette O'Donnell, Sophia Fleri, Malik Raymond, and Derrick Herrin were among several Georgia Southern students who took part in the Foreign Language Department's study abroad program to Argentina, which focused on building students' speaking and comprehension skills in Spanish.

For Sophia Fleri (mechanical engineering '19), signing up for the trip was a no-brainer. "I went to the study abroad fair knowing I wanted to travel to a Spanish-speaking country. I had already been to Buenos Aires before during a mission trip to Las Termas del Rio Hondo in Northern Argentina, and I decided I really wanted to go back again."

Sophia Fleri and Kyle Hess help lead classroom activities at a school in The Villas, an underprivileged Buenos Aires neighborhood.

Derrick Herrin (mechanical engineering '17) had a similar experience. While he had not visited Argentina before, an honors alternative spring break trip in Costa Rica left him with the desire to return to another Spanish-speaking country.

"My senior year was coming up, and I realized if I wanted to graduate with no regrets, then I needed to study abroad," he said.

The students, including Malik Raymond (history '17), expressed a desire to improve their Spanish abilities during their summer abroad. However, Raymond also had other plans—conducting research. He studied Buenos Aires' population of Afro-Porteños, citizens of African

descent, during the late 19th century. His interest in their culture began last spring when he discovered their poetry.

"During the previous spring, I went to Argentina's national archival website and found poems that weren't translated into English. I was trying to build up my Spanish by reading and translating the poems, and it occurred to me that maybe I could do something in that vein for my honors thesis," said Raymond. "However, since I'm a history major and writing is only my minor, I couldn't, but I still wanted to do research on the history of the Afro-Porteños around the time period during which the poems were written, which was around the late 1870s and early 1880s."

His research included visiting the National Library of Buenos Aires, which had an exhibit on the Afro-Porteños currently on display. It featured newspapers the Afro-Porteños had licensed themselves, filled with articles, poems, and other miscellaneous writings.

In spite of his busy research schedule, Raymond still had time to enjoy other activities in which the group took part. Places visited included a street museum called Paseo de la Cartoon, which pays homage to the characters of famous Argentine comics; the La Boca neighborhood, where the famous Boca Juniors soccer team is located; and several art museums and shopping districts. As a writing minor, Raymond enjoyed being in a place famous for having more bookstores per block than any other city in the world.

"I got lost there trying to find particular books that I wanted," Raymond said. "It was a great place to explore."

After acquainting themselves with the city, Herrin says they also got to know some of the local population.

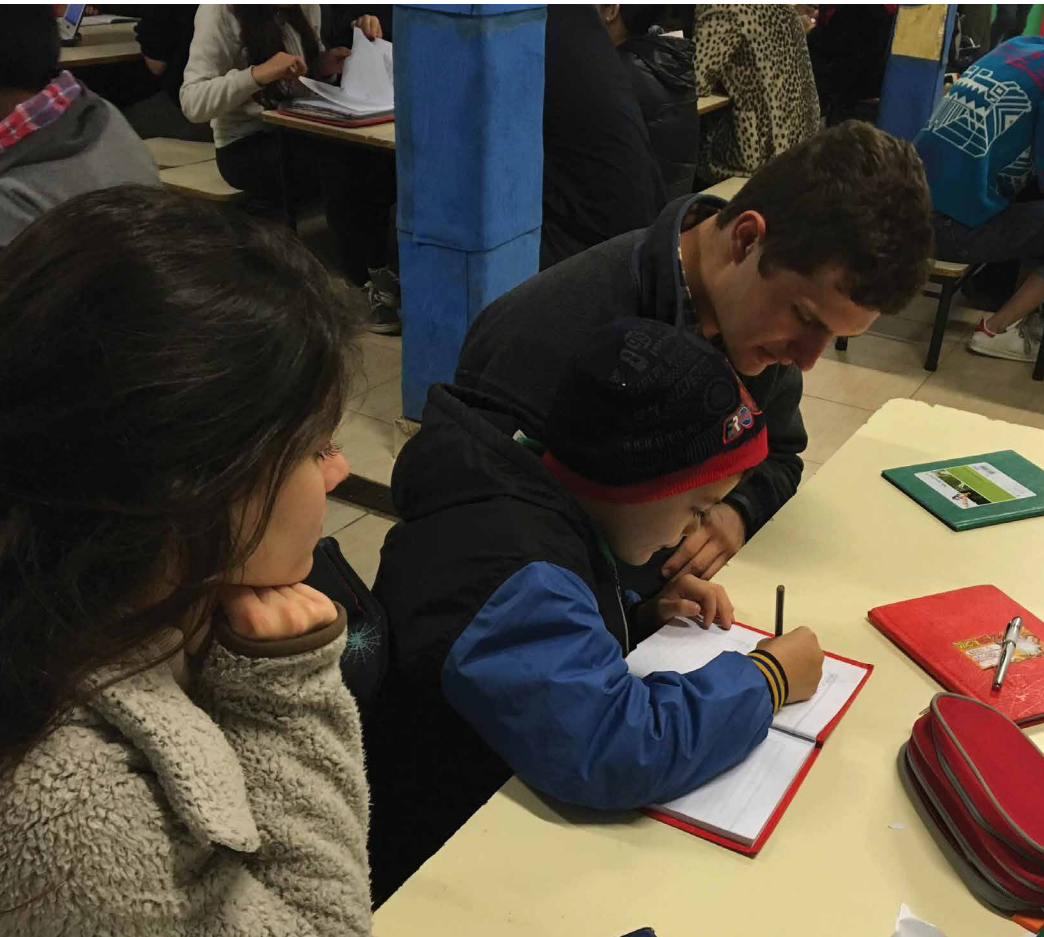
"We helped tutor a group of underprivileged kids in English and Math. I really enjoyed that opportunity. It was a good way to become more than a typical tourist and experience a more extensive range of Argentiño culture."

When asked about his favorite part of the experience, Herrin said, "I really enjoyed talking with the people of Argentina about their culture, history, and so much more. Not only was I learning from them, but they were learning from me about U.S. culture, history, etc. We compared our countries and cultures in a very refreshing, nonjudgmental way that put aside the cultural boundaries in favor of understanding of each other."

Fleri undoubtedly enjoyed her experiences, as well, for she opted to stay in Las Termas del Rio Hondo for two weeks after the program ended.

"I highly encourage anyone studying Spanish to go on study abroad, but go early," she said. "Don't wait, because you have fewer opportunities as time goes by. I promise it's worth it."

Sophia Fleri and Kyle Hess help lead classroom activities at a school in The Villas, an underprivileged Buenos Aires neighborhood.



JENNY SHAFFER ENGINEERS A THIRD TRIP TO GERMANY



Jenny Shaffer (German/mechanical engineering '17) spent her third summer in Germany gaining professional experience through the Materials Science Internship at Robert Bosch GmbH Center and Research and Advanced Engineering in Renningen. This highly competitive internship only accepts roughly thirty graduate students or alumni of the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst Research Internship in Science and Engineering (DAAD RISE) Germany program, a program Shaffer participated in during summer 2015 at Ruhr-Universität in Bochum. Shaffer's exemplary work from the previous summer provided her with skills to succeed in this advanced, graduate level internship.

Shaffer's roles included "designing and implementing experiments to program the global conditions inside a corrosion chamber and comparing the effects of the local environmental load on the corrosion rates of stainless steel, aluminum, and titanium parts inside the chamber." Shaffer felt that she had "freedom to design and test [her] own experiments."

The professional atmosphere provided Shaffer with real life experiences of what a career in engineering has to offer. Working at the Robert Bosch GmbH Center, Shaffer utilized her classroom knowledge to flourish in a corporate environment. "This trip felt more like a 'trial run' if I were to actually live and work in Germany someday," said Shaffer.

Because she took part in the internship program twice, Shaffer was invited to serve as keynote speaker for the 2016 DAAD RISE conference on July 7-9, 2016 in Heidelberg, Germany, a conference whose audience included the program's current students, employees, and dignitaries from the US, British, and Canadian embassies, including the US Consul General from the Frankfurt general consulate.

"The purpose of the presentation was to show an alumna's perspective of the DAAD RISE Germany and RISE Professional programs and emphasize the importance of cultural exchange in our increasingly global society," said Shaffer. "I went over my research from both internships and then encouraged students to pursue their passions overseas and network with their peers from the programs."

However, the trip was not entirely focused on working for the internship. Shaffer was able to experience the city's culture, while forming relationships with others. The city of Renningen provides both "pre-war and modern architecture." Shaffer explained, "Many of the historical castles and buildings were reconstructed after being destroyed in the Allied air raids during WWII, and these buildings stand next to modern buildings in a hodgepodge of culture in the city center."

Shaffer's studies of the German language at Georgia Southern University, and a DAAD scholarship to Germany after her freshman year, prepared her for tackling the language barrier. Working in a

technological environment provided her with a new set of specialized terms related to her topic of study. "My coworkers were super sweet, and they would discuss a wide array of topics at the cantina each day, from politics to healthcare to philosophy to food," said Shaffer.

Her journey last summer was not confined to her work. While traveling throughout Germany, she made new friendships that will last beyond the weeks spent interning.

