

# LAURUS HONORUM

"HONORED WITH THE LAUREL"

Volume 1, June 2010



## Honors Students Explore the World!



## GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the first issue of *The Laurus Honorum*. Our news brief is named for our Honors scholars who earn the honorific *Laurus Honorum* (“honored with the laurel”) as they graduate. Taken from a quote in Horace’s Ode to Gaius Asinius Pollio (with thanks to Dr. Richard Spencer, Department of Philosophy and Religion), the phrase



Dr. Leslie Sargent Jones  
Director

recognizes the students’ scholarly victory, just as those first heroes of the Pythian Games earned Apollo’s laurel two and a half millennia ago. The tradition of excellence continues.



There are a number of other changes in the Heltzer Honors Program besides the new ceremony and medal. Honors students now have priority registration, individualized academic mentoring, and access to financial support for their international educational experiences. As the program moves towards its new, collegiate status (as of July 1, 2010!), there will be more changes and developments in the many opportunities offered in Honors at APP. A new residence hall and office wing will be coming on line in Fall of 2012, for example, providing a new housing opportunity on the grounds of beloved Coffey Hall. The old building will be gone, but Honors will return to that same space, and the memories will remain.

In other news, it has been another great year for Honors as students traveled all over the globe for study, service learning, and conferences. They presented their work at national meetings, such as NCUR in Montana and the Society for Neuroscience in Chicago, as well as internationally at the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in England, and another is



off to Amsterdam to present in July at a European neuroscience meeting. Students are also globe-trotting for ASU summer courses from Australia to China, while others have found their way into laboratories working at the NCRC in Kannapolis, or somewhat further away at MIT or St. Jude’s Hospital. We can’t wait to hear all of their stories when they get back in August and we hope you continue to be interested, as well. There will be more on their stories and the Honors conversion to college in the next *Laurus Honorum*, so come back and visit soon!



### Get your Passport, From Here You are Going Places

Remember, if you are 18 or older, then the passport will be good for ten years, so you will get a lot of mileage out of it.

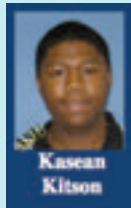
Students considering health-care careers will be interested to know that a new minor designed for them has been created in Honors. With a committee crossing all the health-related humanities and social science disciplines, from management to ethics, the minor offers a unique opportunity to “humanize” the otherwise narrow, science curriculum of the typical pre-med/dental major. Application is required, but all ASU students are eligible.

Information on how to apply and details are on the website. Just click on the icon at <http://www.honors.appstate.edu>, or come by the Honors offices in East Hall and ask us about it!

## NEW MINOR IN MEDICAL HUMANITIES HOUSED IN HHP



INTERNATIONAL  
NEUROSCIENCE  
JOURNAL FOR  
UNDERGRADUATES  
NOW HOSTED AT  
APPALACHIAN'S HHP



IMPULSE is an online neuroscience journal that was created by and for undergraduates. Originally founded and hosted at the University of South Carolina, it moved last year to Appalachian and the website is now found at <http://www.impulse.appstate.edu> with an email address of [impulse@appstate.edu](mailto:impulse@appstate.edu).

This student-run journal now has part of the editorial team at Appalachian, with students serving as Executive Editor (Chase Francis), Associate Editor (Cori Rogers) and Publicity Editors (Kasean Kitson and Robb Young). All four recently participated in a presentation at the spring SYNAPSE (a southern regional neuroscience meeting for undergraduates) at Wake Forest University, and Chase is presenting about the journal at the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in July. During the journal’s seven years, the reviewers and article submissions have been drawn from students in over ten countries and from more than twenty institutions.



# GREAT COURSES FOR THE FALL!



If you have not already seen the line-up of the HON interdisciplinary courses, here they are, and don't forget there are over twice as many more honors courses available through the disciplinary offerings!

