

LAURUS HONORUM

“Honored with the Laurel”

Volume 16, Spring 2014

**ACROSS THE GENERATIONS:
HONORS STUDENTS CONNECT WITH APP ALUMNA
DR. BJ CASEY AT NEUROSCIENCE CONFERENCE**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Word From the Director.....3

Yandow into Africa.....3

TED Honors Program.....4

Fall 2014 Course Line-Up.....4

Entrepreneurial Philanthropy.....5

Welcoming the Chancellor-Elect.....6

Chancellor’s Scholars Dinner.....6

AIM High Testimony.....7

Ester Named Goldwater Scholar.....8

Heinen Earns Hollings Award.....8

Hewitt-Castillo in Costa Rica.....9

Ryan Hellenbrand in Germany.....10

Correy Dowd Internship.....11

SYNAPSE 2014 Conference.....12

Alumni Attend DPT and MD schools.....13

Alumna Irwin in Pediatric Residency.....14

Welcome to Dr. Andrea McDowell.....15

The Laurus Honorum (“honored with the laurel”) is the NCHC award-winning newsletter of the Honors College at Appalachian State University.

Published quarterly, the Laurus Honorum provides news to our students, parents, alumni, and the Appalachian community about Honors College events, programs, and stories featuring our amazing Honors students and alumni.

We want to share your stories and accomplishments. Follow us below and let us hear from you!





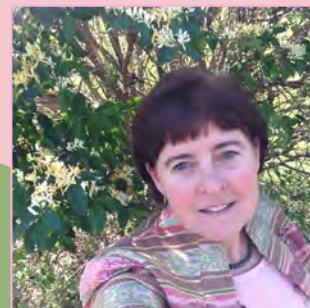
A Word from the Director

Balancing The Selfie Season with the Big Five in Honors

Spring has been late and slow this year, but it has not delayed the arrival of the spring travel season. Students have already set off on their myriad adventures and I have just returned from a visit to the University of Johannesburg, where two of our students will shadow in Sports and Movement Studies for the month of June. As our students start to send us back selfies from their journeys, I decided to include one of my own from home, just as a reminder that they should not stay away too long; we want them to come back! They may be hunting for that perfect picture of the African “big five”, but while on their summer voyages they are continuing to “bag” the academic big five for honors: intellectual honesty, academic excellence, service commitment, moral sensitivity, and global sensibility.

Stories in this issue follow our usual pattern with items about next semester’s courses, accomplishments of the students, including tales from abroad, and a note or two from alumni. There is also great news about new honors programs in Exercise Science and Technology and Environmental Design, and some conference reports, of course!

Happy Spring, and join us in July for more updates on the summer voyages!



Yandow Into Africa!

Jessica Yandow, Honors College Office Manager, recently accompanied Dr. Jones to South Africa to help set up student shadowing opportunities at the University of Johannesburg’s Department of Sport and Movement Studies. Shown here with the Head of Division, Dr. Yoga Coopoo (left), and Professor Leon Lategan (who will oversee the students’ rotations), Ms. Yandow toured the facilities that the students will be visiting in June. Ms. Yandow manages the scholarships for the Heltzer Honors Program for International Education and was thus uniquely positioned to contribute ideas for future students’ experiences. She, in turn, was able to gain a deeper appreciation of the value of these programs.





Department of Technology And Environmental Design Creates Honors Program!

Thanks to the efforts of TED department chair, Professor Jeff Tiller, and his colleagues in the unit, the students of this large department will now have the opportunity to pursue departmental honors. The program follows the format of most other department honors programs, requiring two honors classes and a thesis to be completed, in addition to maintaining the same GPA that would earn *Cum Laude* Latin honors (3.45).

This program is open to all majors in any field of TED; students do not have to be in the Honors College to graduate with TED departmental honors. It is an extraordinary intellectual challenge that is available to any ambitious students in the TED majors who want to take their scholarship to the next level and prepare for graduate school with the kind of research and creative projects that the best schools expecting.

Current majors for whom this honors program is now a possibility include: Appropriate Technology, Building Science, Commercial Photography, Graphic Arts and Imaging Technology, Industrial Design, and Interior Design.

Congratulations to
Technology and Environmental Design!



