

LAURUS HONORUM

"Honored with the Laurel"

Volume 21, Summer 2015



EXPERIENCING LIFE



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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 so let us hear from you! You can find all contact information and updates at:



Photos, front cover: (Background) Honors student Kai Des Etages in Cuba (story p. 18), **(top right)** Mac Shelton in Guyanna (story p. 27), **(top center)** Sarah Mbiki in India (story p. 11), and **(top left)** Kimberly Brown in Australia (story p. 15).



- WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR..... 3
- NEWS: MAY 2015 GRADUATION CEREMONY.....4
- NEWS: RECENT GRADUATES STORIES..... 5
- NEWS: MAY 2015 FACULTY AWARDS..... 6
- NEWS: FRESHMEN ORIENTATION..... 7
- WELCOME NEW CHANCELLOR’S SCHOLARS..... 8
- HONORS ATHELETE AMBER DANIEL..... 9
- WIN AT SPENCER-RIMS COMPETITION.....10
- HONORS STUDENTS IN INDIA 11
- KEVIN GOSLIN SEMESTER IN TRIER.....12
- HONORS STUDENTS IN PUEBLA, MEXICO.....13
- TWO STUDENTS TRAVEL TO ISRAEL.....14
- KIMBERLY BOWMAN: DOWN UNDER.....15
- MADDIE LIPPY: ETHNIC CONFLICT IN EUROPE..16
- ISAAC CHURCH: BUSINESS IN POLAND 17
- FACULTY-LED TRIPS TO S. AFRICA & CUBA.....18
- FACULTY: MARY VALANTE IN DUBLIN.....19
- FACULTY: NYC LOFT & SUMMER HON 3515.....20
- STAFF: CONFERENCE TRAVEL & NEH.....21
- ALUMNI: RECENT GRADUATES TEACH.....22
- RESEARCH: HONORS AT NCUR.....23
- RESEARCH: STUDENTS DEFEND THESES.....24
- RESEARCH: ASU STUDENT RESEARCH DAY.....25
- AWARDS: NASA/NC & PLEMMONS WINNERS..26
- SERVICE: MAC SHELTON & ROTC..... 27
- UPCOMING: RETREAT.....28
- BACK COVER..... 29





BUSY SUMMER FOR HONORS: OFF AND OUT EXPERIENCING REAL LIFE

It is summer in Honors, but not the lazy days one hears about! Reports in this issue will catch you up on the recent round of graduates and what some are heading off to do, which is exhausting to keep track of. There are some samples of thesis defenses to give you an idea of that ongoing process (some will graduate in August). Then there is the June Freshmen Orientation, where we welcomed our new, outstanding class of Honors students, so you can read about the students who will come in to replace our outgoing graduates. Of course, there is the usual spate of articles on a few of the many international experiences that Honors students are doing year round, and some staff and faculty reports, as well. There will be many more of these in the fall issue, of course, as we get the updates for the late summer adventures that many are currently doing, so follow us on Facebook if you want to be completely *au courant* with the Honors happenings!



Above: Dr. Jones in Rio in front of the Teatro Municipal (photograph by Dr. Sarah Spencer).

GIFT SUPPORTS

\$50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis research supplies.
\$85	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student membership to a professional organization. • The registration fee for a national conference.
\$195 - \$275	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of graduate or professional school exams.
\$1,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airfare for one student to go abroad to conduct research, study abroad, or attend a national conference.
\$2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The May Honorum Laurus graduation ceremony.
\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Honors Freshmen Retreat.
\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One student to study abroad for a semester.
\$350,000 endowment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One full-ride scholarship.





HONORUM LAURUS GRADUATION CEREMONY, MAY 8, 2015

On May 8th, the Honors College hosted the Spring 2015 Honorum Laurus. In this graduation ceremony, the Honors College celebrates those who have completed the requirements to earn the distinction of University Honors. Graduating students are hooded and bestowed the Honorum Laurus medal and with it officially *"honored with the laurel."* The medal design reflects the logo of the Honors College incorporating the mountain songbird of the Appalachian State University word-mark. Our graduates have now taken flight giving song to the world; we wish them success and will follow their bright futures with pride and great interest.

Only the most dedicated students, graduate with University Honors. In this May 8th ceremony, we celebrated the accomplishments of 75 graduating Honors Students. Their hard work culminated with the completion of their Honors Thesis projects ranging from topics of art to politics to water quality. To see the Honors thesis abstracts of our graduates, visit our website: www.honors.appstate.edu/academics/thesis-examples.





RECENT HONORS GRADUATES SOAR!!!



This is by no means a full report, as many of our recent graduates are still weighing options. What follows will give you a sense of the directions our recent graduates are headed:

Five Honors Grads Off to Medical School

Two May graduates and three alumni are heading off to medical school this coming fall. Beth Payment ('14) will be attending ECU, Carson Keller ('13) will be going to Meharry, and Alex Dezii ('14) is choosing from several acceptance opportunities. Jeff Phillips ('15) has an offer at Eastern Virginia Medical School that he has accepted and Danielle Russell ('15) will be attending the University of South Carolina School of Medicine.

UNC-CH Graduate and Law Schools for Four

Hanna Fox and Olivia Sings (both '15) are taking up their UNC-CH Law School offers for this fall, and will be moving to Chapel Hill this summer. Joining them in rolling down the mountain will be Karson Collins ('15), who will be in the Audiology graduate program at UNC-CH, and Nicole Steyl ('15), who will be enrolling in the UNC-CH Speech Pathology graduate program.

NCSU for Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence

Brian Clee is continuing his studies in computer science and artificial intelligence (AI) at NCSU, where he will be working on his Ph.D. starting in the fall. His Honors thesis on creating a prototype AI program to teach a motor skill is serving as a useful platform for his career path in AI development.

UGA Collects ASU Honors Grads

Michael Judge and Josh Watson (both '15) selected the University of Georgia from their choices for their Ph.D. studies in plant molecular biology. They will be joined at UGA by Audrey Thomas ('15), a History major, who will be continuing her love of history through the Historic Preservation Masters program in Athens.

The Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science

It is a mouthful, but a great place for Kelly Patterson ('15), whose love for cetaceans and marine science in general is well known in the Honors College. After doing an internship with a marine mammal program this past spring, Kelly is pursuing her Master's in Miami so that she can continue studying and serving the creatures she loves best.