## Freshmen Seminars HON 1515

- Wicked Problems
- Metamorphoses in Life
- Future Brain
- The Second Amendment
- Environmental Science
- Robots, Real and Imaginary
- Arthurian Legends
- Creative Life and Practice
- The Millennial Generation

## Sophomore Seminars

### HON 2515

- Speculative Fiction
- It's a Mad, Mad World
- Pros(e)titution
- Bare Bones
- Ancient and Medieval Death

### Junior Seminars HON 3515

- Bringing the Past to the Present
- What is Human Consciousness?
- Latinos: Issues in Health and Mental Health
- International Experience: Bringing Home the World



## HON 3515: THE SCIENCE OF BREWING

Honors seniors introduced their hand-crafted pale ales and brews at the "final exam" of the HON 3515 Brewing course. Students studied the science and business of brewing as well as visited local breweries. Below, Krystal Trout measures for her wort.



## FRESHMEN CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS GO TO NYC

This last fall the students in the HON 1515 course, Creativity and the Arts, flew to New York and stayed at ASU's home-away-from-home, "the Loft." The fourteen students packed all the artistic adventures they could into three lively days and four nights in the Big Apple.

Along with their Professors, Drs. Tom McLaughlin and Joan Woodworth, the students explored the city's museums, theaters, restaurants, and neighborhoods linking life in the arts with their study of creativity.



## HONORS STUDENT SELECTED FOR AMGEN MIT SUMMER RESEARCH

Delvon Blue, a Psychology, pre-med rising senior, is up in Cambridge, MA, working in a laboratory at MIT this summer learning more about the fundamentals of basic science. While he has always thought he would go to medical school in-state, this experience is expanding his thinking about those opportunities.

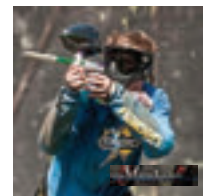


## ATHLETICS AND HONORS



Everyone knows that Honors means a challenging curricular program, but most are surprised by how many honors students participate in athletics. Katy Dodd (above), an Honors pre-med student, is also on the varsity soccer team. Honors students can be found on varsity teams from men's basketball to women's softball, and most everything in-between. Those not on varsity sports find ways to sharpen their competitive edge with club sports, like rugby, ice-hockey, and skiing.

Others, like Kyle Flores (below), compete professionally (paintball) or semi-professionally (rock climbing for Ryan Scurfield), as the way to maintain "mens sana in corpore sano"!



CONSTRUCTION

## NEW HONORS RESIDENCE HALL BEGINS CONSTRUCTION!

CONSTRUCTION

Student Development has big plans for new buildings that including a new residence hall where Coffey has stood for over 50 years. The old building will come down this summer, along with the Dean's office for Fine & Applied Arts, and the new construction will get underway by fall. Plans include an extension to Plemmons Student Union which will house many offices on campus, among them the Appalachian and the Community Together office, the Office of Student Research, and the Office for International Education and Development.

The new Honors residence hall (bottom-left) will be next to that extension, and attached to the hall will be a new building to house the Honors Program. This will be an L-shaped structure (bottom-right) that will point towards the newly renovated Cone Hall on the northern arm. It is anticipated that Honors students will be living in both Cone and the new hall, and thus conveniently located next to the Honors offices and classrooms, but also right next door to all those fantastic offices that promote service, research, and study abroad!



## HONORS ALUMNUS TEACHES IN RWANDA

As a Political Science major, Evan Davies (at right with the postcard he sent us) dreamed of studying coltan mining in the Congo. The war that broke out there his senior year forced him to change direction – for a while. But right after graduation he headed for neighboring Rwanda to serve as a teacher. This has given him a chance to get to know the region personally and plan for his next educational step. Stay tuned for more information on where he goes next (and will it also look so much like the Blue Ridge Mountains?)!



## HONORS ALUMNA FINISHES 1ST YEAR OF MEDICAL SCHOOL



“Appalachian was a wonderful experience for me -- I made incredible friends, life-long memories, and received a top-notch education. Thanks to the professors at ASU, I entered medical school fully prepared for the workload that was handed to me. Majoring in Spanish was not only a lot of fun, but learning the language has proved very helpful as I volunteer in community clinics. I absolutely love medical school, and I’m so grateful that the foundation of my training was received at Appalachian State!”

