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University Honors Program Newsletters

Georgia Southern University

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Working with Nanoparticles not a Small Experience

Tyler Wagner (chemistry ’19) spent the summer in close proximity to Miami Beach, working in a lab on the campus of the University of Miami researching the
photocatalytic activity of SrTiO$_3$ nanoparticles and their toxicity effects on C. elegans. Wagner participated in research at the Interface of Chemistry and Biological Sciences under the leadership of Dr. Marc Knecht (Dept. of Chemistry) and Dr. Kevin Collins (Dept. of Biology).

Wagner was able to incorporate his multifaceted interests into this summer research project and became interested in Dr. Knecht's research on Photocatalytic activity of SrTiO$_3$ nanoparticles because it applied chemistry to biology.

Click [here](#) to read more!

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**Honors in Action: Treasure Savannah**

Treasure Savannah has been a hallmark opportunity for Armstrong students to give back to their community for over a decade. This fall's edition of Treasure Savannah was no different—except it was the first one for the newly consolidated Georgia Southern University. In line with the value of Civic Responsibility, one of the four foundations of the Honors Program, Honors students at the Armstrong campus continued to maintain their record of highest voluntary participation for a campus organization.

Treasure Savannah is affiliated with several corporations, providing students with several options. This year, the activities focused on aiding the homeless, cleaning the campus and local community, and volunteering at an animal assisted therapy organization. Some Honors students served as site leaders, managing and allocating work to their group of students.

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A Busy Summer Researching Bees

News of declining bee populations has been reported for the last several years, worrying scientists and farmers alike because of their importance in ecosystems and in helping grow the food we eat. Second-year student Katherine Barrs (biology and mathematics ’21) is one of those scientists who examined bees’ organizational behavior when she was part of a research team in the Social Insect Lab at University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

The lab, led by lead primary investigator Dr. Olav Rueppell, hosted Barrs, and other undergraduate students, through the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates. Barrs spent many of her days dressed in a beekeeper suit outside in the summer heat observing the division of labor in
beehives. The research she and her team conducted is part of a larger project to prevent the rapid deterioration of bee colonies.

Click [here](#) to read more!

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**Curating Experiences**

From left to right: The Columbus Museum, The Saint Louis Art Museum

A museum takes its visitor on a journey, exploring art from across the world and time. The visitor wanders, overcome with both the simplicity and the detail of the surroundings. The artwork stuns and moves the onlooker. These aspects describe only the surface of what a museum provides to the public. Many do not realize the inner workings behind a museum’s public image. This summer, two University Honors students, Brady Gwynn (English and French ’19) and Emily Coats (art history and French, Spring 2019), discovered first-hand how an art museum is run during their internships at the St. Louis Art Museum and The Columbus Museum.

Both women wanted to be challenged by and involved in many aspects of the behind the scenes work of the museum. Gwynn wanted to find an internship where she could gain professional experience in the workforce. “I knew that I wanted to use my time this summer to push myself professionally. I thought a museum internship would allow me to implement skills gained in my undergraduate classes into the workplace,” she said.

Click [here](#) to read more!

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**Happy Halloween from the Honors Program!**

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Honors Alumni are encouraged to update their information [here](#)!
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