One day, Shaffer was traveling by train, when a small engine fire caused an evacuation. She was left to spend four hours in a small town, which she used to her advantage and "ended up meeting two wonderful ladies, one of which who ended up giving [her] a ride home and becoming a pen pal! Deutsche Bahn [the town] certainly knows how to make memories," said Shaffer.

Spending a summer abroad is an amazing experience, but spending three summers abroad is a chance of a lifetime. Shaffer's advice to students who are looking for adventures abroad is to simply apply. "Never pass up an opportunity simply because you think the odds are low."

In the fall, Shaffer will embark on yet another adventure, this one in America. She has received a full doctoral fellowship from Clemson University, where she will pursue her PhD in mechanical engineering.





BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN HONORS PROGRAMS

In preparation for Georgia Southern's upcoming consolidation with Armstrong, six honors students from both schools have taken initiative in bridging the gap between the two schools' honors programs.

Students from Georgia Southern include Hannah Dorough (psychology '18), Morgan Gallahue (biology '18), and Caitlin Shelby (graphic design / interior design '20), and students from Armstrong include Kaley Powers (biology '18), Linnea Ryan (history '19), and Leila Caughran (ASL interpretation '20).

At this year's annual Southern Regional Honors Conference (SRHC) in Asheville, North Carolina, they led a panel titled "Bridging the Gap: Attempting to Foster Community Among Honors Students in a Consolidation." Their discussion focused on methods of fostering community and building rapport between multiple campuses, something they all consider important for honors students in the upcoming years.

Ryan said, "I got involved with this project because I wanted to connect with the students in the honors program at Georgia Southern and be involved with the consolidation process as much as possible. What I've learned is that the honors programs at both ASU and GSU have a lot to learn from each other and great potential for growth."

The students were encouraged to join forces by their respective honors program directors, Dr. Steven Engel of Georgia Southern, and Dr. Jonathan Roberts of Armstrong.

"At this stage in the process, we still do not know a great many details about how the new Georgia Southern University will be structured," Dr. Engel said. "We know this much, however, at the end of the process, we

will be one university. Consequently, Jonathan and I are both working to make sure we ensure that all of our honors students feel like they are in a shared community of scholars. There is no better way to do that than to get students together with each other and giving them the opportunity to play a part in building their new shared future together."

Dr. Roberts agreed, saying, "For the better part of the last decade Armstrong and Georgia Southern's Honors programs have collaborated quite well with one another. I feel strongly that the consolidation of the two institutions, done correctly, will lead to more opportunities for students on both campuses."

These six students come from a larger group of honors students that travelled to the conference in late March; twenty-nine Georgia Southern students and eight Armstrong students had proposals accepted by SHRC, which brought in around 700 students. Their presentations included posters, papers, and thesis work from all disciplines.

Gallahue spoke about the experience: "Our goal at the conference was to begin to open doors and form the beginning bonds of friendship and community between attending Georgia Southern and Armstrong students. As we left Asheville on Saturday, it was impossible not to notice a newfound sense of unity between Armstrong and Georgia Southern students. The initial reaction to the consolidation was not enthusiastic from either campus, but when this group of students from Georgia Southern and Armstrong came together in the same room, there was nothing but warm welcome and excited anticipation of what will come as we continue merging both our academic and social programs."



Finding informed and accurate perspectives on politics has lately been difficult. From poorly-researched clickbait articles to television pundits pushing their networks' agendas, the mass of misinformation sometimes feels nearly impossible to sort through. However, five honors students have found a way to contribute meaningfully to our country's ongoing political conversation by creating and hosting their own radio show, Modern Political Debate (MPD), on the Georgia Southern radio station.

Taking inspiration from his honors First-Year Experience (FYE) class of the same name, Jarvis Steele (political science and philosophy '19) founded the show last year when he was only a freshman.

"I got the idea from my professor, Dr. Chris Caplinger. In class, we debated modern political issues, and I thought a radio show would be an appropriate and interesting way to build on those discussions."

"One of the programmatic goals of FYE 1220 is to help students connect with others who share an interest," Dr. Caplinger said. "This can lead to friendships and other connections that are lasting. Sometimes, though, students take this a step further, and institutionalize the theme of the seminar into a student group, or in this case, a radio show. Jarvis Steele and his colleagues have used the seminar as a jumping off point to add meaningfully to the Georgia Southern community. They are great examples of what we're seeking to do in FYE."

Steele enlisted several other honors students to co-host, building a cast that currently includes students with ideas and outlooks that span the entire political spectrum: Bryce Colvin (political science '19) represents the left, Dantrell Maeweather (history '20) and Steele provide moderate perspectives, and Matthew "Big" Taylor (mechanical engineering '19) speaks from the right. With a cast and crew full of diverse viewpoints and academic backgrounds, MPD is able to maintain a sense of neutrality while providing perspectives that cross party lines, an aspect of the show they consider extremely important.

"Being on the show opened me up to different opinions, made me do more research, and helped me overcome my own biases," Taylor said. "We may not always agree, but that's what keeps it interesting."

Colvin agreed. "Having a conversation with someone like Matthew with such radically different views than mine has helped me grow as a political analyst."

Steele described the show as "format-less," a guided conversation that allows for organic discussion rather than following a rigid script.

LIVE MIC: HONORS STUDENTS ON THE AIR

Even without a script, several hours of work go into planning the show, primarily in the form of researching the issues they plan to discuss.

The show's initial goal was to concentrate specifically on foreign affairs. Taylor explained their original vision: "We wanted to be about foreign matters, which are often ignored. Nobody cares to read, for example, about the EU breaking up. People are uninformed about what's going on in the world, and my original intention was to combat this."

The election, of course, caused MPD to adjust their focus, a shift that nevertheless turned out to be a good thing. One of the show's highlights was having the rare opportunity to cover election night in conjunction with Sanford Hall Radio, an honor not given to any other show on campus.

"It was awesome to be on live during election night and watch the election unfold," said Colvin. "It gave me an outlet for my frustrations. I also didn't have to go through the grieving process alone because there were other people in the booth with me feeling the same emotions. Instead of sitting and moping at home, I could talk to other educated people and look at the election results from the perspective of a political analyst."

From covering election night to expanding their show from one hour to two, MPD has been steadily gaining momentum and looking for ways to improve their outreach, such as by hosting a third party forum in October, which provided a much-needed comprehensive overview of third party platforms and issues surrounding them. With Dr. Caplinger's guidance, they carefully chose five speakers for the event, a list that included political science professors Dr. Joshua Kennedy, Dr. Patrick Novotny, and Dr. William Biebuyck, history professor Dr. James Woods, and writing and linguistics professor Jared Sexton, who had op-ed pieces in The New York Times and The New Republic during this year's election.

The students at MPD have no plans to slow down. Maeweather hinted at future plans: "I see it going further than just a radio show. I could see it on TV, or as a segment on a YouTube channel. We're going to try to get it on the internet every week, be it in the form of a video or a podcast."

"Ten years from now, if I come back to GSU and walk into Sanford Hall, I want MPD to still be a show," Steele said. "I want that lasting legacy. I want to build something that's going to become a part of Georgia Southern."



HONORS TAKES THE STAGE AT TEDX GEORGIA SOUTHERN



Finding creative solutions to the world's problems is a goal shared among students in the Honors Program, and all of our students at some point present their ideas in a public forum. Two students recently engaged that public forum on a global scale as they discussed their research and experiences on the TEDx stage. Jenny Shaffer (German/mechanical engineering '17) and Reid Loveless (biology '18) gave talks at the event, and they were joined by a number of other speakers from across campus and the community, including Dr. Steven Engel, the director of the Honors Program.

TEDx is a program devoted to sparking discussion and deep thinking in local communities and on college campuses. (TED is an acronym for Technology Entertainment Design.) The theme at Georgia Southern was "Connecting Creatively," and the three speakers shared their own unique perspectives on using creativity as a problem-solving tool and means to approach the various issues facing our world. Shaffer incorporated her three summers researching and working in Germany into her talk.

"I talked about how living abroad can change your perspectives on common issues and problem-solving in the context of culture," Shaffer said. "I'm incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to share what were hopefully some thought-provoking ideas."

Loveless' speech challenged the notion that art and science are mutually exclusive disciplines.

He said, "I discussed some of the similarities between artists and scientists, how both benefit from working together, and how connecting the two connects the community with art and science as a whole."

As a political philosophy scholar, Dr. Engel brought Socrates into his discussion of the creative power of conflict, arguing for the necessity of "gadflies" in society, or people who provoke dissension and force others

to consider new ideas. His favorite part of the afternoon was not giving his talk, but having the opportunity to watch honors students share knowledge gained from their own experiences.

"I think it's great to share the stage and have equal billing with two of our students," Dr. Engel said.

While the Honors Program was present onstage, it was also at work behind the scenes. Dr. Todd Deal, a 1986 Bell Honors graduate, was instrumental in organizing TEDx at Georgia Southern and served as the event's master of ceremonies.

"The TED theme of 'ideas worth spreading' is an exciting and engaging one for us," Dr. Deal said. "As leadership educators, we realize that leadership arises from many, many places and people, and ideas are the catalyst for great leadership to emerge. By hosting TEDxGeorgiaSouthernU, we are hoping for that sort of leadership to emerge among our students and in our community."