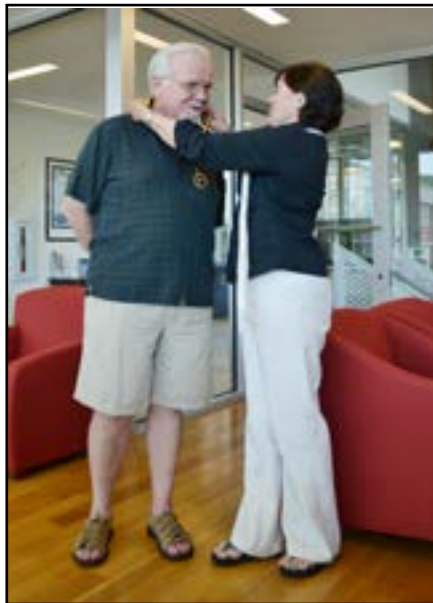
Just a Little More Time at Appalachian...

A number of ('15) Honors graduates just cannot tear themselves away from the mountains and will be continuing their graduate studies at ASU. These include David Marvel (Music Performance), Correy Dowd (Clinical Psychology), Haley Goins (Accounting), Dean Cates (English), Katie Reynolds (Speech Pathology), Andrew Graves (Experimental Psychology), and Kristen Content (Biology) (all '15). **Congratulations to all!**



MAY 2015 FACULTY AWARDS

Each semester, The Honors College presents Faculty Members with the following awards announced at the Honorum Laurus Graduation ceremony: Mentor of the Year, Teacher of the Year, and a Special Award for the Retiring



Faculty Member for their contribution to Honors. The Special Award for the Retiring Faculty Member this semester went to ASU's Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, Dr. Stan Aeschleman (photo top left). The Mentor of the Year is awarded to the faculty member who mentored the most honors student theses; this semester that award winner was Dr. Mark Zrull, Professor of Psychology (photos below). The Teacher of the Year, or "ToY," is selected by the Senior Vanguard. This year Dr. Thomas McLaughlin, Professor of English, received that award. Though Dr. McLaughlin was at ASU's Loft in New York City for the Spring 2015 semester and missed the Honorum Laurus award ceremony, he was medalled by Dr. Jones (photo left) upon his return to Boone on May 28th. Congratulations to our three faculty award winners for Spring 2015; your service to Honors is deeply appreciated.





Class of

2019 FRESHMEN ORIENTATION

Throughout the month of June, we welcomed new Freshmen to the Honors College during Freshmen Orientation. Each new Honors student attended one of the eleven two-day orientation sessions. In each, students attended Honors and departmental/major information sessions, spent time getting oriented to campus, and met individually with Honors Advisors. Each student walked away registered for a full load of classes for their first semester, as well as an overload of information that they will need to navigate through college life. Throughout their orientation to campus, Honors students were guided by Jonathan Williams (photo right), the Honors Student Orientation Undergraduate Leader (SOUL) and rising Senior Honors student.



Facts about incoming Honors class of 2019:

- Entering Number of Honors Students: 122
- Average SAT (M+V; ACTs converted): 1391
- Average high school class percentile: top 5-10%
- Female:male ratio: 65% female, 35% male
- In-state:out-of-state students: 89%:11%





WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS!

Appalachian and the Honors College are delighted to welcome ten new Chancellor's Scholars to campus in fall 2015! The Chancellor's Scholarship is the oldest and most academically-competitive scholarship at Appalachian, and this year's incoming students are a most impressive group of students, with an average SAT math+verbal score of 1506 (ACT composite of 34). There were 1,440 applicants for the ten scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year. With this very intense competition, the committee had to make some difficult decisions. This prestigious scholarship has been awarded to the following ten outstanding students (photographs below are in alphabetical order counterclockwise).

Morgan Coyle

Raleigh, North Carolina, psychology & philosophy major

John Dempsey

Jacksonville, Alabama, computer science major

Emily Fedders

Beckley, West Virginia, environmental science major

Emma Hammond

Morganton, North Carolina, music performance major

Emma Lassiter

Apex, North Carolina, music performance major

Meagan Hein

St. Louis Park, Minnesota, pre-health major

Alexxis Jester

Knoxville, Tennessee, psychology major

Alexander Luke

Wilmington, North Carolina, biology major

Katherine Miller

Gatlinburg, Tennessee, interior design & marketing major

Elizabeth Williams

Morganton, North Carolina, graphic design major



This four-year, full-ride scholarship includes tuition, fees, housing and a meal plan, which can also be applied to approved study abroad experiences—nearly \$60,000 for the four years. Freshman Chancellor's Scholars spend their first fall break in Dublin, Ireland, with Dr. Leslie Sargent Jones, Director of the Honors College, and have access to a dedicated meeting and study room in the Honors College. We welcome these students to Honors at ASU, and look forward to highlighting their accomplishments in future editions of the Laurus Honorum newsletter



AMBER DANIEL: HONORS SOPHOMORE AND VARSITY TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE

As a varsity track and field shot put thrower and Honors sophomore, Amber Daniel balances both with a lot of organization and great time management skills. As she explains, *“I personally have to make sure that I put all of my practices, classes and study times into the schedule on my phone. It is definitely difficult, but manageable especially with the resources offered on campus. I am grateful that I have two amazing advisors who help me to stay on top of my class work as well as help me to create a balanced schedule that optimizes my time throughout the day.”*



She further explains that being an Honors student, as well as an athlete has helped make her *“a more well rounded student. I think that Honors and athletics can act as an escape for the other when I’m stressed about a class or when I am stressed about an upcoming competition.”*

Amber’s typical day starts pretty early. As a self-described early bird she likes to have as many classes that start at 8 a.m. as possible. After three to four classes a day, normally, and the occasional lab, she heads to practice. Every day except for competition days and most Sundays she has an hour throwing practice followed by an hour or more of weight lifting. After practice, she has dinner with teammates at the dining hall and then heads directly to her dorm to study. She does homework from 7 until her 11pm bedtime. She further explains, *“Everyday I do it all over again. I think my day is pretty typical for most ASU students besides the practice and the Honors classes.”*

