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University Honors Program Newsletter

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Engineering Research in Germany



Jenny Shaffer explores Germany during her internship

The typical study abroad program usually allows students to experience another culture through a classroom environment, but Jenny Shaffer's second summer in Germany found her outside the traditional college experience, conducting cutting-edge research in her field alongside professionals. As one of 312 recipients of the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) Research Internship in Science

and Engineering, Shaffer (German/ mechanical engineering '17) spent three months at Ruhr-Universität in Bochum, one of Germany's industrial hubs. Her internship focused on material science, a subfield of mechanical engineering built on researching new materials and improving materials already in use. She assisted a doctoral candidate, Maximilian Walter, with his thesis research on the development of new high speed steels to compare to the industry standard.

Click [here](#) to read more!

Taking Research on the Road: Riley Theis at NACS



Senior Chemistry Major Riley Theis

On August 16, while many other college students were heading back to campus for the upcoming semester, senior chemistry major Riley Theis was hundreds of miles away, presenting research in Boston for the National American Chemistry Society (NACS). The oral presentation she delivered was titled “Spectroscopic, Structural, and Energetic Analysis of Noble Gas Cations.” This project fell under a subfield of chemistry called astrochemistry, a branch of science dedicated to better understanding the universe and its chemical components. Theis’ research focused specifically on noble gases and their ability to create molecular bonds. A recent break-through in the field discovered a noble gas molecule, argon hydride, in an exploded star, a watershed moment in astrochemistry—noble gases typically are incapable of bonding to form molecules. This discovery inspired Theis’ project, in which she tested other noble gases for the ability to bond in space, focusing on argon and neon.

Click [here](#) to read more!



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.

Lights, Camera, Alumni Update: Cesar Perez Breaks into the Film Industry



Cesar Perez gets into character on set

Cesar Perez, a recent graduate in multimedia communications, got his start in the film industry by unusual means: he missed a casting call.

“*Magic Mike XXL* was filming in Savannah, so I sent in my resume and got called in, but I wasn’t able to go because I had exams,” said Perez.

Although Perez could not work on this particular film, the casting director, one of the biggest in the Southeast, asked Perez to keep in touch. This relationship ultimately led to stand-in roles in several films and TV shows filmed in the area, specifically in Georgia. Now, only a few months into his acting career, Perez has already worked alongside such household names as Robert DeNiro, Zac Efron, Danny McBride, and Adam Sandler—and that’s only naming a few.

Click [here](#) to read more!

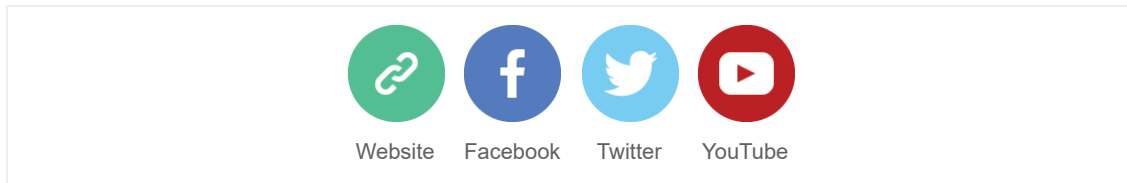
Honors Alumni are encouraged to update their information here!



Many exciting events have been happening in the Honors LLC, including a debate viewing party and an information session for the Honors Inquiry in Ireland study abroad program. Check our [Facebook page](#) for more updates and photos!



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



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