About the student speakers, he said, "The reason that we are hosting this TEDx event is, simply, students—their growth as leaders, their opportunity to interact with speakers, and their opportunity to speak at a TEDx event. We actively sought out and encouraged students to apply to speak at the event, and we are thrilled that we have two undergraduates and a graduate student as speakers."

The students were thrilled as well. Loveless said, "The speech didn't go as planned, but I certainly am thankful for the opportunity, all the connections made along the way, and everything that I learned."

Shaffer agreed. "I want to say thank you to those who listened, even though I spoke a million miles an hour. Really, though, I just hope these talks prompted discussions about creative connections in our world, and I hope to see the TedXGeorgiaSouthernU conference grow over the years."

HONORS WRITING MAJORS IN ACTION: ASSOCIATED WRITERS AND WRITING PROGRAMS CONFERENCE IN D.C.

There are few places in the world where one can attend lectures by famous writers like Jonathan Franzen and Roxane Gay and then potentially run into them at yoga class or a restaurant the next day. In fact, the Associated Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) Conference might be the only place on earth where this is possible. Attracting over 12,000 writers, editors, and educators annually, this year's AWP Conference, located in Washington, D.C., included both Georgia Southern honors students and alumni.

Along with four other writing and linguistics majors and creative writing professor Jared Yates Sexton, senior honors students Maggie Delisle, Devan Pride, Summer Kurtz, and Aleyna Rentz spent three days attending readings, networking with publishers and editors, and perusing the largest book fair in America.

"The Associated Writing Programs Conference is the premier writing conference in America and provides an incredible learning opportunity for students interested in publishing, production, and simply looking for advice and support," said Sexton. "This is the third consecutive year I've taken students and they seem to learn and find inspiration every time."

Kurtz certainly did. "I loved being in a place where I felt like everyone pretty much had the same passion as me," she said. "It was both validating and life-affirming. Getting to talk to editors of journals and magazines was really helpful and it gave me a clear idea that I definitely want to be an editor."

In addition to helping solidify career paths, the conference also related back to some of the students' honors thesis work.

Pride said, "Attending panels helped me with certain aspects of my thesis. I went to one that focused on writing from the perspective of the 'outliers' of society—murderers, kidnappers, terrorists, etc.—and because my thesis is a novel that uses psychological horror, the information they had to share was helpful."

As the largest conference of its kind, AWP attracts several well-established writers each year, something this year's students enjoyed. Delisle was able to attend a reading by National Book Award winner Jacqueline Woodson, a writer she had previously only encountered in class.

"One of my favorite parts of AWP was seeing Jacqueline Woodson read from her poetry. I read her memoir in my Children's Literature class, and actually hearing her read passages from it made her work that much more meaningful to me," said Delisle.

Rentz had a similar experience. "I got to meet Dave Eggers and tell him how much I loved reading his memoir, *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, for my creative nonfiction class. I also really enjoyed meeting some of the editors who have previously published my work. It helped me really expand my professional network."

When they weren't busy attending panels or readings, the students had the chance to catch up with other Georgia Southern alumni. The Writing and Linguistics Department has sent several of its graduates to creative writing MFA programs, and three of them—Parrish Turner,

Yavaria Ryan, and Michael Conner—all attended the conference with their respective programs. Turner came down to Washington from New York City, where he is a student in creative nonfiction at The New School, while Ryan travelled with Fairfield University. Conner, a fiction student at American University, was fortunate to have the conference take place in his own backyard. Since last fall, he has been living in Washington and enjoying both his classes and the cultural opportunities going to school in a large city affords.

"It's no secret that Washington's a vibrant cultural hub, but I find the most excitement in workshop," Conner said. "Without the program, I'd never have been exposed to the writers I so desperately needed to study, nor to the writer's lifestyle of going to readings multiple times a week, establishing consistent writing goals for my own work, and reaching out to others in the literary community for advice and support."

When asked to recount his favorite part of the conference, he turned to his former classmates. "Seeing my old classmates was a wonderful pleasure and always leaves me yearning for a slower clock. They're the people I write for."





ANIMAL-ASSISTED THERAPY AT THE COUNCIL FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Each year, all honors freshmen take part in a year-long First-Year Experience (FYE) class tailored toward preparing students for success in the Honors Program. Among these classes is Animal-Assisted Therapy, an intensive exercise in research methods and service-learning taught by Dr. Jerri Kropp and Dr. Trent Maurer. While learning how to utilize both physical and online databases to look at findings from an international perspective, students also participate in a hands-on service project that pairs them with either a certified therapy dog or a local therapeutic horseback riding program, Stirrup Some Fun. Students emerge from this class fully prepared for tackling future research projects, such as their honors thesis; some are even inspired to continue working with therapy animals. For Caroline Lathi (health education & promotion '18), the class provided her with the opportunity to attend the annual Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR) conference in Tampa, Florida this summer as one of only a few students in attendance. Alongside Dr. Maurer and Dr. Kropp, Lathi helped deliver a presentation titled "Integrating Scaffolded Research with Service-Learning into a First Year, Two Semester Course Sequence."

The presentation focused on applying scaffolded research methods to a classroom setting, scaffolded research being research that builds on prior knowledge held by the students.

"We set up our class based on a model by Dr. Jenny Shanahan, the director of undergraduate research at Bridgewater State University, that provides thirty research skills for students," said Dr. Kropp. "This is a process that could take four years for a student to accomplish, but one of the things that we are proud of is that we do all of them in the two course sequence, and with freshmen."

Both professors wanted to share their unique, rigorous approach to teaching research in a condensed timeframe, but they felt a student voice was necessary for their presentation.

Dr. Maurer said, "Although CUR is focused on undergraduate research, very few of the presenters are actually undergraduate students, so getting that 'voice' represented is extremely important. What we wanted was someone who could speak first-hand to what he or she got out of the course. When we thought about our prior year's FYE class and which students would be good fits for this, Caroline's name very quickly rose to the top."

Dr. Kropp agreed. "Of course we had many great students in the class, but I think Caroline also had the confidence to speak to an audience. She also seemed to really embrace the service-learning and get the research component, and we thought she'd be a really good representative for the class."

Lathi had just completed the course, but she jumped on the opportunity to present research just after the completion of her freshman year, an experience very few students have.

"I ended up loving the class and working with therapy dogs, so I was happy to be able to share my perspective," said Lathi. "I was really nervous going in because I was addressing these professors whose careers are dedicated to undergrad research, but once I started talking it was very easy to speak to the crowd. It was fun."

Preparing for the presentation proved slightly challenging, since the conference was at the end of June and Lathi was attending a leadership retreat the week before. While the group had discussed their plans before the semester ended, Dr. Kropp and Dr. Maurer did not see Lathi's contributions to their PowerPoint until the day before the presentation.

"This was not an accident," Dr. Maurer said. "It was because we completely trusted in her ability and her professionalism—based on her performance in our course sequence—and we knew whatever she created would be a perfect fit for the presentation. I can't think of a greater testament to her abilities than placing that kind of trust in her."

The presentation was an inevitable success; in fact, Dr. Shanahan, whose research made the animal assisted therapy class possible, was actually in attendance.

"She's someone we look up to as a mentor, so we were really pleased that she came to our presentation," said Dr. Kropp.

Once the presentation was over, the group was able to enjoy the rest of the conference, which included listening to panels and, in the spirit of global citizenship, meeting researchers from around the world. Lathi was able to meet the presenters on Dr. Maurer's other panel: one faculty member from Canada, one faculty member from the U.K., and one undergraduate student from the U.K. While encountering many new people and ideas, Lathi was also able to see her own experience as a student researcher from another viewpoint.

"I liked going to the other presentations as one of the only students there," she said.

"Being a student and listening to professors talk about how you learn is very interesting. It was cool to receive that different perspective."

Lathi's student voice was just as valuable to the professors in attendance. Dr. Maurer said, "Student voices are important to the conversations had there, and certainly very, very welcome, but they are few and far between. Students like Caroline help those of us who work with undergraduates on research to see the impact of our work. Being able to give any student an opportunity like that is a rare and precious thing."

FINDING REACTIONS AT THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Every year, one or two honors students usually attend the American Chemical Society's annual conference, but this year five chemistry students—Mattie Braselton ('18), Olivia Perdue ('17), Jenae Smith ('18), Jonathan Taylor ('16), and Riley Theis ('16)—took their research to the meeting, which was held in Columbia, South Carolina. Both students and professionals alike attended the conference, including 2008 Nobel Peace Prize winner for chemistry, Martin Chalfie.

Each student was able to transform their work from the classroom into well-developed research through the support of their mentors. Jonathan Taylor's mentor is Dr. Ji Wu, a professor of Analytical Chemistry.

Taylor said, "Often times the roles of the student and the professor can feel separated, but spending time with Dr. Wu, and other professors around the department, has helped to remind me that they were all undergraduates at one point too."

Professors are valuable resources because they understand the struggles and difficulties that come with undergraduate research because they had similar experiences. Smith appreciates that fact that professors "have been in [our] shoes before."

The students heard about the American Chemical Society through their mentors, who act as a bridge between the academic and professional worlds. Many of the mentors also played a vital role in the development of the poster presentations. "Whenever I had questions, I would ask my mentor, and he gave a lot of tips about presenting my poster," Smith said.