Fall 2014 Course Line-Up

The fall course list had some provocative additions to the regular offerings. Criminal Justice's *Cybercrime* course is a new 3515 from

2304SDF0F09W8IOU666
30ACYBER0345HASDFSI
00W8AJD0G8CRIMEFJ4FH

Dr. Marcum and is a nice counterpoint to Dr. Rick Klima's 2515 *Secret Codes*. *Unlearning Racism* from Dr. Brandy Wilson is another new 3515, as is Professor McCraw's

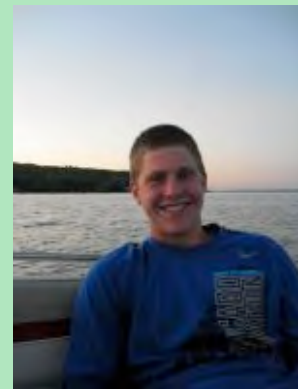
Executive Seminar in International Leadership and Ethics. Dr. Janice Pope (COM) has created a new course with *mymedia.myworld*, as has Dr. Chris Osmond with *Faces in a Crowd*, which will use the works of David Foster Wallace as the class framework. Dr. Alexandra Hellenbrand will take students into the world of *The Blue Danube* again, and several of the 1515s are returning hits, like *Contemporary Brazilian Culture and Literature* from Dr. Brent James. Happy Shopping!





Entrepreneurial Philanthropy

Over winter break, Jack Schaufler (right) learned about a project his best friend, Alex Wilhelm, from UNC-CH was trying to launch and Jack jumped at the chance to join. The mission for their start-up, United Solar Initiative, is to empower community leaders through renewable energy solutions by providing knowledge and resources to eliminate energy poverty and promote sustainable living.



United Solar Initiative, Inc. (USI) is a newly created North Carolina non-profit corporation that aims to deliver photovoltaic solar energy systems to the underprivileged in the US and abroad. These systems are intended to provide lighting, general electric needs, and water pumping capabilities to people who need it. USI is a philanthropic organization and all revenue added to the budget will be used to further the organization's mission. The purpose of USI is to have a positive impact on communities by providing the tools needed for residents to provide themselves with a sustainable source of electricity and to unify entities within the solar industry through collaboration for a common cause. Currently, all USI directors are either full-time students or have full-time employment elsewhere.



**UNITED SOLAR
INITIATIVE, INC.**

There is now an installation in place in San Ramon Nicaragua (right), through a partnership with an Appalachian State trip sponsored by the Appropriate Technology Department. Looking towards the future, they have a US\$100,000 budget for the next year, including planned installations in Nicaragua, through partnering with Sister Communities of San Ramon, and in Kenya, through partnering with Carolina for Kibera. They are in the process of applying for 501(c)(3) status to be recognized as a tax-deductible organization, as well as applying for several grants, an example being the EPA P3 grant. They are excited for the future as they grow with the help of their advisory board, including Strata Solar owner Markus Wilhelm and Carolina for Kibera founder Rye Barcott.





Sheri Noren Everts, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Illinois State University since 2008, has been elected Chancellor of Appalachian State University by the Board of Governors of the 17-campus University of North Carolina System. Dr. Everts is pictured here with four Honors College students during her campus "Meet & Greet" on March 20th. The Honors College joins the ASU community in welcoming her to assume her new duties July 1, succeeding Dr. Kenneth E. Peacock, who announced last April that he would step down this year after a decade in the post.



Annual Chancellor's Scholars Dinner

On February 25th, the Annual Chancellor's Scholars Dinner was held at the Appalachian House, home of Chancellor and Mrs. Peacock. This event provided an opportunity for Chancellor Peacock and his wife, Roseanne, to get to know all four years of Chancellor's Scholars and talk about their experiences in the Honors College.

Also joining them were the Honors College staff, the Chancellor's Scholarship Committee, the Honors College Advisory Committee, the Provost, and other campus officials who all enjoyed a lovely evening. Pictured at right are some of the senior Chancellor's Scholars (l to r: Tyler Morton, Rachel Duffus, Nadareh Naseri, Kenneth Kennedy, Chancellor Peacock, Sarah Spain, Anna Gannett, Chelsea Lineberger, and Heather Newman).





The “Value-Added” of AIM High!