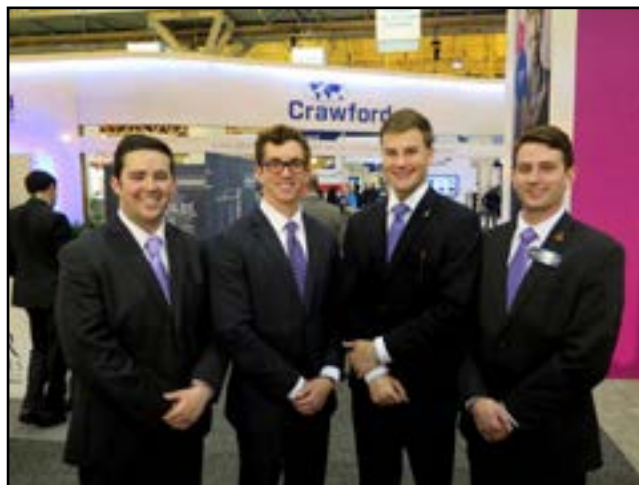
Amber adds, *“I have definitely built a community here at Appalachian with my teammates and with my Honors classmates. As an Exercise Science major, many of my classes discuss the human body and how it works. These courses not only relate to my life as an athlete by making me more aware of my body and the way my muscles function, but they also coincide with my Honors thesis. For my thesis, I plan to work within my major to do research involving my teammates. In the future, I plan on earning my master’s degree and being a physician’s assistant. Honors is definitely preparing me well for graduate school with the courses that I have to take as well as the study abroad opportunities. As for athletics, I hope to be a graduate assistant for the track team at the school I attend. The numerous hours that I dedicate to athletics now are definitely preparing me for that. I think that both the strenuous courses that I take in the Honors College and the extensive hours that I dedicate to Track and Field are what create the amazing college experience that I have had so far here at Appalachian.”*



HONORS SENIOR ERIC VICKERS: PART OF ASU STUDENT TEAM WINNING SPENCER-RIMS RISK MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

Honors Senior Alum Eric Vickers, along with three other Risk Management and Insurance (RMI) majors from Appalachian State University, won the national Spencer-RIMS Risk Management Challenge April 26-28. The final presentation rounds were held in conjunction with the RIMS 2015 Annual Conference & Exhibition in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Appalachian State team faced 100 industry leaders plus numerous attendees in a standing-room-only session at RIMS 2015 as they gave their award-winning risk management presentation. Along with their academic adviser, Dr. Karen Epermanis, the successful team of students included Eric Vickers, along with Wesley McDaniel, Bruce Thomas and Grant Jared. Appalachian was among eighteen university teams from across the United States who participated in the competition, which spanned several months. The teams, comprising of undergraduate students in their university's risk management and insurance program, were presented the challenge case for The Walt Disney Company and charged with providing a comprehensive risk analysis of company risks, along with recommendations.



Above: The winning students, pictured from left, were Eric Vickers, Bruce Thomas, Grant Jared, and Wes McDaniel.

The teams, comprising of undergraduate students in their university's risk management and insurance program, were presented the challenge case for The Walt Disney Company and charged with providing a comprehensive risk analysis of company risks, along with recommendations.

A panel of risk management professionals judged the teams' submissions, and the top eight teams were invited to present their findings at the National RIMS conference in New Orleans. That group was whittled down to three during the conference, with Appalachian State emerging as the overall winner and receiving a \$4,000 prize. Second place in the 2015 challenge went to Missouri State University, with Temple University coming in third.

Congratulations to Eric and the entire ASU team for this winning performance. Eric will start his first post graduate job in insurance underwriting with AIG in July. We look forward to hearing about much more of his success moving forward!



Above: Brantley Risk & Insurance Center Director Dr. Karen Epermanis, second from left, and Appalachian's Joseph F. Freeman Distinguished Professor of Insurance Dr. Dave Wood, second from right, are pictured with the winning students and their trophy.



THREE HONORS STUDENTS EXPLORE & LEARN IN INDIA

Dressed in their beautiful new salwar khameez, Sarah Irsik (left), Sarah Mbiki (center), and Emily Boaz (right) are shown here in front of their summer home, the International Hostel, at Bishop Heber College (BHC) in Trichy, India. The three students were hosted at BHC for the month of June while they shadowed in obstetric clinics (the Sarahs) or participated in an environmental study counting birds in a neighborhood wetland (Emily).



In addition to four weeks of clinical observation and biology fieldwork, they spent weekends exploring.

The first weekend they visited one of the largest Hindu temples of the world: Srirangam in Trichy. In the photo left, they are inside one of the temple buildings with their new friend Sri (left in photo). They also visited the iconic Rock Fort of Trichy, climbing to the top for views.

Something new for this group was their daring adventure to the former French colony once known as Pondicherry; this was something they planned and executed on their own! Sarah Mbiki (shown photo right at a beach on the Bay of Bengal) wrote in her blog (<http://sarahmbikiblog.blogspot.com/>) that *"If you ever find yourself in Pondicherry, the Richard Hotel is an amazing place to stay..."* and she has both a restaurant and a bakery recommendation, as well, all apparently places that would lead you to think you were in France, if it were not so incredibly hot.



Emily will recommend her favorite little tea shop in Trichy near her regular wetland birding spot (photo left). There, Manikandan, her welcoming host, will make you whatever kind of delicious tea you need that day as you count birds, pet calf noses on the street, and see random anteaters.



Sarah Irsik (right photo, center in a bindi-selfie) has enjoyed her time at two clinics, and the fact that there were additional kinds of surgeries (e.g., cholecystectomy) that she was also able to observe. The indomitable Dr. Devi (shown in right photo) was her unfailingly helpful and welcoming guide into this new world.



Sarah Mbiki (photo left shown with a surgeon, Dr. Johnston) found all of the clinical experiences intriguing. She has collected seven "godchildren," thanks to all the deliveries she has observed!



After an exciting month, they are all more informed about options for their career paths, but, unsurprisingly, since even more doors have opened, their decisions now seem even more complicated! Tune in again next year for an update on where they go after graduation.

KEVIN GOSLEN SHARES

THE FIRST DAY OF HIS MANY ADVENTURES IN TRIER, GERMANY



Above: "Porta Nigra," the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Trier.

Kevin Goslen spent this past spring semester in Trier Germany. Here he shares a story from his adventures—the first day of his semester abroad.

