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### University Honors Program Newsletters

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## Grace Pittman Reveals What is "Better Left Unsaid"



Grace Pittman (political science '19) had the opportunity to present her honors research at the Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) in Austin, TX. Her thesis, "Better Left Unsaid: The Connection Between Members of Congress, the President, and Political Ambiguity," examines the lack of direct support from politicians for specific programs or views.

"My thesis concerns the ambiguity demonstrated by members of Congress based on the president's popularity. Ambiguity, simply defined, is a deliberate refusal to be clear about what it is one supports. It is a political tool for members of Congress. Remaining silent about their position on political issues, especially 'hot-button' issues, allows congressional members to maintain the support of their voting bloc and potentially win over more voters," she said.

Pittman discovered that there was little to no research on potential candidate's ambiguity. Her research is adding to the scholarly discussion for political science. She was able to provide a new lens of analysis for candidate behavior research.

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

## A Super Sunday Immersed in Savannah History



The state of Georgia experienced two Super Sundays this February. Atlanta hosted the Super Bowl on February 3, and the Georgia History Festival sponsored Super Museum Sunday on February 10, where participating museums across the state waived their admissions fees for a day. For the second year in a row, Honors students attended the Super Museum Sunday, learning more about the region at historic sites throughout Savannah.

This year's itinerary began with the Wormsloe Historic Site. This interactive exhibit delves into colonial life in the mid-late 1700s. Students enjoyed walking through the scenic trails that wound throughout the colonial estate of Noble Jones, a member of the first group of Georgia settlers led by James Oglethorpe.

Click [here](#) to read more!

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Honors Alumni are encouraged to update their information here!

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## Interdisciplinary Innovation



Literature brought Jim Walker's passion for blacksmithing and woodworking to life. Walker (mechanical engineering '19) grew up reading *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Entranced by these fantastical worlds, he wanted to be just like the characters on the page. "I wanted to have the arms and armor. However, being twelve or so, I had no money, so I decided it would be cheaper to make it. That is what started everything for me," he said.

When Walker arrived at Georgia Southern University, he was able to enhance his skills with new and available resources for students. He works in the city campus' FabLab, paying monthly dues to use the tools and the space for personal projects.

Walker started and finished over fifty projects at the FabLab. His projects are both personal and freelance. He is currently working on several projects including a conference table for the FabLab's offices. "The conference table has probably been the most challenging project because of its scale. It is an eight-foot by four-foot table. Each slab of oak weighs about 100 pounds," he said.

Click [here](#) to read more!

## Andrea Appleton Receives Research Grant



Congratulations to Andrea Appleton (biology '21). She received the Georgia Botanical Society Marie Mellinger Research Grant for her research on the evolution and reproductive processes of staminodes in *Paronychia* flowering plants.

To read more, see the [George-Anne article](#).

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](mailto:sengel@georgiasouthern.edu)



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