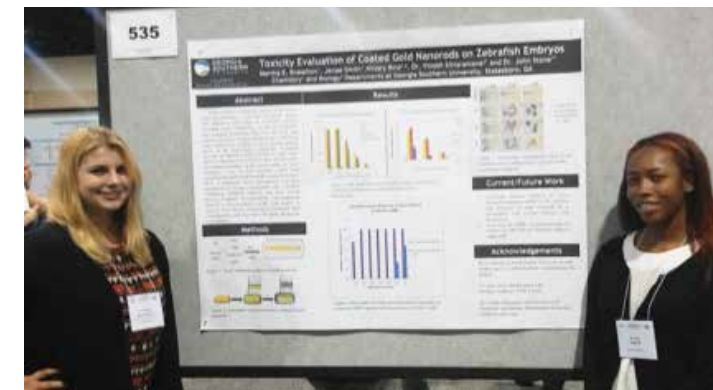
The five honors students were appreciative of the experience because many students do not receive opportunities to present

research at the undergraduate level. Smith was genuinely excited for the moment to present because this was her first conference in her undergraduate career. She also attended the graduate school fair at the conference and gained "information from schools with some of the top chemistry departments."

The overall experience provided the students will skills in communication, research, and public speaking.

Perdue loved meeting "other people as passionate about chemistry as [she is]," a sentiment Theis also agreed with.

"I thoroughly enjoyed talking with other students about their research and having the opportunity to network with renowned scientists," Theis said.



HONORS STUDENTS PRESENT AT GEORGIA UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Ever since the Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference's (GURC) conception five years ago, honors students have taken advantage of this opportunity to showcase their research locally, and this year was no exception. Eleven students in disciplines ranging from chemistry to creative writing took part in this year's conference at Georgia College and State University's campus in Milledgeville.

Writing and linguistics students featured prominently among the conference's Georgia Southern population. Three seniors focusing on creative writing, Maggie Delisle, Summer Kurtz, and Lauren Gagnon, led a panel titled "Intertwining Realities in Fiction: How Research Informs Creative Writing." Writing fiction and poetry is often dismissed as non-academic, but this panel dispelled that notion.

"Our panel talked about how research is actually really important to the creative writer," Gagnon explained. "It helps the writer create an authentic world and make their fiction as close to reality as possible."

Their creative projects have been informed by intensive research, both secondary and primary. Delisle's project, a novella about Coney Island, found her combing through archives at the Brooklyn Public Library, The Coney Island Public Library, and the New York Public

Library. Gagnon spent a large portion of her summer interviewing people for her novella, tentatively titled *After the War*, which chronicles a wife's struggle with her husband's PTSD. Speaking with her cousin and his friends, who are all army rangers, helped her shape an accurate portrait of not just an army ranger's life, but the cadence and sound of their speech, as well. She also met with a veteran suffering from PTSD, helping her to better empathize with her characters. Kurtz's poetry collection, *Milestones to Maturity*, deals more with her personal experiences with mental illness, but were still informed by research that included psychology textbooks and analyzing how people talk about mental illness on social media.

At a conference largely attended by STEM majors, the students were grateful to have the opportunity to present a unique perspective on research.

"We were certainly in the minority, but it was good to represent for the liberal arts," Kurtz said. "It was definitely a fulfilling experience."

Another liberal arts student, Maria Amiel (international studies/French '17), presented on her honors thesis, "Exploring the Role of Corporate Social Responsibility: European Fashion Corporations

Compliance to Ethical Practice.”

“My project bridges the gap between art and law to explore and analyze the role that the fashion industry has in the movement of accepting and implementing corporate social responsibility, particularly in European countries,” Amiel said.

Other presenters included a large number of athletic training and exercise students, including Lacey Dennis (athletic training '17), Diana Tyler (exercise science '16), Molly McLaughlin (exercise science '16), and Chelsea Rodriguez (exercise science '18). With encouragement from kinesiology professor Dr. Daniel Czech, these students presented original research.

STEM students also took their research and honors theses to the conference, including Kelvin Rosado-Ayala (computer science '18), Carlie Novak (chemistry '18), Wesley O'Quinn (electrical engineering /

physics '19), and David Moore (electrical engineering '17).

O'Quinn, who presented research on energy harvesting with wind turbines, particularly enjoyed the conference: “It was an incredible experience because it provided the opportunity to meet and talk with other undergraduates who are doing research. This was beneficial because I was able to talk about future research project ideas with them.”

One of Novak’s favorite aspects of the conference was its interdisciplinary nature. She said, “Presenting at GURC gave me the opportunity to share my research with my peers in different departments. This was a great opportunity to expose my research at a convention that was not solely dedicated to chemistry; something I do not get to do often.”



With original research topics and strong commitment to academics, Georgia Southern’s honors students are on par with students from some of the best institutions in the country. Lacey Dennis (athletic training '17), Eva Blais (exercise science '17), Chelsea Rodriguez (exercise science '18), and Kolyse Wagstaff (exercise science '17), proved this by presenting their research at Harvard University’s National Collegiate Research Conference, a symposium whose application process is highly competitive and attracts scholars from all over the world.

Dr. Daniel Czech, honors coordinator in the School of Health and Kinesiology, urged them to seize this opportunity. “To me, transcultural learning experiences like our trip to Harvard can increase a student’s intellect, motivation and of course multicultural mindset,” he said. “I asked Kolyse, Lacey, Chelsea and Eva to apply, and I am so proud of them for saying yes and following through.”

Blais, Dennis, and Wagstaff’s theses are part of a three-part project, mentored by Dr. Li Li, looking at the effects of static stretching on the gastrocnemius muscle, while Rodriguez’s thesis, mentored by Dr. Czech, explores how different motivational climates affect the motivational perspectives of different races. In addition to sharing their research,

the conference presented them with multiple opportunities for engagement with other like-minded individuals.

“The conference was a wonderful experience for me personally,” said Blais. “I was amazed by not only the intellect of others attending the conference but the open-mindedness and friendliness I received as a fellow researcher. I would definitely recommend it to other Georgia Southern students thinking about attending conferences in the future.”

Even their down time was full of educational experiences, such as visiting the Spalding National Running Center to see the latest research in Running Science, exploring Boston, and touring a lab at Harvard Medical School.

Rodriguez said, “We got to make connections with students from other renowned universities and participate in public discourse with different keynote speakers including Jill Abramson and Harold E. Varmus. We were able to participate in various workshops which included discussions about graduate school, entrepreneurship, ethics in research, and much more. It was incredible getting to hear about all the participants’ research. From neuroscience, to research in curing cancer, it’s amazing to see so many students discovering new knowledge.”

STUDENTS PRESENT AT HARVARD

HONORS PROGRAM TRAVELS TO SOUTHERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

Asheville, North Carolina is a unique city. Home to eclectic stores, local art shops, numerous music venues, and a diverse selection of restaurants, its creative vibe provided the perfect backdrop for this year’s Southern Regional Honors Council conference (SRHC), which brought in over 700 honors students from a wide range of disciplines. Of these students, twenty-nine were from Georgia Southern, and their presentations covered several forms and disciplines, from a lecture on emotion in Disney films to a panel on consolidating Georgia Southern’s and Armstrong State’s honors programs. (See the separate news story about this panel on page 10.)

Melina Gunby (psychology and criminal justice '17) showcased her honors thesis “Social Attitudes and Experiences: Accuracy of Biases” with a poster presentation.

“People were so excited about my research which caused a



revitalization of my efforts,” Gunby said. “The topic is something that I really care about and people were so encouraging. I had some people give recommendations which was actually really cool.

While Gunby enjoyed meeting people in her field, Bailey Kirk’s (mathematics '18) favorite part of the conference was its interdisciplinary nature, which allowed her to explore subjects outside of her usual coursework.

“I loved seeing presentations on topics that I wouldn’t normally see since they were not in my major. My favorite presentation was actually about making clothes out of bacterial cellulose. My friends and I attended that session for a different presentation, but that one blew us away.”

AN AWARDING EXPERIENCE



While many honors students have showcased their research at conferences across the country, symposiums on Georgia Southern’s campus have given them the chance to stay local and see their efforts rewarded.

Charlotte McDonald (international studies and German '17) and Elise Rustine (graphic design '18) both took home prizes at this year’s annual Center for Undergraduate Research and Intellectual Opportunities (CURIO) symposium. McDonald’s thesis, “Policing the Traffic: The Capacity for Legal Change to Arrest Human Trafficking in the European Union,” mentored by Dr. Maureen Stobb and Dr. Jamie Scalera, won Best



Presentation in the Social Sciences. Best Presentation in Fine Arts went to Rustine, whose poster project, “Connotation and Denotation: Meaning in Graphic Design” was mentored by Professor Ed Rushton.

In addition to CURIO, Georgia Southern also recently hosted the Eagle Showcase: Excellence in Service-Learning event. Freshman Sarah Rogers (biology '20) presented a poster called “A Dog’s Love: Animal-Assisted Therapy and Service to the Community,” which won the Best Poster award. Her project stemmed from coursework in her Animal-Assisted Therapy FYE class, taught by Dr. Jerri Kropp and Dr. Trent Maurer.



