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University Honors Program Newsletters

Georgia Southern University

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Honors In Action: FYE at the Boys & Girls Club

One integral part of the Honors experience at Georgia Southern University is experiential learning. This is a component of an Honors education that encourages students to become active in their learning and engage with their communities. At the Armstrong Campus, First-Year students were recipients of a unique opportunity to fulfill those requirements: volunteering at the local Boys & Girls Club of Savannah.

As part of the First-Year course Brain Games, students were able to engage with course content by playing games with the children at the club. For many, this was a very enriching experience. In the case of Cameron Swanson (history education ‘22), the opportunity was particularly influential.

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Taking Honors Research on the Road

Megan Prangley (international studies, Spanish, and Chinese ‘19) and Anna Kwiatkowski (political science ‘19) recently travelled to Richmond, Virginia to present research based on their honors theses at the International Studies Association Conference. Both students received valuable feedback from scholars in their field and found out firsthand what it is like to join the conversation in their academic field.

Prangley’s presentation analyzes the efforts of non-governmental organizations (NGO) to lower the rate of sex trafficking. She said, “My paper, ‘Coordination Sensation: When NGOs Strike Down Sex Trafficking,’ argues that NGOs are effective in decreasing sex trafficking in the long-term if they coordinate the totality of
their efforts. My research sample is sex trafficking NGOs in Savannah, Georgia.

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Honors Alumni are encouraged to update their information here!

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**Honors in Action: Protecting the Endangered**

While the beach is commonly seen as a place for vacation, sunbathing, and jet skis, we often tend to forget that we are entering a wildlife habitat. Bailey Yarbrough (biology '21), however, sees the environmental aspects of beaches first and foremost. Last summer, Yarbrough volunteered with the Georgia Southern University Sea Turtle Program at St. Catherines Island for ten days.

Each volunteer had a specific duty for each day, Yarbrough said. “Depending on the tides, we would get up as early as possible, around 5 AM, to sweep the beach. We looked for new sea turtle tracks and checked on marked nests to see if they were attacked by predators, such as ghost crabs and armadillos,” she said. “We also
monitored the nests in relation to the ocean, checking if they were washed over by the tides. If a new nest was laid and it was below the high tide line, we would relocate it. We shoveled through sand and transported the eggs, by bucket, to another site. We dug a new hole similar in shape and depth to the original. Each nest had a number and was identified by a stake. To ensure the nests’ safety, we used wired screens to deter predators.”

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