

Honors College Annual Report, 2016-2017

Introduction

The 2016-2017 academic year has been a time of transition and reflection for the Honors College. The College has been privileged to have Dr. Ted Zerucha from Biology serve as our Interim Director since February 2016. Dr. Zerucha has been especially invested in increasing the diversity of our Honors student population, expanding the Honors community through social and service activities, and supporting student travel to conduct research. Dr. Rick Klima from Mathematical Sciences also joined us as academic mentor for STEM students, and Dr. Louis Gallien from Interdisciplinary Studies is our new academic mentor for Education majors. Both Dr. Klima and Dr. Gallien have significant experience teaching Honors seminars and mentoring Honors research.

Students in the Honors College did extraordinary work this year, going above and beyond the expectations of their individual classes or degree programs. In just a few examples of these outstanding achievements, Ryan Hellenbrand was awarded a Fulbright to teach English and develop an oral history project in Austria, Colleen Choate will perform at the Bates Dance Festival in Maine, and Marit Barber has just returned from working with human trafficking survivors in India. Devin Hoffman will be starting a Ph.D. program in Geosciences at Virginia Tech with the support of a National Sciences Foundation graduate research fellowship. Graduating Honors College seniors were admitted to prestigious graduate programs in the U.S. and Britain, and Honors students from all levels studied abroad and did service learning projects in more than 25 countries. This year's graduating class will go on to represent Appalachian as employees at global corporations and through participation in a number of prestigious internships and post-baccalaureate research positions.

In July 2017, we will welcome Dr. Jeff Vahlbusch as he joins Appalachian State as the new Dean of the Honors College. Dr. Vahlbusch, a scholar of German literature, previously served as Director of the Honors Program at University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Together with Dr. Vahlbusch, the Honors College staff looks forward to further developing the mission and vision of the Honors College, with the hope of serving as Appalachian's intellectual nerve center and a locus of cross-disciplinary student research.

Honors College Staff

- Ted Zerucha, Ph.D., Interim Director
- Louis Gallien, Jr., Ph.D.
- Rick Klima, Ph.D.
- Garrett McDowell, Ph.D.
- Angela Mead, Ed.D.
- Heather Waldroup, Ph.D.
- Jessica Yandow, M.P.A.

Faculty Awards

- Dee Parks, Ph.D., Computer Science, Distinguished Service to Honors
- Joseph Gonzalez, Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Studies, Teacher of the Year
- Craig Caldwell, Ph.D., History, Mentor of the Year

Student Awards: Prestigious Scholarships

- Sarah Aldridge was a Truman Scholarship finalist.
- Eric Burton received National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship.
- Conner Gleason-Wallace was awarded a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.
- Ryan Hellenbrand was granted a Fulbright Award.
- Devin Hoffman was awarded a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and an NSF graduate research fellowship.

Graduate School Admissions

- Appalachian State University
- Brown University
- Cambridge University
- Duke University
- Indiana University, Bloomington
- Lenoir-Rhyne University
- Notre Dame University
- University College London
- University of Georgia
- University of Hawai'i Mānoa
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill School of Medicine
- University of North Carolina, Greensboro
- University of North Carolina, Wilmington
- Virginia Tech
- Wake Forest School of Medicine

Other Programs, Awards and Activities

- Kelly Dancy will be working as a reading tutor at Wilkes Literacy.
- Emily Fedders made the all-conference team in Cross Country and was a member of Appalachian's first Sun Belt Cross Country championship team.
- Nick Gilliam was awarded a Catawba Valley Area Scholarship by the North Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants (NCACPA).
- Evie Giaconia will volunteer at an ecotourism cooperative and conduct field research in Ecuador.
- Kevin Goslen will be a post-baccalaureate researcher at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS).
- Josh Herman will be taking a gap year and exploring some truly exceptional national parks in the U.S. and Canada, including Glacier, Yosemite, Grand Teton, and Banff.
- Juliet Irving's choreography was adjudicated by the American College Dance Association and performed in their Gala Concert.
- Shaina Katz was awarded a critical language scholarship to study Arabic in Morocco.
- Rebecca Long was awarded the Dr. L. Jill Loucks Memorial Award for Outstanding Senior in Anthropology.
- Sarah Patrick is editor-in-chief of *History Matters*, an undergraduate research journal.
- Rose Rossell will be doing thesis research at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Employment (Current and Recent Graduates)

- Deloitte Tax LLP
- Democracy NC
- Eastman Chemical Company
- Grant Thornton
- Inmar Corporation
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Triangle Capital Corporation
- Watauga Opportunities, Inc.

Internships

- Appalachian Roots Garden
- D.C. Public Schools Urban Education Leaders Internship Program
- Exxon Mobile
- Forsyth County District Attorney's Office - Violent Crimes Unit
- IBM
- National Cancer Institute (NCI)/National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- National Security Agency
- SAS Institute

- Steelcase Inc., Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Tufts University European Center
- WBTV News Charlotte

Alumni News

- After spending the year as an IRTA Fellow at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Corbin Ester will attend Harvard Medical School in the Fall.
- Timothy Hefflinger was awarded a 10-month fellowship with the American India Foundation and is living in the remote Himalayan region of Ladakh, in the small city of Leh, working with an NGO called Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust (SLC-IT).
- Elyse Lawson lives and works in Copenhagen, Denmark, where she is a strategic management and consulting intern at a small company.
- Kyle Sasser is completing his first year of law school in Vermont, and hopes to work in public lands management. He will spend the summer working for the Green Mountain Club to preserve the nation's oldest long-distance hiking trail, the Long Trail.

International Education

- The Honors College sponsored two faculty-lead, Honors-specific study abroad trips to Austria (summer 2016) and the United Kingdom (spring 2017).
- The Honors College is sponsoring faculty-lead study trips to Cuba and the United Kingdom in summer 2017.
- Countries where Honors students studied abroad in 2016-2017 included Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, China, Cuba, Finland, France, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Morocco, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
- Honors students completed service learning projects in San Francisco, CA, as well as Belize, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Peru, and Puerto Rico.

Class of 2020 Stats

- Entering number of Honors students: 105
- Average SAT (M+V; ACTs converted): 1361
- Average high school class percentile: top 5-10%
- Female: male ratio: 62% female, 37% male (1% did not specify a gender)
- In-state: out-of-state students: 85%: 15%
- Average student to faculty ratio for HON courses: 10:1
- Current number of Honors alumni: 1,700+