OF DOGS AND DOCTORS: PRESENTING RESEARCH IN DUBLIN

The year of 2016 presented Dr. Jerri Kropp and her students with myriad opportunities to share their research in the field of early childhood education. In addition to presenting at the Council for Undergraduate Research this summer, Kropp recently spent a week in Dublin, Ireland with honors alumnae Mikaela Shupp (business management and Spanish '16) and Mary Wallace-Noe (child & family development '11), where they were able to present their findings on an international stage. During the first week in September, they attended the 26th Annual European Early Childhood Education Research Association (EECERA) Conference held at Dublin City University, the largest conference of its kind. This year's conference included 920 attendees from 44 different countries representing 6 continents. Of all the presentations given at EECERA, two of them included Dr. Kropp. She presented "Benefits of Having a Therapy Dog in the Classroom: A Review of Research," alongside Shupp, and "How to Reduce Children's Fears of Doctor Visits Using Medical Play" with Wallace-Noe.

By taking Dr. Kropp and Dr. Maurer's honors First-Year Experience (FYE) course on animal-assisted therapy, Shupp began a professional

partnership with Dr. Kropp that lasted throughout her undergraduate career and beyond. The pair had already presented together twice, once at a University System of Georgia conference, and another time at the Georgia Association of Family & Consumer Sciences conference.

"I was happy to work with Mikaela again," Dr. Kropp said. "Because we've been working together a number of times, I feel like we're always on the same page in terms of our approaches to working on and giving presentations."

After Dr. Kropp asked Shupp to present with her, Shupp applied for funding from Georgia Southern's Undergraduate Research Council, which made the experience possible for her. Meanwhile, the pair immediately started work on their presentation. They had begun a review of the research when Mikaela was a sophomore, but their task was to read and add the most current existing literature on therapy dogs in the classroom.

Shupp said, "In conducting a review of research, you try to find similarities and common themes among studies. We knew we had read nearly everything we possibly could when authors were citing other authors we'd already read."

The impact their study had on other conference attendees

emphasizes how truly vital the study of therapy dogs is to early childhood education research. Before the conference even began, a program director from Wales who wanted to begin a research project on dogs in classrooms contacted Dr. Kropp based on reading just the abstract for her presentation.

"She contacted me and said she wanted to implement a program and collect data in several schools in Wales and wanted to meet us in person," Dr. Kropp said. "Our session was in the last slot of sessions on the last day of the conference though, so she had to leave early to catch her flight, but she ran to our session to briefly talk to us before leaving."

Dr. Kropp and Shupp also made contact with other colleagues with similar interests, such as a professor and psychotherapist from Spain who presented a poster on a study of therapy dogs with children who have been abused. He plans on two future studies involving therapy dogs in children's hospitals and in classrooms—exactly Dr. Kropp's avenue of research.

Shupp also enjoyed the opportunity to meet researchers from other countries: "One of the most interesting aspects of the conference was meeting people from other places, especially considering that the topic was education and everyone was coming from completely different education systems. In our session alone, which was on improving child outcomes, one set of presenters was from Denmark, and the other was from the UK. It was just really cool meeting people from other countries with the same interests."

She also had the chance to see another Georgia Southern alumna in action—Mary Wallace-Noe, a current Masters of Public Health Candidate,

presented research with Dr. Kropp that began with Wallace-Noe's honors thesis. Dr. Kropp had collected data for several years involving a class assignment where students conduct medical play sessions with children ages 2 to 11 in child care settings and afterschool programs. Students visited 23 different programs and Kropp and Wallace-Noe conducted a content analysis of 56 reviews of the medical play sessions. The research question was whether or not medical play in childcare settings would lessen children's fear of doctor visits by familiarizing them with medical equipment during a session of dramatic play.

Wallace-Noe emphasized the importance of their research: "The experience of play allows children to express fears and misconceptions they may not feel comfortable sharing in an openly vulnerable way. It presents them with the opportunity to play doctor and be in control the situation so their fears can begin to diminish. Play is very powerful in the hands of a young child."

Dr. Kropp agreed, saying, "Medical play sessions in childcare centers help children cope with repeated experiences with doctors and medical staff. Young children spend a lot of time at the doctor's office for well visits, including vaccinations, as well as sick visits, including colds, injuries, and respiratory infections. Incorporating these sessions into preschool curriculum can help child cope with past medical experiences and prepare for future medical encounters."

After the presentations were over, everyone was pleased with their results, particularly Dr. Kropp, who sees both presentations as opportunities for future research and publication.

ASHWOOD AT THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY SOCIETY

After a year and half of research, Elizabeth Ashwood (physics '17) presented her honors thesis at the American Physical Society (APS) March Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. The goal of APS is to unify the scientific community to advance people's awareness of physics. The conference separates over 8,000 presentations into specific categories such as "biological physics and chemical physics" over the course of a week, said Ashwood. She was given the opportunity to present at the level of professionals, instead of presenting with other undergraduates.

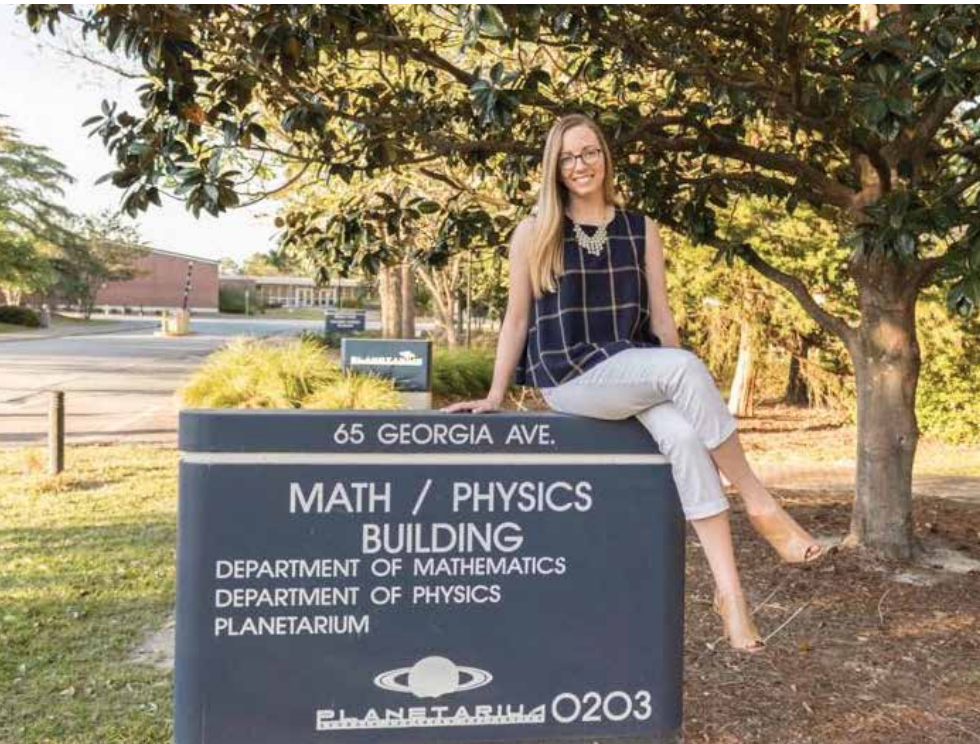
"My research is a development of programing tools to rapidly evaluate experimental set ups in atom interferometry," she explained. "Atom interferometry measures the interference patterns produced by a phase difference of atomic waves." Her goal is for her research to be used on the International Space Station (ISS) in the Cold Atom Lab, which is being sent to the International Space Station in June 2017. This amazing opportunity would move Ashwood's thesis, "Developing Tools for a Precision Measurement of Newton's Gravitational Constant," from the academic setting into a professional setting.

Ashwood says her mentor, Dr. Edwards, has been an influential aspect of her research. She said, "When I first started research with Dr. Edwards, I had

only basic physics 1 and 2 level knowledge, and I was just beginning to take differential equations. Dr. Edwards helped in the start by teaching me what Bose-Einstein condensates were." Dr. Edwards aided her at the genesis of her project, explaining new, difficult concepts that would eventually become the overarching argument behind Ashwood's thesis.

Dr. Edwards explained his experience with working with a dedicated student who genuinely loves learning: "I have enjoyed being Elizabeth Ashwood's research mentor. She is quick to grasp new concepts, incorporates them into her skill set, and is able to think on her own. She is quite mature for her age and is a natural leader of other students."

After graduation, Ashwood will enter the Peace Corps and spend two years in Swaziland.



UNDERSTANDING POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

For honors political science and international studies students, this year brought multiple opportunities for sharing their research, most notably at the Georgia Political Science Association conference (GPSA) and the International Studies Association conference (ISA).

The GPSA conference is hosted annually in Savannah, making it the perfect place for Georgia Southern students to showcase their theses, and five honors students took advantage of this opportunity. Charlotte McDonald, Maria Alejandra Amiel, Carolyn Nixon, Tony Hudson, and Auburn Bell each gave presentations to an audience consisting of both political science educators and students from around the world.

"The conference was incredible," said Maria Alejandra Amiel (international studies & French '17). "It's an experience I believe more undergraduate students should get."

Art and fashion have long interested Amiel, especially in how they relate to law, corporations, and human rights. Her presentation focused on the bridge between art and law, and the role that the fashion industry plays in corporate social responsibility. Mentored by Dr. Flynn, Amiel has analyzed the interaction of corporate social responsibility, international law, human rights, and activist groups.