As a sophomore, Shauna Joyner participated in Appalachian’s Aim High program. In addition to the delicious food provided at the meetings, she greatly appreciated all the speakers who took the time to share their experiences with research, study abroad, and graduate school applications. The Aim High program especially emphasized the importance of undergraduate research as a means of not only practical experience, but also of demonstrating commitment to a field of study, which is highly desirable to graduate programs. Because of this emphasis, Shauna was motivated to seek out research opportunities and is currently a research assistant in the field of psychology.



Shauna found the speakers of the Aim High program to be honest and genuinely passionate about helping students succeed in both their present and future endeavors. She received valuable information about what steps were needed to be a competitive applicant to graduate schools as well as how to reach those steps. Because of the Aim High program, Shauna feels confident that she will be able to carry out the actions necessary to achieving her goal of going to graduate school.



Ester wins Goldwater Scholar Award!



Corbin Ester, a rising senior and chemistry major, was recently named to the national, highly prestigious Goldwater Scholars awards list for 2014-15. This followed on the heels of the Excellence in Scholastic Achievement Award he received from the Carolina Piedmont Section of the American Chemical Society this spring (pictured at left). Corbin's Goldwater award was for work he proposed based on his synthetic chemistry research in Dr. Dale Wheeler's laboratory. This experience, combined with his research the past two summers at the Univ of Kentucky and the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, are all part of his career path in oncology research and treatment.

CONGRATULATIONS, CORBIN!

Heinen Wins Hollings Award!

Sophomore Laura Heinen was announced as one of the 2014 Hollings Award winners! The Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); this scholarship provides selected undergraduate students with an award (up to a maximum of \$8,000) for two academic years of full-time study with an intervening 10-week, full-time internship (\$650/week) during the summer at a NOAA facility. Laura is shown here collecting data from Boone Creek for her research in Geology with senior Jacob Rudolph.





Mixing Business with Pleasure in Costa Rica

Dillon Hewitt-Castillo ventured to Costa Rica over winter break with a group from the College of Business to study the supply chain of coffee. Dillon loves good coffee and was thrilled to explore a coffee cooperative called "Coopedota," where he witnessed the damage caused by a fungus that attacks and diminishes coffee plants. *"I spoke with an agro engineer about the adversities coffee farmers in Costa Rica face and how Appalachian students can help."* As part of his studies there, Dillon also learned the process by which coffee is evaluated for quality, including aroma, acidity, and flavors. In addition to learning about coffee, Dillon had the chance to sleep in the rainforest, assist with reforestation as part of conservation efforts, learn about the importance of energy and water conservation, explore the country, and he even scuba dived! *"I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to participate on this trip. I got to learn about something I love, experience a new culture, and I created lasting memories."*





Freshman Ryan Hellenbrand Spends Spring Semester in Bamberg, Germany

Ryan Hellenbrand (second from left below), a freshman studying abroad in Bamberg, Germany, for his second semester, is shown here with some German classmates in Nuremberg at an exhibition commemorating the Nuremberg Trials (he is second from left in the photo). Ryan is a Global Studies and Sustainable Development double major with a German minor and decided not to wait for his study abroad experiences. Although only a freshman, this is his second ASU trip abroad, as he went to Dublin over Fall Break with an Honors College class.



Universität Bamberg



INTERNSHIPS



Correy Dowd Interns at Fort Belvoir with Army Base

Correy Dowd, a Junior psychology major (shown below with her father), spent last summer as an intern at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital on the Army base in Virginia (right). Her internship took place in the outpatient behavioral health unit where soldiers came to receive counseling, group therapy, and seek other psychiatric needs. She was able to observe both one-on-one and group therapy sessions. Within the unit, there is a specific treatment center for soldiers who experienced traumatic brain injury (TBI) during combat. This is where she spent the majority of her time. A great and sadly expanding number of soldiers returning home from the war zone have experienced and continuously struggle with TBI. New technologies, in the form of computer programs, are being implemented to combat some of the impact of TBI to cognitive abilities. Her part in the unit was to score various psychological measures soldiers would complete before they began the program and to meet and greet soldiers when they arrived, as well as help them begin their programs and check up on their progress. Beyond the outpatient unit she was also able to spend time in the inpatient psychiatric unit, as well as the co-occurring unit. The inpatient unit is a facility within the hospital that keeps individuals for up to two weeks. Most patients are hospitalized for substance abuse or attempts to harm themselves or others. The inpatient treatment team consisted of a variety of therapy options



including recreational therapy, music therapy and art therapy, and she was able to participate in these therapies during her time there. The Co-occurring program is a transition from inpatient to outpatient care and this was her favorite experience because it was far more personal and intimate than any of the other settings. She would ideally love to end up in a career setting similar to the one in co-occurring. This internship was an amazing experience to explore her passions and discover the future career setting that she now realizes is what she desires!





