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### University Honors Program Newsletters

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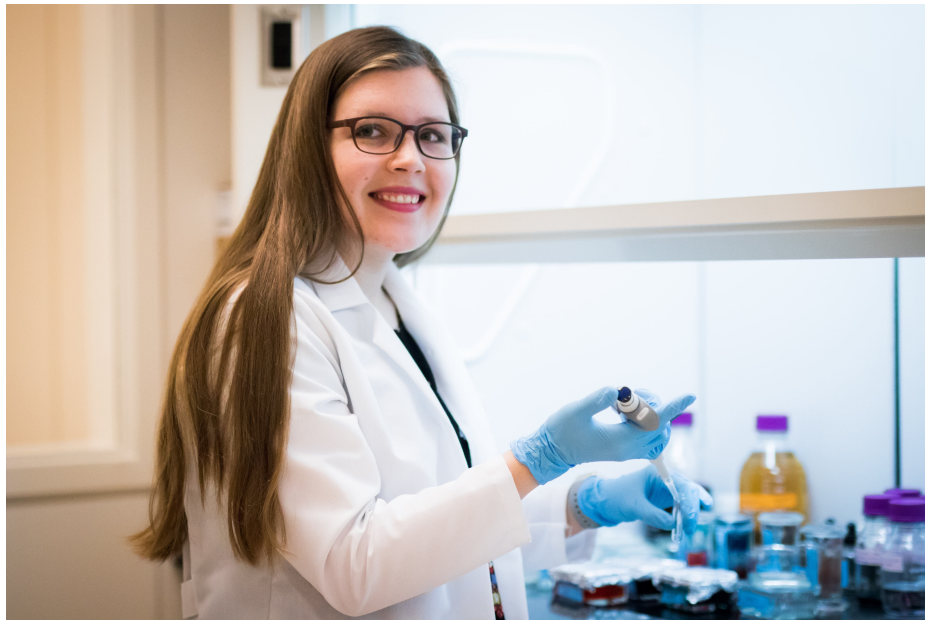
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## **Katherine Barrs Wins Prestigious Barry Goldwater Award**



Katherine Barrs, a second-year biology and mathematics double-major, won the Barry Goldwater Scholarship, the nation's top scholarship for undergraduate students engaged in research in the sciences.

Barrs has worked on research that brings together mathematics and biology in labs here at Georgia Southern and on a National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at University of North Carolina – Greensboro last summer. This coming summer she will participate in another REU at Yale University.

Click [here](#) to read more about her award and experiences!

## **Emily Pressler Selected for Fulbright**



Senior Spanish and French major Emily Pressler has been awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) in Spain for the 2019-2020 academic year. Pressler's placement will be in Galicia, Spain, and she will assist primarily in English classes for students who speak Spanish, Galician, and English. She is the first Georgia Southern student to be awarded a Fulbright ETA since 2014.

Pressler is a student in the University Honors Program, and she recently completed her honors thesis, "Hispanic Stereotypes in Contemporary Film." Her coursework in Spanish and French gave her insight into language-learning and a variety of approaches for engaging language learners in the classroom.

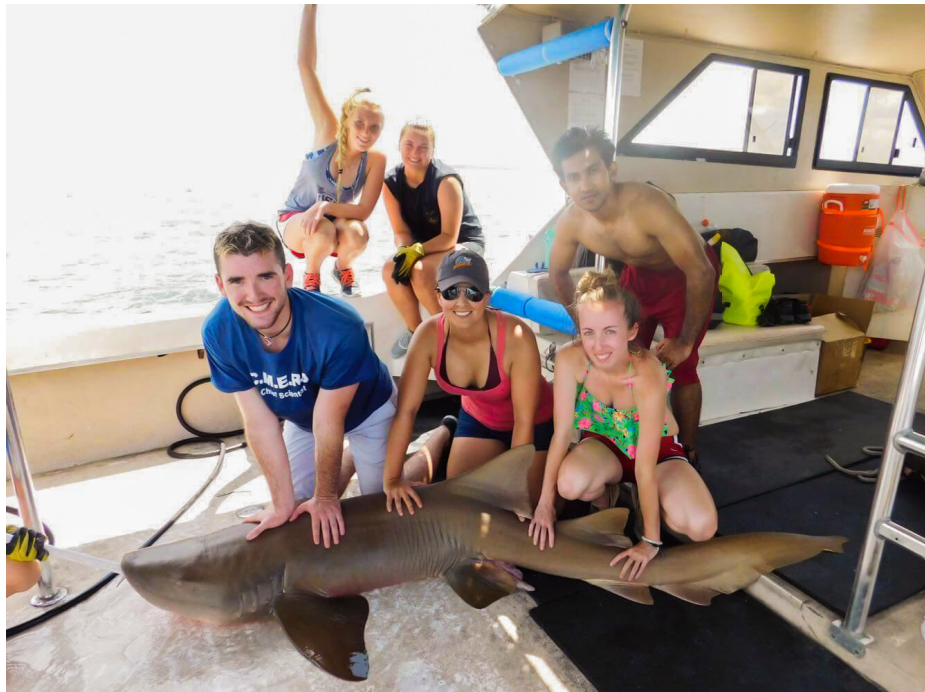
Click [here](#) to read more!



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.

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**Honors Research: Swimming with Sharks**



Ever since the release of the 1975 film *Jaws*, sharks have suffered a negative reputation that leaves many people clinging to the shore. There are some people, however, who say sharks are misunderstood. Second-year student Colton Borresen (biology '21) is one of those people, and last summer he joined them in their natural habitat as he worked with the Coastal Marine Education and Research Academy (CMERA) to conduct research about shark and stingray populations.

Borresen holds fond memories of traveling to the beach with his family when he was younger. He often went snorkeling in places such as Florida, Mexico, and Aruba where his fascination with marine life began.

“I remember drift snorkeling around the Exumas in the Bahamas with sharks and stingrays only a few feet away,” he said. Naturally, majoring in biology at college was his primary choice.

Click [here](#) to read more!

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Honors Alumni are encouraged to update their information here!

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**Project Pura Vida: An Honors Legacy in  
Costa Rica**





Costa Rica has become a popular spring break destination for many college students in recent years. Countless planes fly into the capital city of San José where passengers depart and make their way to the closest white sandy beach in the most popular resort hotels. There are some students, however, who have taken a different path after entering the country. Some of those students are from Georgia Southern, and for the past five years, they have flown into San Jose and then made their way to the small town of La Carpio where they have dedicated their spring break to serving the Nicaraguan refugee community.

“Project Pura Vida! Honors in Costa Rica” is led by Doctora Leticia McGrath (Spanish), who approached the University Honors Program in 2014 to develop a volunteer trip in partnership with the Costa Rican Humanitarian Foundation, a group she had met on an earlier study abroad trip.

Click [here](#) to read more!

**Honors Program Travels to Memphis to Present Research**



Honors Program students from the Statesboro and Armstrong campuses traveled by bus to Memphis to present their research at the annual meeting of the Southern Regional Honors Council (SRHC). Led by Dr. Steven Engel and Dr. Jonathan Roberts, 49 Georgia Southern students participated in poster presentations and paper panel sessions. SRHC is comprised of honors colleges and programs across the southeast, and for the second year in a row, Georgia Southern had the largest contingent of students presenting.

For many of the Georgia Southern students, this was their first experience presenting at an academic conference. Anna Hassett (exercise science '19) left her first poster presentation feeling like she had expanded her knowledge on things from her field of study as well as other varying fields that she normally would not encounter. "I felt inspired to continue my research as well as other outside research projects," she said.

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](mailto:sengel@georgiasouthern.edu)



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