Charlotte McDonald (international studies & German, '17) presented on a comparative case study she conducted of European states. Under the mentorship of Dr. Maureen Stobb, she has been pursuing this study for some time. The presentation itself focused on human trafficking, which she reported is "the second largest international crime in the world," as well as potential legal changes within the European Union to address the issue.

She praises the conference for having given her the opportunity to network with possible future graduate schools, as well as being "a great opportunity to present my research to a broader audience of academics," which she hopes will go on to aid her in future research and presentations.

"Helping Ourselves First: Conflict Management Strategies of Regional IOs," presented by Carolyn Nixon (political science, '17) discussed the effectiveness of differing international organizations, such as the European Union. Her research focused primarily on numerous international organizations which she has studied, and their reactions and decisions pertaining to specific conflicts.

"It was a great chance to meet people in the field and discuss my research," Nixon said. "Getting to share your research in a professional atmosphere makes it feel so much more real."

Nixon, Bell, Hudson, and McDonald also took their research to the ISA conference in Baltimore, Maryland this February. Being in close proximity to Washington, D.C. was appropriate for Auburn Bell's (political science & Spanish '17) thesis, "A Revolutionary Norm: Socialism in the United States vs. Europe," which concerns itself with perceptions of the term "socialism" and socialist candidates, such as Bernie Sanders, in both the United States and Europe.

"I have always enjoyed examining the differences between the political activity and awareness of citizens in Europe compared to the United States," she said. "Also, it was interesting to me to compare the candidacy of socialist Bernie Sanders, being so new and enthusiastic during the 2016 election cycle, to perceptions of socialism in Europe, where it's the norm."

Bell also said the conference was beneficial to revising her thesis for submission. "It was a bit intimidating presenting to professionals and academics with years of graduate work and research but I was welcomed and accepted as a peer. They tore my thesis apart, but it was all for the betterment of my research."

Being in a metropolitan area allowed for new experiences and new connections. McDonald said, "My favorite part of the conference was seeing these 'big name' academics that I read every semester in my classes in their natural setting. They were laid back and approachable which was very refreshing to see. It was interesting to hear their current research and just see how academics in my field interact, because as students we are usually very removed from this aspect."

Undergraduates usually do not attend these kind of conferences, something Nixon hopes changes in the future. "Everyone in my presentation seemed surprised I was an undergrad because it isn't common for students to attend these major conferences at this stage. Hopefully more Georgia Southern students will have opportunities to attend events like this, as it's been extremely helpful in clarifying my career path."

With a summer internship at Sow Much Good, Inc., a nonprofit farming organization in Charlotte, NC, Nixon has already begun moving toward a career as a lobbyist for nonprofits and social justice organizations. Amiel plans to work this summer as a film camp counselor at S[3] Film Camp in Savannah, and will seek a Master of Arts in Spanish and a Master of Arts in Teaching Spanish at Georgia Southern.

Likewise, Hudson will complete his congressional internship as a part of his graduate fellowship with the U.S. Department of State. (For more on Hudson's internship, see the story on page 5). In the fall, he will begin his masters in International Affairs at the Pennsylvania State University. Following his completion of his studies, he will officially enter into the Foreign Service of the Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer as a diplomat.

Bell and McDonald, meanwhile, will be preparing to move away from Statesboro to start graduate school. Bell will pursue her Master's in American Government at Georgetown University, and McDonald will attend Texas A&M University to pursue her masters in International Affairs at the Bush School of Government and Public Service.





35 YEARS OF HONORS CELEBRATION

The 35-year history of Honors at Georgia Southern was celebrated in April as University Honors Program and Bell Honors Program alumni, current students, and faculty and staff past and present gathered at Eidson House for an evening of storytelling, reminiscing, advice, good food, and good music.

You will see the 35 years of honors represented in our photographs from the event, and a good number of alumni sent us updates as well. Be sure to keep the program apprised of your continued good work and success. We want to hear from all of you! And look for our next alumni events in the upcoming years.



ALUMNI UPDATES

BLALOCK WINS FULBRIGHT FOR RESEARCH IN CHILE

After completing her honors thesis in 2011 titled "The Voices of the Lost: How the Poetry and Prose of the Great War Reveal the Mentality of the Lost Generation," Danielle Blalock (history and Spanish) switched gears and focused her studies on Latin America while completing her Ph.D. in history at the University of Arizona. With the aid of a Fulbright grant, Blalock has the opportunity to travel to Chile to finish her research. She will live in the country for nine months, conducting research for her dissertation, tentatively titled "Collaborative Activisms: Chilean University Student Networks and Mobilization, 1964-1990." Her research aims to contribute to the historical understanding of universities as political spaces.

Blalock further explained the goals of her dissertation: "I examine how Chilean university activists in Santiago, Valparaíso,



and Concepción mobilized during this period, questioned the status quo, and gained leadership experience through the construction and maintenance of communication networks with political parties and other social movements to foster social change."

While in Chile, she will also work closely with Professor Oscar Aguilera of the Universidad de Chile as an affiliated researcher on a Chilean Science and Technology Development Fund funded project, "The Visual Construction of Youth in Chile: Canon Representation, Intermediality, and Sensorium from Visual Images in Newspaper and Photographic Archives (1910-1973)." Her role in the project will include cataloging and digitizing archival materials.

To keep up with her travels, you can visit her blog at chileanista.com

WENDY (KEY) CAPSTICK (BHP, accounting, 1987) is currently working at PCAOB as Associate Director.

JEFF COLEMAN (BHP, English, 1988) attended Law School at UGA for 3 years after graduation from the Bell Honors Program at Georgia Southern. He practiced civil/business litigation in Atlanta with the same firm from 1991 to 2006, when he retired. He now lives in Atlanta.

ZAC LAWTON (BHP, English, 2000) works for the First District Court of Appeal in Tallahassee as a staff attorney.

SIMON NEWMAN (BHP, music education, 2007) married Georgia Southern alumni Jessica Grooms in 2009. They have two children, Kirschling and Mark Anthony. Newman teaches music at Altama Elementary School and is the assistant band director at Glynn Academy High School.

KENNETH METASAVAGE (UHP, biology, 2010) received an M.Ed. from University of West Florida, where he also served as a Residence Director. Afterwards he moved to Baton Rouge, LA with his partner, who was finishing a Masters Degree at LSU. He then moved to Western New York in the Finger Lakes Region where he served as a Residence Director for Keuka College, a small private liberal arts institution. While in the Finger Lakes he obtained a deep appreciation for the Wine and Viticulture Industry, as it is the largest producer of wine in the U.S. outside of California. While there he married his partner of 6 years, and yes, they did walk around Sweetheart Circle 3 times. Since then he has moved to Brooklyn, New York with his husband, dog, and cat. He works in Midtown Manhattan at LIM College a Private Fashion Business School. He is assistant to the Dean of Students and also teaches a FYE course.

CHRISTINA (LARSON) YOUNG (UHP, accounting, information systems, 2010) is working as a Staff Accountant for Dabbs, Hickman, Hill & Cannon, LLP.

CHARLES MINSHEW (UHP, political science, 2011) left the Orlando Sentinel in January to join Investigative Reporters and Editors and the National Institute of Computer-Assisted Reporting (IRE and NICAR) at the University of Missouri. He is the organization's Director of Data Services. Investigative Reporters and Editors is a non-profit organization that advances watchdog and data journalism around the world.

CASEY MORRIS (UHP, biology, 2011) currently works for the Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah as a Resident Physician of Internal Medicine.

DAVID GREENBERG (UHP, political science and philosophy, 2013) passed the July examination of the Georgia Bar Exam last summer.

JAMES KELLY (UHP, marketing, 2014) is working as the Program Coordinator of New Student and Family Programs for the University of Colorado in Boulder.

AMBER PORTER (UHP, international studies, 2014) began working at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University in February 2017. Mercatus is a non-profit, academic-based research center that focuses on bridging the gap between academia and policy solutions. Primarily, she will be working on the federal outreach team on trade, immigration, and regulation policy areas.

ARIEL VIPOND (UHP, modern languages: French and anthropology, 2014) currently works as an Apprentice Instructor at Canine Companions for Independence.

SHELBY (HERRIN) CREWS (UHP, recreation, 2015) married Ben Crews, in October 2015. She was offered the promotion she had been aiming for in August 2015 and continued working with IMS Management as their Assistant Manager at The Hamptons student housing community. She adopted a hilarious puppy named Millie in February 2016. She recently moved from Statesboro to Fort Worth, Texas in order to enable her husband to continue his career path. She is currently in the market for a job in this area and hopes to establish some connections in the tourism industry in order to gain more experience there.

RACHEL LUOMA (UHP, biology, 2015) is in her second year of veterinary school in Athens, GA and is currently emphasizing on small animal medicine, although she has an interest in exotic companion animals and laboratory animal medicine. Upon graduation, she hopes to do an internship to get some more hands-on experience before entering the workforce. Her family consists of herself, two greyhounds: Valor and Vivan, and two cats: Abby and Puff. They enjoy taking long walks and getting together with other greyhounds for play dates. She is still continuing with archery, a sport she rekindled her love for when she started at Southern as a freshman.

MADELINE SMITH (UHP, chemistry, 2015) entered graduate school at the University of Notre Dame and is currently finishing up her first year as an organic chemistry Ph.D. student.