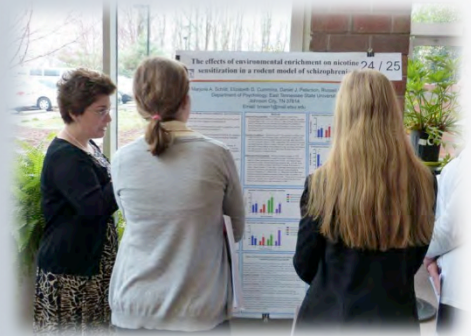
SYNAPSE 2014

Honors students representing the undergraduate journal, IMPULSE, recently traveled to the University of North Carolina at Asheville to attend Synapse 2014, a regional neuroscience conference promoting undergraduate research. Attendees heard from keynote speakers Dr. BJ Casey, Appalachian alumni and current Professor of Developmental Psychology at Cornell University, and Dr. Michael Platt, Director of the Duke Institute for Brain Sciences. The Impulse members also critiqued the abstracts of other undergraduates while seeking to promote the journal.

-- Kyle Sasser



Six of the IMPULSE team consult about the presentation and plan their approach!



Dana Cobb and Elisabeth Moore (backs to the shot) evaluate a poster presented at the conference.



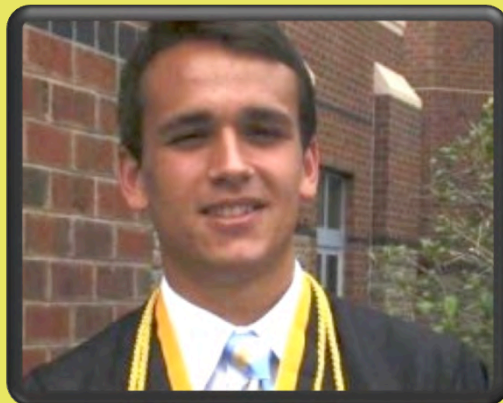
Drs. BJ Casey and Platt address a workshop.

The whole conference team: (back row, l to r) Devin Hoffman, Sarah Eubanks, Kyle Sasser, Danielle Russell, Corbin Ester, Hannah Johnson; (front row, l to r) Alison Rossi, Dana Cobb, Hannah Krueger, Dr. BJ Casey, Elisabeth Moore, Rachel Sledge.



Alumnus Pastore Heads for UNC-CH DPT Program

Congratulations to our 2013 Honors graduate, Anthony Pastore, who will be moving on to UNC-Chapel Hill's Physical Therapy Graduate Program in the fall! *"I wholeheartedly believe that my enrollment in the Honors College prepared me for the application process and provided me the motivation that was necessary to get accepted into graduate school. Much of my interview was spent talking about my experiences traveling abroad and in research, things I probably would not have done without being a member of the Honors College. Thank you to Dr. Jones and the Honors College staff for the support you gave me along the way!"*