"I woke up for the first time in my new apartment in Trier and decided to explore the city, since none of my scheduled events started until the following day. Starting at the main train station, the only part of town I had seen so far and thus my only reference point, I began navigating the town by heading towards the largest structure I could see, going off of the assumption that large buildings must also be important and would therefore make good reference points to learn the town by. I stumbled onto the cathedral this way and find myself in the market square

of town. At the end of the square I can see a looming, black stone archway about 4 stories high. I'm clueless as to what it is, but I take a quick picture anyways. I continue walking, and begin to see signs for something called the 'Porta Nigra,' which I assume is a port on the river that runs through town. Interested in finding the river, I attempt to follow the signs but with no success."

Later, as I stopped at a bench to rest my legs, I began a conversation with a clearly highly-educated older gentleman also seated on the bench, who decided to help me find the Porta Nigra when he heard that it's my first day in town. As we begin walking back the way I came, he pointed out the dark archway I spotted earlier. He began to explain that the term 'Porta Nigra' is Latin for "Black Gate," and that this is the oldest still-standing Roman city gate in existence. I quickly realized my mistake and listened as the man continue to talk about Trier's rich history (it is the oldest city in Germany after all) but in my head all I could think was, 'I will never forget the day that I accidentally stumbled upon a UNESCO World Heritage Site.'"

Kevin continued to explore, learn and grow in his semester in Trier. He reported that the trip had already been life-changing and that he was growing through the challenges he encountered.



HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE AT THE UNIVERSIDAD DE LAS AMERICAS PUEBLA, MEXICO

Two Honors pre-meds and two Honors chemistry majors went to Mexico and spent four weeks this past June at the Universidad de las Americas Puebla (UDLAP) in Cholula (near Puebla). Savannah Ray and Maddison Staszewicz, shown right,



(Savannah middle, Maddie right) shadowed at the medical school, learning about medical student training and health care delivery. Maddie is shown (left) in an OR before a plastic surgery operation. She commented that the doctor “*really seems to enjoy his job. I hope one day I find a specialty I love as much as he loves plastic surgery.*”



The two chem majors, DJ Willett (right) and Alex Prevatte (left), shown in their lab coats with their lab mentor, graduate student, Oscar, worked in the chemistry lab of Dr. Erick Bandala, who was a visiting scientist at ASU in Fall 2014.



In addition to their professional experiences, they also traveled around the region seeing beautiful scenery and magnificent, ancient structures. The four of them are pictured (bottom left) sitting on the steps up the Great Pyramid of Cholula, and admiring the neighborhood volcano, Popocatepetl. They took a trip to La Malinche and stayed in a cabin where it was cold enough to require a fire; DJ and Maddie are shown (bottom right) on a hiking trail up the extinct volcano.



The students all had a great learning experience. As Dr. Casas, the host for Maddie and Savannah, reported “*Savannah & Maddison are very good students and I think they will be excellent doctors; here in Puebla they had a good observation [experience] in Private and Public Medicine, and knew the Mexican Health System. I was so happy with them. Congratulations!*” Dr. Bandala was also happy with the progress Alex and DJ made on their comparison of the cobalt/oxone Fenton Reaction work to the more widely studied Iron/Hydrogen Peroxide Fenton Reaction. So, the hosts were pleased with exchange, as well. Win-win for all!



HONORS STUDENTS TRAVEL TO ISRAEL WITH THE BIRTHRIGHT PROGRAM

Rising Sophomore Honors students Shaina Katz and Cassandra Silverman were selected to participate in the Taglit-Birthright Israel Program this summer. The vision of this program is “to strengthen Jewish identity, Jewish communities and solidarity with Israel by providing a 10-day trip to Israel for young Jewish people.”

Cassandra reports, “throughout these 10 days, we traveled to all parts of Israel. We spent a few days in the city of Tiberias hiking and rafting. Then, we moved onto Ashkelon to hear the story of an Arab-Israeli woman. In the days following, we journeyed into the Negev desert (photo bottom right) where we learned about the Bedouin culture. Later, we then had the opportunity to travel to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Throughout this journey, we became close with the 40 other participants. In essence, our extended Jewish family became closer. During the trip, we learned about how American Judaism differed from that in Israel. We learned about this country and culture as we experienced it while hiking, swimming, eating and volunteering. This trip was a life changing experience. It has given me knowledge and opened my mind to many new opportunities. I hope



Above: Cassandra (left) and Shaina (right) with Jerusalem in the background.

to one day go back to this mystical place and be able to give back.”

Shaina further reflects, “The first thing people would say to me when I told them I was traveling to Israel was be safe. But I’ve never felt safer and more at home than when I was in Israel. I cannot wait to return. It was an emotional and spiritual journey I will never forget. Travelling with 40 other young Jewish people and sharing the same experience, we developed a special bond. We had discussions about what we were experiencing, the conflict, anti-Semitism, and many other current topics we were facing first-hand. It may be cliché but this trip was the best thing that has ever happened to me and I cannot wait to go back to Israel.”

Right: City of Safed (Tzfat)

Bottom left: Syrian border

Bottom right: Cassandra (left) and Shaina (right) in the Negev desert





KIMBERLY BOWMAN EXPLORES THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF AUSTRALASIA

Story by Kimberly Bowman



Above: Kimberly (top photo) snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef

This summer, I participated in the Summer I faculty-led course traveling to study "Flora and Fauna of Australasia." On this trip, we spent a total of twenty five days travelling, all but five of which were in Australia. While in Australia, we went all around the Northeast coast from our launching pad in the city of Cairns. This course, led by ASU faculty in the Department of Biology trip, visited and studied all of the different ecosystems in the area. These ranged all the way from rainforests to fire-managed grasslands. We also visited a number of renowned organizations there, such as the Cairns Tropical Zoo and Tolga Bat Hospital. One of the highlights was snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef for two days, where we stayed overnight on a boat stationed there.

For the last five days we visited the North Island of New Zealand, which had some of the trip's most amazing scenery. We did many of the same things in New Zealand as we did in Australia. We visited

different forest and mountain habitats and learned about what makes the biology of New Zealand so unique. For example, it is home to some of the most unique species of flightless birds in the world because the animal populations have evolved without the presence of mammals. While there, we toured Tiritiri Matangi, which is an entire island that has been devoted as a wildlife sanctuary for the country's native and endangered species. Visiting both of these countries greatly increased my understanding and awareness of biology, and I am incredibly grateful to The Honors College for their support in making this trip possible for me.

