University Honors Program Newsletter

Honors College Newsletters

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Rushing into Retirement
Administrative assistant Linda Rushing

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

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

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

Click here to read more!
Also, please join us for a retirement reception for Linda Rushing on Friday, December 4 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Eidson House. Linda has worked as the Administrative Assistant with the Honors Program since 2001 and started with the university system in 1984. Please drop by to thank Linda for her many years of commitment to Georgia Southern and our students.

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**Honors Student Work Results in Grant Funding**

Mik Ballard and Brittany Sealey at work in the Graves Archives at the Waterford Institute of Technology

The Honors Inquiry in Ireland program involves honors students in primary-source research on the origins of the Savannah Irish as part of the Wexford-Savannah Axis. Now, that project has been awarded a $35,000 grant from the Irish Government Department of Foreign Affairs to promote broader understanding of Wexford heritage among Savannah's Irish-American community. Past participants in the research, Alenya Rentz, Olivia Perdue, Brittany Sealey, and Scott Oswald, delivered
poster presentations of their findings to a group of about 100 at the Savannah Golf Club at a event to formally announce the grant. This was the first formal event in Savannah for the newly appointed Irish Consul-General for the Southeastern United States, Mr. Shane Stephens. Dr. Howard Keeley, also delivered an oral presentation of the research that incorporated material discovered by students during the Honors Inquiry in Ireland program.

The Georgia Southern University Honors 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. With your investment, the University Honors Program will continue to enrich the lives of students at Georgia Southern University.

Rebecca Henderson Finds Success at Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference
The Georgia Undergraduate Research Symposium, hosted during November 6-7 in Georgia Southern’s Nessmith-Lane Center, gave several Honors students the chance to present both thesis work and other research projects. One of these students, Rebecca Henderson (accounting ’15), won First Runner Up for the Outstanding Student Research Award. Her project, titled “South Korea’s Transition from K-GAAP (Korean Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) to IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards),” discussed the cultural effects on the speed of Korea’s change between accounting principles. To conduct this research, Henderson spent a semester abroad at Keimyung University in Daegu, South Korea, where she surveyed Korean business students on their acceptance of K-IFRS and the transition to IFRS.

“The conference was a great experience for me to work on my presentation of my research, and it was a joy to see it well-received,” said Henderson. “My mentor and I were definitely surprised that we had a full room at Nesmith-Lane.”
Alumni Update: Catching Up with the Past at NCHC

(left to right) Dr. Engel with Laine Adams and Ghazala Hashmi

At this year’s National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) conference in Chicago, Dr. Engel caught up with two alumni, Laine Adams and Ghazala Hashmi, both of whom went on to have careers in university honors programs. Adams, a 2009 Honors Program graduate and 1906 Scholar, first presented an English paper at NCHC in 2006 as a sophomore. Since then, she has earned her master’s degree in English and become the Scholarship and Fellowships Coordinator for the North Carolina A&T University Honors Program, where she works with university students through the applications processes for prestigious scholarships and fellowships like the Rhodes, Fulbright, and Goldwater.

Ghazala Hashmi, also an English major, graduated from the Bell Honors in 1986 and received her Ph.D. from Emory. She currently works as both an English professor and the Director of Faculty Development at Reynolds Community College in Richmond, Virginia. As the Director of Faculty Development, Hashmi is contributing to the effort to start an honors program at the college by leading development for faculty and preparing professors to teach honors courses.
Magazine Takes Honors at NCHC

L to R: Elise Rustine, Maria Amiel, Aleyna Rentz, and Sarah Ryniker

Congratulations to the 2014-2015 Honors @ Georgia Southern Magazine staff for winning 2nd place in the National Collegiate Honors Council’s Honors Newsletter Competition in the faculty/administrator/student published division! Last year’s staff included Sarah Ryniker, Maria Amiel, Nicole Puckett (not pictured), Aleyna Rentz, and Elise Rustine. Dr. Engel and Dr. Desiderio accepted the award on the publication team’s behalf during this year’s annual NCHC conference in Chicago, Illinois.

View the article online here.

Erin Martin Advises at NCHC
Erin Martin presents her research to a receptive audience

At this year’s annual NCHC Conference, Erin Martin, the academic advisor for the Honors Program, delivered a presentation called “Advising for the Bigger Picture: Challenging Honors Students to Think Holistically.” This presentation focused methods used in Honors advisement, specifically within the Honors First-Year Experience (FYE) courses, to help students think holistically about how each individual experience they have during college contributes to their future. With nearly 500 students to advise, Martin’s approach involves a heavy emphasis on advisement during the student’s freshman year, during which the student is led to consider who they are and who they want to be beyond a singular job title, with consideration of how to reach this end beyond selecting an “appropriate” major.

To learn more about Honors at Georgia Southern, how to support honors activities, or become involved in honors alumni events, contact Honors Director Steven Engel at sengel@georgiasouthern.edu