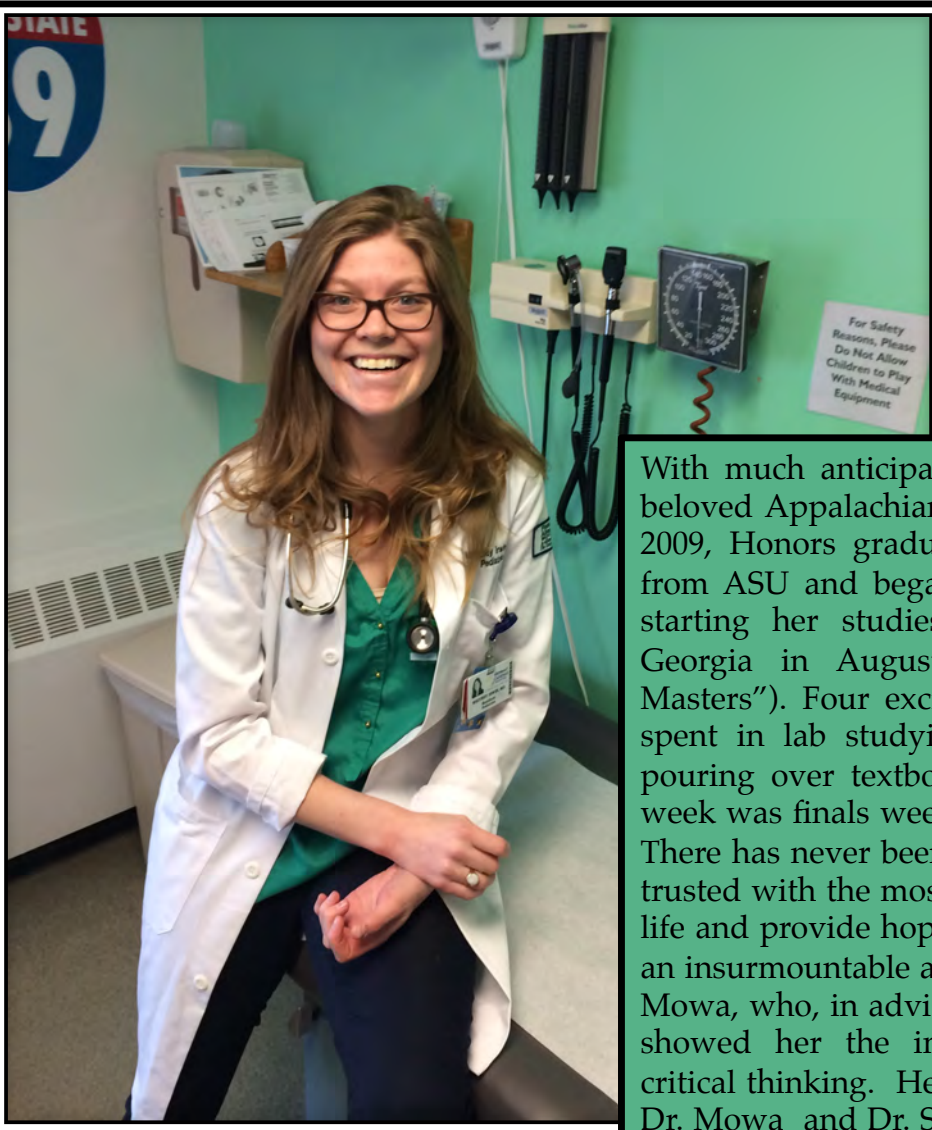
Alumni Comadoll, Cutshall, and Sears Start Medical School in the Fall

This coming fall Shea Comadoll (Dec. 2013, at left), Michael Cutshall (May 2013, center) and Taylor Sears (May 2012, at right) will be M1s (first year medical students) at three different schools. Shea, a chemistry major, will be at Wake Forest School of Medicine; Michael, a biology major, will be in his home state at UT Memphis College of Medicine, while Taylor, a chemistry major, will be attending ECU's Brody School of Medicine. These students prudently applied after they had gained more clinical experience, a key component to a successful application. Congratulations to all three future physicians!





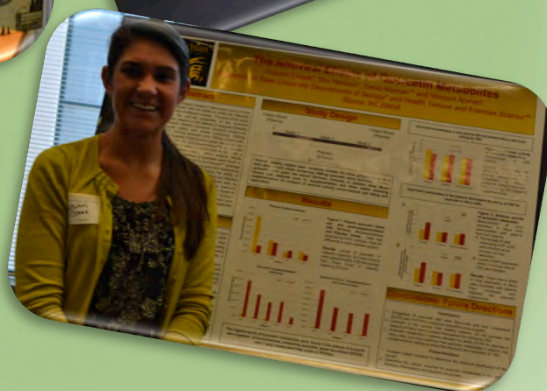
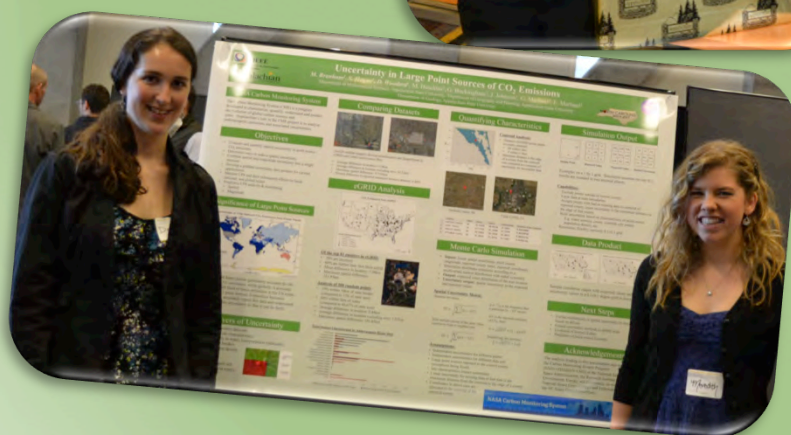
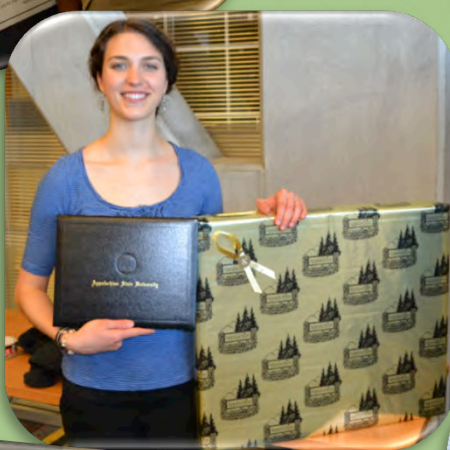
Honors Grad Enjoys Pediatric Residency in Burlington, VT