Right: Kimberly (left) with two other ASU students feeding a koala at the Cairns Tropical Zoo.



Above: Kimberly (left) with two other ASU students in a crane above the Daintree Rainforest in Australia





HONORS STUDENT JOINS FACULTY-LED TRIP STUDYING RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC CONFLICT IN WESTERN EUROPE

Story by Madeline Lippy



This summer, I traveled with Dr. Lippard, Associate Professor of Sociology, and Dr. Behrend-Martinez, Professor of History, to Spain, Ireland, and Northern Ireland studying religious and ethnic conflicts. Before I get into the specifics of the trip, I have to say that studying abroad is such a valuable experience and I am so happy I did it. As Honors students, I know it is a requirement to study abroad; however, that is because students come away from the experience with vivid memories and great friends that they carry back to Appalachian and through the rest of their lives!

In Spain, we traveled to Seville, Madrid, and Bilbao. We took many day trips from those major cities to towns such as Guernica, Segovia, Toledo, and so many more. In Seville and Madrid, we focused on religious conflicts between Muslims, Christians, and Jews. This photo (top) is of a cathedral that has been switched constantly from a mosque and back to a cathedral again as the Muslims and Christians switched control of Seville.

The experience in Ireland and Northern Ireland was very different because conflicts between Catholics and Protestants are much more recent than the conflicts that we studied in Spain! We visited the main towns in these two countries (Dublin, Belfast, and Derry), but we also took day trips to places where the conflict between Catholics and Protestants was still in-progress. The photography shown here (above) is an example of the public murals citizens painted throughout these two countries conveying their political ideas.

This is just a very brief overview of the trip, but I have created memories and friendships that I know will last through my time at Appalachian, and beyond!





ISAAC CHURCH TRAVELS WITH HON 3515: BUSINESS IN POLAND



Above: Isaac is shown here in front of Wawel Castle in Kraków Old Town.

Honors Senior and accounting major Isaac Church traveled to Poland for the HON 3515: Business in Poland course led by Dr. Albert Harris, Professor of Computer Information Systems. On this 12 day trip and course, the group explored the rich history of Poland and the resiliency of the Polish people. They started in Warsaw, the capital of Poland, where they spent two nights. They then traveled to Poznan where they spent a week interacting with Polish students on a business-related project to better understand the Polish culture and the Polish people's perceptions of the European Union and Polish-US relations. Finally, the group traveled to Kraków, where they visited historic Krakow, Auschwitz and Berkenau concentration camps, and the Wieliczka Salt Mine.



Above: Kopalni Soli Wieliczka or the Wieliczka Salt Mine in Kraków.



Left: Isaac trying on a red fox fur hat.

Below: The Auschwitz II-Birkenau concentration camp was one of three (Auschwitz-Birkenau-Monowitz) concentration camps the group toured.





TYLER RAMSEY: JOINS ASU FACULTY-LED TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA



Above: Sightseeing in Cape Town, South Africa.

Rising senior Honors student, Tyler Ramsey, a chemistry pre-med traveled to Johannesburg with Dr. Nathan Mowa, ASU Associate Professor of Biology, and seven other ASU students. The group spent May 14-June 8 at the University of Johannesburg shadowing all areas of pre-health and touring the country. The focus of this faculty-led international experience was for students to learn how health care in South Africa is different from that in the United States.



Above: The group toured Netcare Waterfall City Hospital, a private facility where patients pay out of pocket for care. Here Tylor (right in top photo) observed three surgeries.

KAI DES ETAGES SHARES HER EXPERIENCE OF A LIFE TIME: CUBA

“When traveling around the world, you expect to meet people who will challenge your perspective. For me, this trip to Cuba was more of an affirmation that people, no matter their circumstance, can be strong and loving. Our group explored three very different places: the bustling city life of Havana, the laid back mountains and farms of Viñales, and the swamp life of Korimakao. Each experience was different, but our time at Korimakao was the most impactful. There were swarms of mosquitos the minute we stepped off the bus and the humidity was so high we were practically breathing water. That took a couple hours to get over, but once we did, we all had an incredible experience. The employees at Korimakao do art for social change. This ranges from dance and acting to music and lighting. They have it all. Our group had the opportunity to take dance class from them and get a few musical performances, but that wasn’t what left the lasting impressions. There was a language barrier—a big one—but somehow we found a way to communicate. We all ate together and, by our third night, we were laughing and making jokes together. One night I had my palm read by one of the actors. Afterward, we hugged and he gave me a gift and told me that ‘he loved my soul’ and that he ‘wished I could stay.’ A very important person in my life once told me that it’s not about where you are, but it’s about the people you’re with, and I firmly believe that person was right. The employees at Korimakao stole our hearts; horseback riding, snorkeling, and dancing the night away in Havana couldn’t compare. I came back from this study abroad inspired, uplifted, and ready to share the lessons I have learned. Cuba was an unforgettable experience that threw me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to learn more than I could possibly imagine.”



DR. MARY VALANTE: STUDYING POTTERY IN DUBLIN

Honors Faculty member, Professor, and Medieval Historian, Dr. Mary Valante, spent time in May at the School of Celtic Studies library in Dublin working on research studying unwanted and abandoned children in early medieval Ireland.

She also spent time at the Experimental Archaeology Centre at University College Dublin, a center for graduate-level (mostly Ph.D.) study in experimental archaeology. Experimental archaeology is a method of archaeological research in which human lifeways are studied by recreating the tools, techniques and technology of the past to determine the feasibility of ancient humans performing various tasks or feats. In the summer research trip, Dr. Valante had the opportunity to learn about an archaeological dig right in the city of Dublin!

Above: Dr. Valante (center) along with graduate students in the program looks at courseware pottery (“souterrain ware”) made by modern scholars in an attempt to learn how people living in early medieval Ireland made pottery.

Right: Aidan O’Sullivan (who runs the center) is holding pot sherds. In the close-up, Aidan displays a pot sherd from the early Middle Ages next to a broken pot made and fired in a pit by one of his students. The similarities in texture, color, and cross-section of the two, show they are getting very close.



Far left: A ceramic forge for smelting iron.

Left: Interior shot of a replicated medieval house. Dr. Valante got to see the results of some bog iron smelting and house building from two very different time periods (Neolithic and early medieval).