-- Emily Leroy, Heltzer Honors Program Graduate,  
Class of 2009, Biology and Spanish

## HONORS ALUMNA DECODES CHILDREN’S LANGUAGE

Deborah Mueffelmann’s senior thesis was on “Neural processing of linguistic devices in use in Dr. Seuss books,” so it is no surprise that she is now finishing her graduate studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, working on language transcription and the



coding of children’s narratives. As a graduate student research assistant and candidate in the Speech and Hearing Sciences degree program, she is pursuing her long-held interest in the neurological origins of language and what impact that development has on their children with developmental language delays. As an Honors Communication Disorders major at Appalachian she took advantage of the ASU in D.C. semester to do an internship at the National Institute of Mental Health on the neurological bases of language. That experience helped her decide on her present path, and we look forward to learning where the coming years will take her. As Dr. Seuss might have said, “Oh, the places you’ll go!”

## RESEARCH ON DINOSAURS LEADS TO UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



Jonathan Mitchell presented his research this spring at the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology meeting in Bristol, England, on the dinosaur uachitidon, which he discovered in a dig near Raleigh, NC. Jonathan, a Geology major, is off to the University of Chicago this fall for his doctoral work in paleontology. We will look forward to hearing about his latest dinosaur findings in the future.

## BEST BOARDING IN YEARS!



It was a wild winter this year, with the biggest ice storm in memory, and a nearly record-setting amount of snow. The University was forced to close more than it ever had before, and faculty were challenged to keep adjusting their courses. Of course, that meant the best conditions ever on the ski slopes, and snow boarders like Michael Cutshall were out in force at App Ski Mountain.

## QUICK FACTS ON RISING SOPHOMORES

We will know the facts about the incoming freshmen class in a few more weeks, once we are through with Orientation and have a complete and final list of everyone who is joining us in the fall. In the meantime, at right is the overview of the freshmen of 2009. Of note is that the Math/Verbal SAT score is rising, with the class average for 2009 at 1307 and the Chancellor's Scholars at 1461. The incoming group is moving the bar a little higher, by the looks of it, and the graph below indicates the direction things are going in Honors at Appalachian.

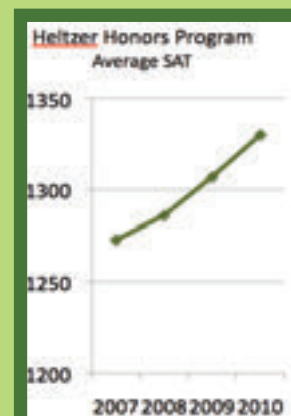
### CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS FACTS

- 15:** Total Number of Chancellor's Scholars in 2009
- 1461:** Average Math/Verbal SAT Score (ACTs converted)
- Top 3%:** Average High School Class Percentile

## BY THE NUMBERS

### FRESHMEN CLASS OF 2009

- 235:** Number of Entering Honors Students
- 1307:** Average Math/Verbal SAT Score (ACTs converted)
- Top 10%:** Average High School Class Percentile
- 144 to 83:** Female:Male Ratio
- 84% & 16%:** In-State: Out-of-State Students



## ASU IN D.C. PROGRAM ENTERS THIRD YEAR

The ASU in Washington, D.C. Program provides an opportunity for students to participate in an internship and study in Washington, D.C. for one Fall or Spring semester while maintaining full-time enrollment status at ASU. Students can earn 9 credit hours for their internship experience and 3 credit hours taking the honors seminar, HON 3510. Students can intern in everything from NPOs to federal agencies. Dr. Phillip Ardoin teaches the Honors course, taking students on insider tours of the West Wing and White House. Applications for Spring 2011 will be due Oct. 1, so talk to Internship Coordinator Sharon Jensen today ([jensensc@appstate.edu](mailto:jensensc@appstate.edu)).



ASU in Washington, DC interns visit the Press Room of the White House.

## APPALACHIAN -- WHERE SERVICE IS DEFINED

Students who want to make a difference in the world seem to be drawn to the Heltzer Honors Program. ASU's classification of "community engagement" for the advancement of Teaching from the Carnegie Foundation is proof of this fact. This national recognition is no surprise to the faculty and students of ASU; they have known that Shari Galiardi and the staff of Appalachian and the Community together (ACT) Office have been doing remarkable things for over a decade. Offering over 90 service-learning courses a year, both on campus and off, organizing Alternative Spring Break (ASB) trips, arranging for service opportunities locally and abroad, this office and the students who volunteer to serve in it set the standard of what an engaged campus community looks like and the contributions they can make to the world.



## WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

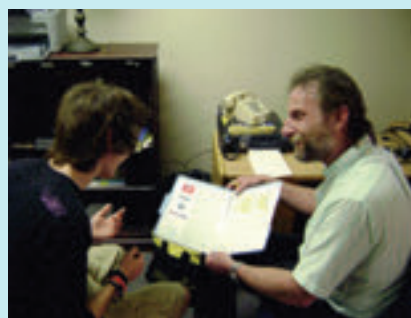
### INTERNATIONAL ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK TRIPS 2010

- Egypt
- Guatemala
- Dominican Republic
- Costa Rica
- Belize
- Jamaica



## PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CONNECTS STUDENTS TO NATIONAL AWARDS AND GRADUATE STUDY

The Prestigious Scholarship Program (PSP) serves to prepare Appalachian State University students to apply for competitive prestigious scholarships and to gain admission to nationally-recognized graduate programs. Since 2000, the PSP has continually supported enrichment activities and has provided opportunities for Appalachian's most promising students. The program is focused on three main activities: The AIM High Program, prestigious scholarships application support, and Scholarship Workshops.



## PSP DIRECTOR CREATES AIM HIGH PROGRAM

Dr. Dale Wheeler, PSP Director, spends his time meeting individually with students to advise and mentor them through the fellowship and graduate application process. He oversees the committees that select students for scholarship applications such as the Goldwater.

His newest addition to the Prestigious Scholarship Program is the AIM High Program. The AIM High Program is designed to help sophomores through seniors with a 3.75 or higher GPA to prepare for applying for national scholarships and graduate/professional schools.



## FULBRIGHT WINNER

Scholarship application support helps students like Stephanie Schaffner (above) win prestigious scholarships, such as the Fulbright. She is currently in Bulgaria teaching English as a second language in Burgas, Bulgaria.

## APPETITE FOR LIFE CONNECTS STUDENTS WITH FACULTY MENTORS



Appetite for Life matches students with faculty in their discipline area, and who won national awards when they were undergrads, for an evening of fine dining and discussion. Shown above is Dr. Adam Newmark (Political Science, Rotary Ambassador winner) with students in a local restaurant.



## THE THRILL OF THE THESIS

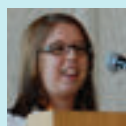
Ask any of the graduates from the Heltzer Honors Program and they will tell you: it wasn't easy, but it was worth it! Mitchell Riley, who graduated in December, 2009, wrote us to say "the process of completing my honors thesis was a journey that gave me a new purpose in life." But the process of preparing and completing a thesis takes more than time and prodigious effort; it also takes resources. Some students need to travel to do their research, others need help with their performances, and laboratory research is almost always expensive. Would you like to help support the future doctors, sustainable farmers, musicians, writers, and business leaders of tomorrow? We can use your donation to help The Heltzer Honors Program provide this life-changing experience for the leaders of tomorrow.

You can help future students by giving to Appalachian State University and the Heltzer Honors Program. Go to [www.give.appstate.edu](http://www.give.appstate.edu) today.



**Louis Martin**

Thesis: para-Substituted trans-Vinylferrocene complexes



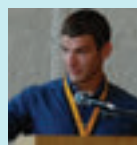
**Stephanie Smith**

Thesis: Now you feel it, now you don't: Regret in real-life and hypothetical situations



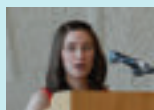
**Samuel Pendergraft**

Thesis: Effect of nspC gene expression on *V. cholerae*



**Jared Butler**

Thesis: The potential of stem cells



**Lauren Eichinger**

Thesis: Business of marriage in *Pride and Prejudice*



**Catherine Wood**

Thesis: The modern glass ceiling: The unnatural disadvantage of 21st century women in corporate America



**Marcus Taylor**

Thesis: Wind Energy in the high country: A survey of public opinion, history and legislation



**Justine Fenton**

Thesis: From Bach to Prokofiev: For those dear to my heart