With much anticipation and sadness to leave the beloved Appalachian Mountains in the summer of 2009, Honors graduate Whitney Irwin graduated from ASU and began her pursuit of medicine by starting her studies at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, Georgia (home of “The Masters”). Four exciting and grueling years were spent in lab studying the anatomy of cadavers, pouring over textbooks in the library (like every week was finals week), and by the patient bedside. There has never been a greater privilege than to be trusted with the most intimate details of someone’s life and provide hope for the future. Whitney owes an insurmountable amount of thanks to Dr. Nathan Mowa, who, in advising her on her Honor’s thesis, showed her the importance of dedication and critical thinking. Her time working in the lab with Dr. Mowa and Dr. Shull in the biology department for her Honors research at ASU created the perfect foundation for her to thrive in medical school. Throughout medical school, Whitney had the opportunity to participate in medical mission trips in both Peru and South East Asia. Her zeal for the mountains and adventure drove her to Burlington, Vermont, where she is currently completing her pediatric residency. She hopes to practice medicine abroad to some degree upon completion of her training.



Research and Creative Endeavors Day at ASU



Several Honors College students were among the throng of students presenting at the "Research and Creative Endeavors Day at ASU" on April 18, 2014. Kim Noel (chemistry, center photo) was one of three to win an award for best undergraduate poster presentation. Others to win accolades for their research and their presentations were Eguano Akpoduado (top left), Kaitly Woodard (top right), Brianna Germond (middle right), Autumn Cheek (bottom right), and Dawn Woodard (l) and Meredith Branham (r; bottom left).



Welcome, Dr. Andrea McDowell!

While we are sad that Ms. Lisa Kirscht is moving to the higher elevations of Denver, we are delighted to introduce you to Dr. McDowell, who is moving from New Mexico to take over as advisor for the Honors social science, pre-law, and business majors. A cultural anthropologist by training, Dr. McDowell has extensive professional experience in photography and graphic design, skills she will be applying in future issues of this newsletter and for the Honors College website.

Stop by and give her a good ol' Mountaineer welcome when you are next in App Hall!



If you would like to donate to the Honors College and support our talented students, please visit our website and click on the image above, which is located at the bottom of our home page at honors.appstate.edu.

For more information on how to donate, please email or call the Honors College. We appreciate your support and generosity!

The Honors College Newsletter

Director

Dr. Leslie Sargent Jones

Associate Director

Dr. Heather Waldroup

Director of Prestigious Scholarships Program

Dr. Dale Wheeler

Office Manager

Jessica Yandow

Director of Student Services

Dr. Angela Mead

Pre-Law and Business Advisor

Lisa Kirscht

Administrative Support Associate

Rachel Robinson

Work Study Students

Courtney Fish, Jocelyn Lima

Aja Purkett

Student Staff Writer

Kyle Sasser

Contact The Honors College

Address: ASU Box 32073, Boone, NC 28608

Email: honors@appstate.edu

Phone: (828) 262-2083

Fax: (828) 262-2734

GIVE NOW