DR. THOMAS MCLAUGHLIN RETURNS FROM SPRING SEMESTER AT THE LOFT, NYC

Dr. Thomas McLaughlin, the Honors College 2015 Teacher of the Year (photo right with Dr. Jones), spent the Spring 2015 semester as the Faculty Director of ASU's Loft in NYC. The faculty directorship position is a competitive position available to full-time Appalachian faculty members. As the Faculty Director, Dr. McLaughlin lived in the Loft housing facility and directed operations. The Appalachian Loft is designed to provide a hostel-type living environment for students, faculty, staff, and alumni who are conducting research in the city, attending conferences or training, traveling with colleagues and classmates for an off-campus learning experience, or participating in internships.



Dr. McLaughlin had this opportunity but are pleased he has returned to the mountain to receive his ToY award.



We are proud Dr. McLaughlin had this opportunity but are pleased he has returned to the mountain to receive his ToY award.

“CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON RACISM & WHITENESS”: DR. BRANDY WILSON TEACHES SUMMER HONORS SEMINAR



Dr. Brandy Wilson (photo left) is teaching HON 3515: Critical Perspectives on Racism and Whiteness this summer, a trial for the Honors College to offer an honors seminar over the summer semesters. Dr. Wilson's course is meeting once a week and spans Summer 1 and II for the 3sh typical of HON seminar. The course teaches "racial literacy" described as, "a dynamic framework for understanding the ways in which race and racism implicitly and explicitly manifest and function in American society. It entails critically examining and continually questioning how race and racism, power, and supremacy inform our individual and cultural beliefs, practices, and our institutions. This course stands on the belief that in order to change the way racism and supremacy manifest, race has to be directly addressed rather than ignored..." This is a timely course given recent events and intensifying racial struggles in the U.S. of late, including: voting rights, police shootings, state flags, and acts of violence at churches.

Thus far, the course is having a huge impact on students who offer resounding applause. Rising Sophomore Honors student Jorge Bautista reports, "I really like it! It is very enlightening. The tools the class gives you go outside of issues of race and have really expanded the way I look at things. The theory of critical perspective is important to my life now. It allows me to look at things holistically and with a worldwide view rather than anecdotal experiences." With this kind of positive feedback, it is likely the Honors College will be able to continue to offer HON seminars during summer semesters.

Thus far, the course is having a huge impact on students who offer resounding applause. Rising Sophomore Honors student Jorge Bautista reports, "I really like it! It is very enlightening. The tools the class gives you go outside of issues of race and have really expanded the way I look at things. The theory of critical perspective is important to my life now. It allows me to look at things holistically and with a worldwide view rather than anecdotal experiences." With this kind of positive feedback, it is likely the Honors College will be able to continue to offer HON seminars during summer semesters.



DR. WALDROUP PARTICIPATES IN NEH SUMMER INSTITUTE

This summer, Dr. Heather Waldroup is participating in a four-week summer research institute, “American Material Culture: 19th Century New York,” sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). She was one of 18 scholars selected to participate in the Institute. NEH Summer



Institutes are federally-funded programs for university faculty to enhance their teaching and research in the humanities. This institute will use museum and archive collections in New York as a case study to examine material culture, consumer culture, and the fashioning of taste in the late 19th century. Participants will also be introduced to new initiatives in digital humanities, including digital exhibition software and digital publishing. Dr. Waldroup is particularly enjoying working with historical photographs in the New York collections such as those shown here (photographs left).

RENDEZVOUS IN RIO

Dr. Leslie Jones traveled to Rio de Janeiro in July for the quadrennial International Brain Research Organization conference, where neuroscientists from around the world gathered to present and discuss the latest findings in the world of brain research. There she met Honors student Kyle Sasser (photo below on left), the Editor-in-Chief of IMPULSE, the undergraduate neuroscience journal that is hosted through the Honors College at Appalachian. They presented a poster on using the journal as a neuroscience teaching tool. They were joined by co-author Pierre Kriek (photo below on right), the Associate Editor from the IMPULSE Review Team at Appalachian’s partner institution, the University of the Free State, South Africa. The two students, shown in



front of the poster, spent four hours manning the poster and answering questions from a global array of interested colleagues (photo above). In addition to their presentation, the three were able to attend symposia on topics of interest, such as the developing field of neuroimmunology, and plenary talks from world experts on the emerging role of microglia in brain health, the latest research on Alzheimer’s disease, and the specific challenges of neuroethics. This is the third conference where student colleagues from UFS have been able to join ASU students in presenting a poster, and the opportunity for both the institutions and the students involved is invaluable.



RECENT HONORS ALUMNAE BECOME EDUCATORS

Three of the most recent Honors College graduates will be joining the ranks of educators having completed degrees in education.

Carys Kunze (photo right), a choral music education major, completed her student teaching at Wilkes Central High School in Wilkes County, North Carolina. While student teaching, Carys worked with students in the various levels of chorale, culminating in directing about half of the final choral concert, which was just two days before her own ASU graduation! She conducted almost all of the beginning and intermediate choral pieces, and reports proudly that all the groups did very well. Carys is now considering several possibilities for teaching for next year, and we wish her all the best as she mulls over her future choices.



Rebecca LaMaire (photo left) graduated with a degree in art education. She completed her student teaching at Paisley IB Magnet School in Winston-Salem, NC. Overall it was a very positive experience and she said that she grew enormously as an educator. She particularly enjoyed working with 6th grade students and focused her job search on elementary school art teaching positions. She has accepted a job offer with Durham Public Schools as the art teacher at Holt Elementary

Language Academy, and she is currently in the process of relocating to the area and looking forward to the first day of school, July 20th. We're sure her students at Holt will love having Rebecca as their art teacher!

Devon Patton (photo right) just received her special education: general curriculum degree. She will be teaching kindergarten through second grade special education students in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, next year. Devon was the student speaker representing all College of Education undergraduates at the May graduation ceremony. Congratulations, Devon!



We're very proud of all of our students, and commend these three Honors College graduates for choosing education for their future careers.



