University Honors Program Newsletter

Honors Program, Georgia Southern University

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Alumni Update: Molly Laughlin Honored by Council of Accountability Court Judges
University Honors Program alumna Molly Laughlin received the prestigious Tommy Day Wilcox Leadership Award at this autumn’s Accountability Courts Training Conference. Laughlin (political science ’11, MPA ‘12) was honored for her work in an Adult Felony Drug Court in the Enotah Drug Court (south) that serves Lumpkin and White counties in north Georgia. This is quite an honor for Laughlin as it is the Council of Accountability Court Judges who recognized her for her hard work and dedication.

In her current position as the coordinator of Northeast Georgia Adult Felony Drug Courts, Laughlin manages the variety of steps that offenders must take as part of their sentencing, such as drug screening, attending Superior Court, home/job visits, attending twelve step meetings for addiction, and participating in substance abuse counseling.

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.

Honors Alumni are encouraged to update their information here!

Georgia Southern at the National Collegiate Honors Council
Congratulations to the 2016-2017 Honors @ Georgia Southern Magazine staff for winning first place in the National Collegiate Honors Council’s Honors Newsletter Competition in the faculty/administrator/student published division! Last year’s staff included Aleyna Rentz, Elise Rustine, and Brady Gwynn. Dr. Desiderio accepted the award on the publication team’s behalf during this year’s annual NCHC conference in Atlanta, GA.

Also attending the NCHC annual meeting were members of the Honors faculty, including Director Dr. Steven Engel, Dr. Lisa Costello, Dr. Joe Pellegrino and Dr. Jamie Scalera, who presented on creating new strategies to help students through the thesis process. Senior Bailey Kirk (mathematics ’18) presented research in math education (see story below), and students Hannah Dorough (psychology ’18) and Caitlin Shelby (psychology ’20) moderated sessions at the conference.

Getting to the Square Root of the Problem in Mathematics Education
Approaches in mathematics education are often highly contested, and the question about the best way to teach math still persists. Bailey Kirk is trying to get at the root of this question in her honors thesis. Kirk (mathematics ’18) recently attended the National Colligate Honors Conference in Atlanta, Georgia to present her research poster, “Mathematics Education through College Algebra and Calculus.” The focus of her work examines where students struggle in college algebra and calculus.

“During the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school year, Georgia Southern University and its faculty conducted assessments in College Algebra and a study on prerequisite skills in Calculus classes,” Kirk said. “The results show the number of students that answered the problems correctly or incorrectly in different classes. My research focuses on taking this data and further analyzing it to try to discover where students struggle the most in College Algebra and the prerequisite skills required for Calculus and whether there are any common trends.”

Click [here](#) to read more!
The University Honors Program saw 11 of its students participate in the annual Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference this past November. This conference is open to any undergraduate student from any discipline, and the students from Georgia Southern presented research from across the disciplines, including special education, kinesiology and chemistry.

Megan Fromme's (special education '18) professor Dr. Kymberly Harris pushed the students in her Classroom Management course to submit the proposals they created for a class assignment. At the conference, Fromme had two presentations, the one for the class, which she presented in the poster session, and one based on her thesis research, which she presented on a panel.

Click **here** to read more!
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