2016 - 2017 HONORS GRADUATES

Maria Alejandra Amiel
International Studies and French
Exploring the Role of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): European French Corporations' Compliance and Future with CSR
Dr. Matthew Flynn

Charles Arvey
Computer Science
Expanding the Availability of the Distributed Data Protocol: A Python Implementation
Dr. Juan Vargas

Elizabeth Ashwood
Physics
Developing Tools for a Precision Measurement of Newton's Gravitational Constant
Dr. Mark Edwards

Nancy Balcziunas
History
The Music and Politics of Willy Chirino
Dr. Christina Abreu

Auburn Bell
Political Science and Spanish
A Revolutionary Norm: Socialism in the United States vs. Europe
Dr. Jamie Scalera

Eva Blais
Exercise Science
Effects of Static Stretching on Proprioception and Decreased Muscle Power Production
Dr. Li Li

Joy D. Bonner
Justice Studies
Do Students' Knowledge of the Student Conduct Code Correlate With Their Conduct-Breaking Behaviors on Campus?
Dr. Laura E. Agnich

Elizabeth Boyd
Middle Grades Education
Motivating Students with Different Needs
Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson, Dr. Yasar Bodur, Dr. Michelle Reidel

Rebecca Burchette
Psychology
Narcissism and Short-Term Mating
Dr. Nicholas Holtzman

Taylor Burns
Biology
Time of Death: Using Insects to Develop a Postmortem Interval Estimate
Dr. Edward Mondor

Karen Campbell
Biology
Immunohistochemical Localization of Ion and Water Transporters in Elasmobranch and Teleost Fish
Dr. Chris Cutler

Trevor Camper
Finance and Economics
Catch 22: Perceived Issues with Quantitative Easing and the Asset Purchase Mechanism
Dr. Bill Yang

Jesse Carpenter
Geology
Locomotion and Skeletal Morphology of Late Cretaceous Mosasaur, *Tylosaurus proriger*
Dr. Kathryn Smith

Christina Chandler
Mathematics
Network Modeling of Infectious Disease: Transmission, Control and Prevention
Dr. Hua Wang

Ashlee Charles
Health Education and Promotion
Not so Affordable Healthcare
Dr. Ashley Walker

Nneka Dean
Early Childhood Education
Women's Education: An International Perspective
Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson

Margaret Delisle
Writing & Linguistics
Lights Over Coney
Prof. Jared Yates Sexton and Prof. Christina Olson

Anne DeLua
Geology
A Geophysical Investigation of Stratigraphy and Structure on St. Catherines Island, Georgia
Dr. R. K. Vance

Lacey Dennis
Athletic Training
The Effects of Static Stretching on Pennation Angle and Muscle Power Production in the Triceps Surae Complex
Dr. Li Li

Sydney Doolittle
Biology
The Influence of Autism Linked Gene Topoisomerase 3B (Top3B) on Neural Development in Zebrafish
Dr. Vinoth Sittaramane

Anna Dowdell
Early Childhood Education
Preferred Behavioral Management Strategies of 3rd - 5th Grade Teachers
Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson

Meredith Eby
Early Childhood Education
Integrating Reading into Mathematics Instruction
Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson and Dr. Yasar Bodur

Clinton Ford
Human Resource Management
Organizational Health : Researched Problem Analysis
Dr. Robert Hoell



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Joshua Gaspard
Physics

Searching for Interstellar Silicate
Dust Grains Using Quasar Absorption
Systems in Distant Galaxies
Dr. Monique Aller

Christin Grulke
Public Relations

A Study of Chipotle Mexican Grill's *E. Coli*
Outbreak Through Social Media
Dr. Michelle Groover

Mikalah Guyton
Multimedia Film & Production

Gangsta Rap and the Trapped Mentality
Prof. Shana Bridges

Juliana Hafner
History

Free Speech in Wartime: Sedition Acts
during the Presidencies of John Adams
and Woodrow Wilson
Dr. Johnathan O'Neill

Samaria Hamilton
Psychology

The Effects of Pointing Gestures on
Visual Attention
Dr. Ty W. Boyer

Ana Cristina Hernández
Spanish and Biology

Las Dinámicas del Mantenimiento de
Lengua Entre Latinos en Áreas Rurales
del Sur de Georgia: Direccionalidades
Presentes y Futuras
The Dynamics of Language
Maintenance among Latinos in
Southern Rural Georgia: Present and
Future Directionalities
Dr. Ángela Pinilla-Herrera

Morgan Herrington
Recreation

Practicing Recreational Therapy in a
World of Differences
Dr. Brent Wolfe

Maggie Howard
Biology

Inbreeding Depression in the
Introduced Spider *Latrodectus*
geometricus
Dr. J. Scott Harrison

Tony Hudson, Jr.
International Studies

Individual Domestic Terrorism: An
Analysis of the Motivations and
Radicalization of Terrorism in the
United States
Dr. Srobana Bhattacharya

Kayleigh Hunter
Early Childhood Education

Technology and Student Achievement
in STEM Subjects: Perspectives from
Teachers in Grades 3rd-5th
Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson

Chyna James
Journalism

Race and Gender in the Coverage of
WNBA Protests in Newspapers and on
Twitter
Dr. Camille Broadway

Charles Joyner
Mathematics

Black-Scholes Equation and Heat
Equation
Dr. Enka Lakuriqi

Monique Kellman
Biology

The Biological Stress Response in
Bluegill Sunfish (*Lepomis macrochirus*) to
Variations in Environmental Temperature
and Dissolved Oxygen Content
Dr. Johanne Lewis

Benoit Kindo
Chemistry

Carinata FAME Production Process and
Biofuel Oxidation
Dr. Brian Koehler and Dr. Valentin Soloiu

Harley Kitching
Biology

The Effects of Elevated CO2 Levels
on *Vicia faba*, Broad Bean, Growth/
Defense Tradeoffs
Dr. Edward Mondor

Summer Kurtz
Writing & Linguistics

Andropomorphic: A Poetry Collection
Prof. Christina Olson

Laina Latzsch
Biology

The Surfactant Alkylpolyglucoside
Affects Phytoplankton Communities
Differently Alone than in a Commercial
Mixture in Artificial Streams
Dr. Risa Cohen

James Long
Biology

Comparative Floristic Studies of
Georgian Sandhill Ecosystems Reveals a
Dynamic Composition of Endemics and
Generalists
Dr. John Schenk

Haydon Cass Lynch
Electrical Engineering

S.H.A.D.O.W: The Stimulus Hunting
Animatronic Dog of Wonder
Dr. Rocio Alba-Flores

Mia Martin
**Logistics and Intermodal
Transportation, Marketing**

The Chinese Seaport System, Strengths
and Weaknesses
Dr. Trey Denton

Christian Martinez
Nursing

Perceptions and Knowledge of
Influenza Vaccination Amongst
University Students
Dr. Margaret Mossholder

Jacob Matthews
Psychology

The Relation of Race and Location with
Substance Use in Bisexual Men and
Women
Dr. Bryant Smalley

Charlotte McDonald
International Studies

Policing the Traffic: The Capacity
of Legal Change to Arrest Human
Trafficking in the European Union
Dr. Maureen Stobb

Molly McLaughlin
Exercise Science

Reliability of Pennation Angle
Measurements of the Gastrocnemius
Muscle at 15 Degrees of Plantar and
Dorsal Flexion
Dr. Dan Czech and Dr. Li Li

Megan Mears
Biology

Application of RNA Probes for
Detection and Identification of the
p120 Ortholog of *Ehrlichia ewingii*
Dr. Marina E. Ereemeeva

Stephanie Miller
Justice Studies

School Shootings Perpetrators' Self-
Reported Motives: A Qualitative
Analysis of Manifestos and Other
Writings
Dr. Laura E. Agnich

Isabel Moran
Biology

Determining the Reproductive
Patterns of the Titan Acorn Barnacle
(*Megabalanus coccopoma*) in its
Introduced Range
Dr. J. Scott Harrison

Rebecca Murphy
Writing & Linguistics and Music

The Burning of Khandava
Prof. Amanda Schumacher

Allee Murray
Chemistry

The Study of NF-κB Peptide Mimics and
How Proteins Bind DNA
Dr. Amanda Stewart

Salena Neuwar
Child and Family Development

A Study Exploring Parents' and
Occupational Therapists' Views on
Facilitating Social and Emotional
Development
Dr. Katy Gregg

Delanie Newbery
Chemistry

Photodynamic Cancer Therapy: A
Study of the Photochemical Properties
of meso-Tetra (2,3,4-trifluorophenyl)
Porphyrin and meso-Tetra
(2,3,5,6-tetrafluorophenyl) Porphyrin
Dr. Jim LoBue

Carolynn Nixon
Political Science

Helping Ourselves First: Conflict
Management Strategies of Regional
International Organizations
Dr. Jamie Scalera

Jordan Nourse
Exercise Science

An Examination of Spasticity of the
Lower Extremity among Young People
with Cerebral Palsy
Dr. Gavin Colquitt

Kellie O'Boyle
**International Studies and Writing &
Linguistics**

The Dragon's Flight to the Tropics:
China's Involvement in the Caribbean
Dr. Christopher M. Brown

Eudiah Ochieng
Biology

The Effect of Acute Thermal Stress on
Gene Expression Levels of Hsp70 in
the Antarctic Notothenioid, *Notothenia*
coriiceps
Dr. Johanne Lewis