HONORS AT NCUR

Honors students represented Appalachian well at the **29th Annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)** held at Eastern Washington University, April 16-18. This included research across all areas and the following oral presentations: Grayson Bodenheimer, sociology (photo right) whose talk was entitled, "A Pill for All Ills: A Theoretical Analysis of Antidepressants, Rationalized Society, and the Departure of Human Interaction;"



Emily Stewart Long, history (photo left) who presented a paper entitled, "No Selfhood...No Freedom: Martin Heidegger's Radical Definition of 'Transcendence' in 20th Century Europe;" and Hannah Malcolm, history (photo below) who presented "Religion Beyond the Cult of the Supreme Being: Nationalism and the French Revolution."

Other Honors students representing Appalachian at the 2015 NCUR included: Cameron Brown, psychology; Anne Carpenter, education; Brian Clee, computer science; Alaina Doyle, religious studies; Jacob Pawlik, chemistry; and Danielle Russell, chemistry.



NCUR is the premiere organization that promotes high-quality faculty-undergraduate collaborative research and scholarly work. It is one way Honors students work to develop their research into the Honors thesis—the stepping-stone to future graduate and professional endeavors. Of her experience presenting at NCUR, Hannah Malcolm explained, "My talk went very well; I got a lot of questions about how it connected to different philosophical and historical perspectives on both religion and violence. I felt that I was able to explain not only my research but my reason for doing it. Listening to the other presenters on my panel also gave me some ideas for how to continue my research as I build towards my honors thesis."

Grayson Bodenheimer further noted, "My experience at NCUR 2015 was amazing. It is exciting to have the chance to spend time on a personal research project and to present that research to a group of other enthusiastic students and even professors. One of the best experiences at NCUR is seeing others' presentations and being introduced to what my peers are studying. For the most part, the session moderators, who are local professors, are quite well-versed in the topics discussed, even if some of the sessions diverge from their specific interests. The poster sessions are always fascinating, as well, because they give presenters the chance to speak one-on-one with anyone interested. I enjoyed walking through the posters and finding topics that interested me, even if I did not speak to the researchers themselves. During my session, the moderator was incredibly enthusiastic, gave incredibly thoughtful feedback, and even asked to be updated on my work. I honestly recommend NCUR to any undergraduates who have a passion in their fields, whether they plan to continue researching in graduate school or jump into the work force."

We are very proud of all Honors students who presented at NCUR this year and look forward to seeing many more in coming years!





'TIS THE THESIS SEASON



We had a record number (over 70) thesis defenses and Spring 2015 graduates. Interdisciplinary thesis projects ranged from art installations, chemistry lab work, to proposals for staging political campaigns. A smattering of photos illustrating the variety from lab research to creative endeavors are shown here.



For complete coverage, see our facebook postings including photo album: <https://www.facebook.com/TheHonorsCollegeASU?fref=photo>. Check out our website for a list of thesis authors, titles, abstracts, and mentors: <http://honors.appstate.edu/academics/thesis-examples>.



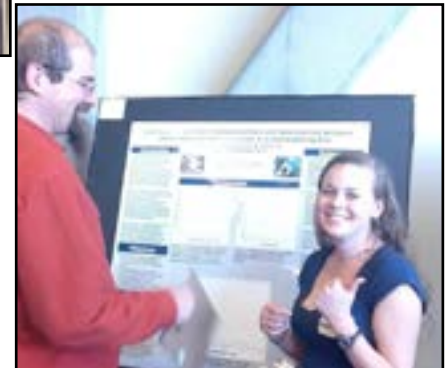
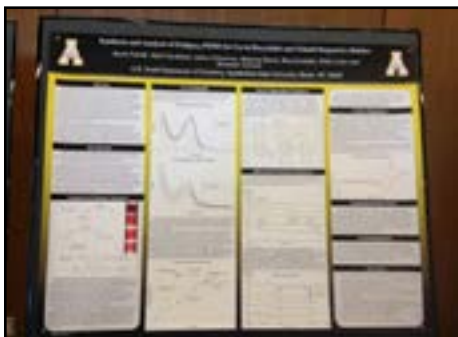
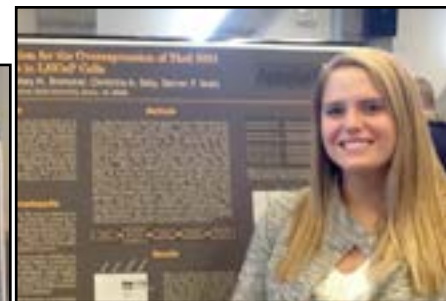
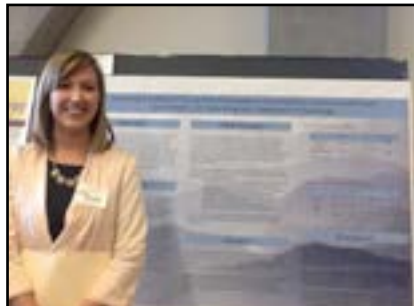
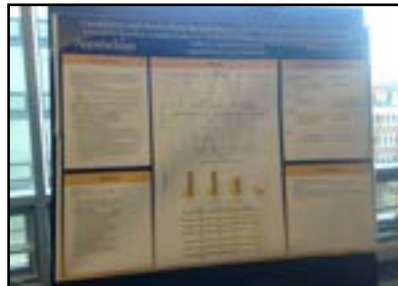
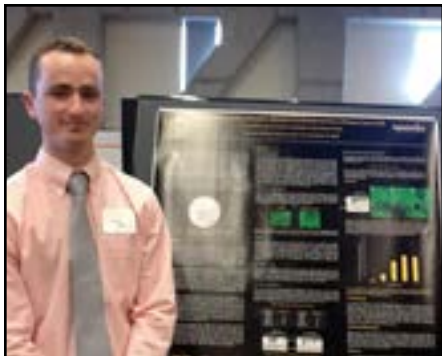
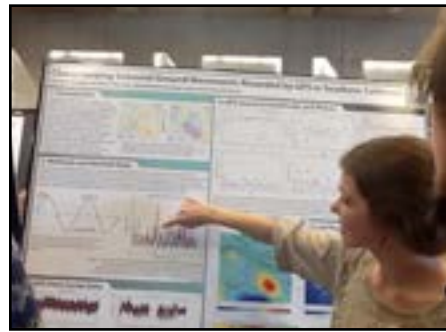
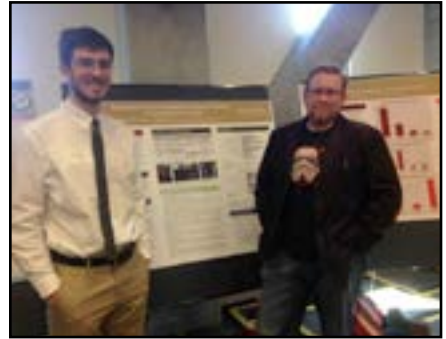
It is such a thrill to watch Honors students transformed from knowledge consumers to producers. Congratulations to all Honors students who have successfully defended theses! These events are some of the most exciting in the life and community of The Honors College.





HONORS STUDENTS SHINE AT ASU'S STUDENT RESEARCH DAY

Appalachian State University held the 18th Annual Celebration of Student Research and Creative Endeavors on Thursday, April 23rd, 2015 on the 4th floor of the new Plemmons Student Union. A host of Honors students presented posters and gave oral presentations. Research drives towards the Honors thesis and paves the way for graduate work and professional success. Congratulations to all of our students who presented their work across all areas and disciplines at Student Research Day! We are most proud!





LAUREN ANDERSEN AWARDED NASA'S NC SPACE GRANT



Building on her Honors contract in Spring 2015 semester with her mentor, Dr. Jessica Mitchell, Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Planning, Lauren Andersen (photograph below) applied for NASA's North Carolina Space Grant Undergraduate Research Scholarship. She was awarded the scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 for summer 2015!

The scholarship will support Lauren's continued research with Dr. Mitchell on the Environmental Remote Sensing project. This research project involves the use of a handheld field spectrometer to gather reflectance data for various soil, rock, and vegetation types at local field collection sites in the southern Appalachians. Ground references provide the precise GPS locations where the data is retrieved. The reflectance measurements will be used to build a local spectral library, which will allow for future monitoring and mapping of the landscape composition on a temporal scale by providing scientists with more powerful image analysis techniques. The local spectral library developed in this project will also contribute ecosystem spectral measurements to larger NASA projects in development. The spectral library will ultimately be used to generate new and potentially more accurate land cover maps from NASA airborne and satellite imagery. It is expected that this project will provide updated ground reference data that can be utilized for sensor calibration, target detection, image classification, map accuracy, and uncertainty estimation.



Congratulations to Lauren and Dr. Mitchell on this award! We look forward to seeing this research project come to fruition.

MERRICK MARQUIE WINS W.H. PLEMMONS MEDALLION

The W.H. Plemmons Medallion is an award created to "recognize the time, energy, skills, and commitment of students, faculty, student development educators and staff who exceed their peers in providing leadership that enriches the quality of student life and advances the education of students." On March 27th, the Board of Trustees awarded the W.H. Plemmons Medallion to Honors graduating senior, Merrick Marquie, a W. H. Plemmons Fellow and triple major in economics,



marketing and management. Merrick was also a recipient of the William Holland Fellowship for business study in Asia, where he got the idea for his company, Corner Tailors. Corner Tailors is a custom made suiting company that creates made-to-measurement suits at prices college students and young professionals can afford. He served as the President to the Appalachian Popular Programming Society (APPS), which plans and promotes campus entertainment. Merrick also works in the technology sector as a management consultant with Accelerence, LLC, and recently accepted a business development position with 5S Technologies out of Cary, NC.



MAC SHELTON: CONNECTING HONORS WITH ROTC

Rising junior Honors student and business management major McCarthy (Mac) Shelton is also in the ROTC Appalachian program. Both of these require unique and exceptional commitment and dedication. Honors requirements are arduous. The ROTC program requirements are intense and include physical training between 3-5 days a week plus 2-3sh of coursework per semester for a full four years. Mac is navigating these challenges by drawing links between the missions of each. Honors emphasizes interdisciplinary perspectives, international experience, and service. In his ROTC extracurricular activities, like the German Armed Forces (GAF) Badge, the Mountain Man Competition (MMC), and Cultural Understanding and Language Program (CULP), Mac is finding these priorities are connected.



In his experience working toward the GAF badge with his battalion, Mac reports, “*ROTC Appalachian always wins everything at the GAF*” This is, as he further explains, a competition of the highest physical challenges, Similarly, Honors is the highest intellectual challenge and academic success.

In the Mountain Man Competition (photo right), which Mac describes as his “*favorite thing he has done with the ROTC*,” he states, “*it is a race for a great cause, the Gold Star Foundation, which supports families of fallen soldiers. We race in support of a soldier running with a banner for the family who attends. Our ASU team won this year’s April competition in Gaitlinburg, TN.*”



Finally, Mac had the opportunity through the ROTC to go to Guyana during the summer of 2014 with the CULP program, which is a direct military-to-military exchange that sends US cadets abroad (photos right and below). There were 40 in Mac’s group who went to Guyana; they learned about and received training from the Guyanese defense force and Brazilian Special Forces. Mac reports an amazing experience that included: running in the jungle at night, getting bitten by bats, hitting shore targets with AK-47s from a moving boat (Mac’s favorite as shown in the photos far right bottom two), surviving on what was available in the environment,



and blowing up hot and dry grasslands. This is exactly the type of once-in-a-lifetime experience Honors intends for our students, yet each international experience is unique. Mac worked with Dr. Johnny Waters on an independent study project to fulfill his Honors international requirement. However, Mac reports that though he took diligent fieldnotes throughout the trip for his research, he ended up having to burn them to make a fire on a particularly wet night when all the jungle wood was wet and he had no other shelter. Survival trumped research, but not to worry, Mac still has two years to complete the research for his Honors thesis!





2015 FRESHMEN RETREAT



The Honors College Freshmen Retreat (photos shown from 2014) will be on August 12-13, 2015. This annual tradition begins with Move-in Day (photos left) on August 11th. Then the two-day retreat begins with the "Town as Text" adventure in Boone (photos below, second row) followed by a day at ASU's Broadstone Facility (photos below, bottom two rows). Watch for the full story on this year's retreat in the upcoming Fall newsletter!





***WATCH FOR THE
FALL 2015 ISSUE!***



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 www.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
Ms. Jessica Yandow

Director of Students Services
Dr. Angela Mead

**Honors Advisor &
Director of Communications**
Dr. Andrea McDowell

Contact: The Honors College

Address: ASU Box 32073,
Boone, NC 28608

Email: honors@appstate.edu

Phone: (828) 262-2083

Fax: (828) 262-2734