Oluwadamilola Oke
Biology

Blow fly (*Diptera: Calliphoridae*)
Responses to Different Colors of Baited
Traps
Dr. Edward Mondor

Caleb Orban
Computer Science

Analyzing Sorting Algorithms Across
Various Languages and Operating
Systems
Dr. Juan Vargas

Bolanle Osi Efa
Biology

Soil Microbial Community within
Loblolly Pine and Eucalypt Tree
Plantations at the Extreme Ends of a
Groundwater Depth Gradient
Dr. Tiehang Wu

Rashida Otunba
Journalism

Use of Anonymity in College Media and
Its Impact on the Believability of Print
News Stories on College-Age Readers
Dr. Jennifer Kowalewski

Gina Pate
Psychology

An Examination of How Current
Relationship Goals Determine
Continuing Educational Goals
Dr. Daniel Webster

Janki Patel
Accounting

The Abuse of Foreign Income Tax
Credit
Dr. Britton McKay

Mackenzie Payne
Biology

Age Distributions Of White-Tailed Deer,
Odocoileus virginianus,
Killed in Motor Vehicle Collisions On
Bulloch County Roadways
Dr. Edward Mondor

Olivia Perdue
Chemistry
Preventing Gene Expression through
the Interruption of DNA Binding
Dr. Amanda Stewart

Tanner Perfect
Political Science and Spanish
Why do Latinos Vote Democratic in
Presidential Elections?
Dr. Joshua Kennedy

Andrew Perry
Computer Science
Development of the Fast Fourier
Transform Algorithm in the Go
Language
Dr. Juan Vargas

Ray Pettit
2D Studio Art
How Perception Compromises Identity
Prof. Jessica Burke

Jesse Powell
Philosophy
Hail Mary, Full of Haze: Physicalism and
the Knowledge Argument
Dr. Joseph Pellegrino

Derrick Ramage
Economics
A County by County Analysis of Poverty
in the State of Georgia
Dr. William Levernier

Malik Raymond
History
Gloria Anzaldúa's El Mundo Zurdo: The
Necessity of a Historical Assessment
Dr. Christina Abreu

Aleyna Rentz
Writing & Linguistics and English
Flannery O'Connor in Boxing Gloves
and Other Stories
Prof. Jared Yates Sexton

Donald Roberts
History
Full Circle: The New Deal and the Great
Recession
Dr. Craig Roell

J. Alex Schenk
Psychology
The Mobius Strip of Total Health:
Manipulation of Thinking Prior to
Exercise Activity
Dr. Shauna W. Joye

Jennifer Shaffer
**Mechanical Engineering and
German**
Investigation of the Thermal
Performance of Small Sierpinski Carpet
Fractal Fins in a Natural Convection
Environment
Dr. David Calamas
A Case Study of the Underlying Causes
and Implications of the Landmark
GM-Opel Automobile Plant Closure in
Bochum, Germany
Dr. Horst Kurz

Rachel Siclare
Nursing
Reported Self-Care Practices and
Perceptions of Well-Being in Caregivers
of Children with Cancer
Dr. Sheri Carey

Sean Spurlin
Chemistry
Regioselective Electrolytic
5,8-Difluorination of Quinolines
Dr. Abid Shaikh

Caleb Still
History
Lost Boys and Girls: Navigating
Experience and Identity during
Operation Pedro Pan
Dr. Christina Abreu

Jonathan Taylor
Chemistry
Controlled Drug Delivery Utilizing
Thermo-Responsive Functionalized
Nanoporous Membrane
Dr. Ji Wu

Riley Theis
Psychology
Quantum Chemical Revibrational
Spectra for Noble Gas Molecular
Cations
Dr. Ryan Fortenberry

Lauren Thompson
Biology
Testing the Optomotor Response in
Sepia bandensis
Dr. Christine Bedore

Cierra Tomaso
History
Jewish Resistance in World War II &
Zionism: Making Aliyah in the Death
Camps
Dr. Brian K. Feltman

Diana Tyler
Exercise Science
Reliability of Gastrocnemius Pennation
Angle Using Ultrasound with 15 Degree
Adduction and Abduction in Standing
Position
Dr. Dan Czech and Dr. Li Li

Serenah Tyson
Multimedia Film & Production
The Process of Directing for Screen:
(Sincerely,)
Prof. Tyson Davis

Cassandra Villers
Middle Grades Education
Characteristics of a Motivating and
Engaging Middle Grades Classroom
Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson

Kolyse Wagstaff
Exercise Science
The Effect of Stretching the
Gastrocnemius on Electromechanical
Delay and Decreased Muscle Power
Production
Dr. Daniel Czech

Stacey Zeestraten
Chemistry
Product Optimization of Tire Pyrolysis
for Oil Well Rehabilitation
Dr. Don McLemore



FACES OF HONORS

Spring 2017 Honors Graduation Recognition Ceremony Participants

HONORS BY THE NUMBERS 2016-2017

Honors Students by Academic College

Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	154
Science and Mathematics	117
Engineering & Information Technology	92
Business Administration	65
Health and Human Sciences	63
Education	19
Public Health	3
Undeclared	13

526 Honors Students
(38% Men, 62% Women, 78% White, 22% Non-white)

468 Georgia Residents

19,667 Hours of Service and Leadership

95% Freshman Retention Rate

182 Faculty Teach Honors Courses and Mentor Students

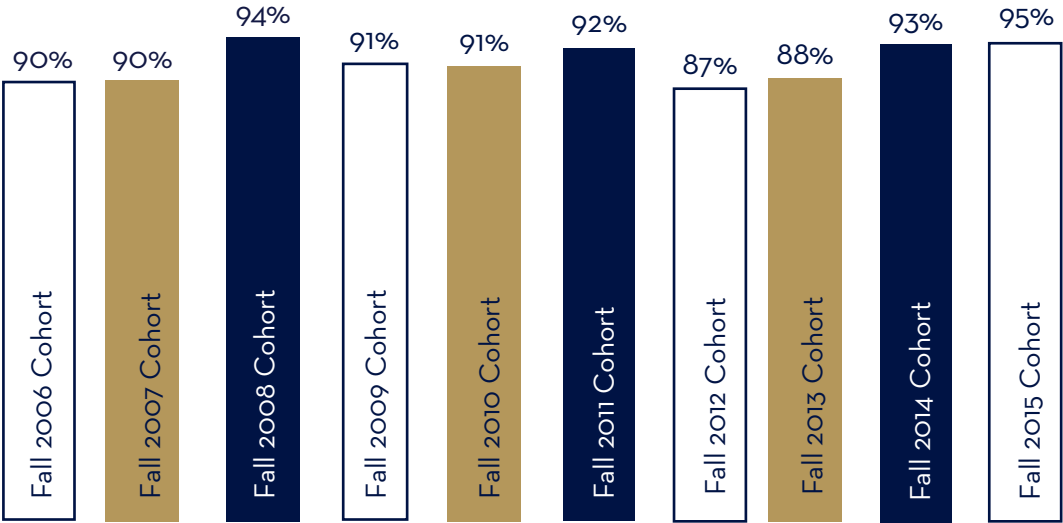
91 Honors Courses Offered

48,503 Thesis Downloads

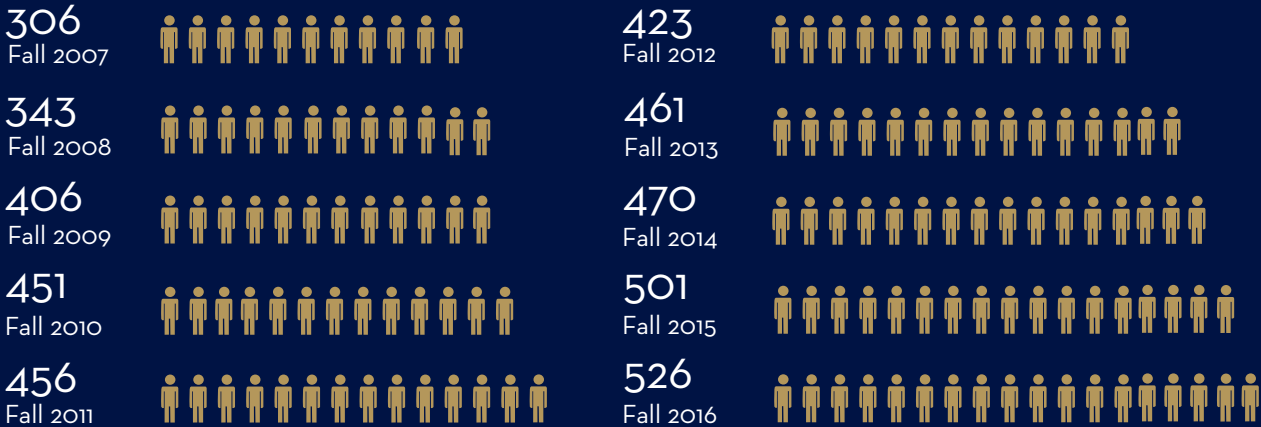
2017 INCOMING FRESHMAN CLASS PROJECTIONS

139 New Freshmen
130 Georgia Residents (94%)
1289 Average SAT
28.2 Average ACT
3.84 Average GPA (Unweighted)

HONORS FRESHMAN RETENTION RATES



NUMBER OF HONORS STUDENTS





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