

LAURUS

HONORUM

“Honored with the Laurel”

Volume 6, Fall 2011

## **Honors Students Choose Their Path to Success**





## A Word From The Director



Welcome to fall in Boone! It has been a bit rainy until recently, but the leaves are a shimmering kaleidoscope once again and all is right in the mountains. This issue of the Laurus Honorum brings you the usual slew of great adventure reports, including Associate Director Dr. Michael Lane's story from Senegal and my own update from South Africa. The students' stories cover locations across Central America, Europe, and Africa, so there is lots of food for fantasy! There are also updates on our usual fall events, such as the Vanguard knighting, the Freshmen Welcome Dinner, and the Family Picnic, so dive in and enjoy – and send us your own tales for the next issue, we are always looking for new exploits to chronicle!

## FALL GREETINGS FROM THE HONORS COLLEGE STAFF!!





## New Vanguard Members Inducted

The start of the new academic year brings with it the induction of the newest class of the Honors Vanguard. The incoming members were knighted on August 25th in the lobby of East Hall in a traditional, moving ceremony - well, the moving may have been from students laughing about kneeling on the pillow and bravely submitting to the shoulder taps from Dr. Jones' katana. Current Vanguard members came to welcome their colleagues and help explain the duties of this elite group. This essential team assists with running events such as Open House and Honors Days, as well as meeting with visiting prospective students to talk about the Honors College. Shown at right below is Caley Wahl is being knighted. Any students interested in serving for the Vanguard are invited to stop by the honors offices and volunteer for service!

### Newest members of the Honors Vanguard

Josh Carr	Nina Laughlin
<u>Kirstie Cooper</u>	Jessica Lewis
Samantha Craig	<u>Chelsea Lineberger</u>
<u>Rachel Duffus</u>	<u>Nadereh Naseri</u>
Erika Gleason	Heather Newman
<u>Mallory Hammet</u>	<u>Haley Pickerell</u>
Alex Helms	Sara Spain
Emily Johnson	Blakely Terrell
Tia Joyce	<u>Allison Tressler</u>
Kenneth Kennedy	<u>Caley Wahl</u>





## HC Associate Director Spends July in the “Land of Teranga”

Salaamaalekum!

What an informative, nay – transformative – experience I had this July, leading twelve public school teachers and teachers-in-training from districts all over North Carolina on a month-long study sojourn in Senegal, the internationally-acclaimed “Land of Teranga”\* (\*hospitality)

“Na nga def?” (Wolof: *How are you?*)

Some of the Fulbright-Hays participants with Wolof instructor, Sidi Gueye, at the West African Research Center, Dakar, including ASU undergrads Samantha Craig (pink), Lori Grady (orange) and project Director, Michael Lane (back; red). (Photo: S. Craig)



### *Fulbright-Hays Grant Recipients Spend Summer in Senegal*

Our program, “Senegal: A Window into Francophone Africa for Pre- and In-Service Teachers of French and Area Studies” was made possible through a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, and supported by Foreign Languages and Literatures, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Honors College, and the Office of International Education and Development at Appalachian. I want to thank my friend and colleague, Dr. Beverly Moser (FLL), who spent months drafting the proposal with me and helping me organize many facets of the project.

Collaboration with our affiliate institution, the West African Research Center (WARC) in Dakar, led us to sites both urban and rural, at once breathtakingly beautiful and despairingly destitute. We were ceaselessly and pleasantly surprised by Senegalese fashion, music, dance, and cuisine— oh, the fabulous feasts we had!; captivated by compelling guest speakers in politics, academia, and the arts; amazed by vital venues of exchange between tradition and innovation, all of which served to us as proof of Senegal’s cultural confluences. We discovered a developing country that has significant challenges to overcome as it forges its future path – education reform, waste management, health care, and political corruption – but also a gracious, gentle, and generous people, the pioneers of that path, trailblazers of peace, hope, promise and progress for West Africa.

With my co-Director, Dr. Martial Frindéthié, and I, participants completed two seminars – one on francophone cultures, another on teaching them – with the goal that this immersion experience would help educators to better understand the francophone diaspora and teach aspects of French-speaking West African cultures from the perspective of one with first-hand experience. Highlights of our journey were the nation’s capital, Dakar, and nearby Gorée Island – disembarkation “point of no return” for countless souls making the trans-Atlantic trek to slavery in the Antilles, the Americas, and beyond; Saint-Louis, former capital of French Africa; the Great Mosque of Touba, Senegal’s Muslim holy city; and the sister villages of Joal-Fadiouth, birthplace of the country’s premier poet – and first President after Senegal’s independence, Leopold Sedar Senghor. Unforgettable, too, was the warmest of welcomes received by our host families in the remote village of Ndongol – a brief home-stay resulting in enduring friendships.



**Far Right:**

Honors College Associate Director, Dr. Michael E. Lane, enjoying a Dakar ablaze with bougainvillia... The gardening fanatic in him found the diversity of plant-life in Senegal fascinating! (Photo: M. Lane)



**Above:**

HC Vanguard, Samantha Craig, perfects her tam-tam rhythm in Toubab Djalaw, Senegal. (Photo: V. Berryer-Long)

**Right:**

The Grande Mosquée in Touba. (Photo: M. Lane)



*Teacher Ed Majors, too!*

I'm especially proud of the courage and commitment invested by our two undergraduate participants, Lori Pearl Grady (French Education), who had never previously been on a plane, much less one bound for Africa (!) and Samantha Craig (English Secondary Education), one of the Honors College's own and newly-knighted Vanguard. Kudos to you both!

*Beyond the Window..*

Our trip was a springboard for exciting initiatives to come, as participants are busily designing curricular units focused on Senegal for implementation in their French, History, and World Literature courses throughout the 2011-2012 academic year and organizing fundraisers to benefit impoverished schools and increase literacy in Senegal. As part of the grant project's outreach opportunities, we'll be presenting our findings and sharing pedagogical resources with colleagues statewide at the Foreign Language Association of North Carolina (FLANC) annual conference this October, and producing a series of short documentary films to be showcased, along with art, artifacts, craft enrichment workshops, and a Lunch & Learn presentation, at an exhibit housed in the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts from January to March, 2012 (<http://www.turchincenter.org/exhibitions/510>). We'll save a seat by our "Window into Francophone West Africa" for you, so please take a break during the long Boone winter ahead and stop by to let us reminisce of summer heat, good times, and great company in Senegal.



## Honors Establishes Clinical Education Internships at University of the Free State in South Africa



In July the Honors Director visited the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa, to arrange for internships in the areas of medical, nutrition, and sports medicine education. Among the many wonderful and welcoming people to host Dr. Jones were the members of the Department of Basic Sciences. In addition to a scrumptious tea with too many local treats to list, the Chair of the unit, Dr. Sanet van Zyl (on the right in picture at right), offered a tour of the anatomy museum. The museum curator, Dr. Johan Steyl (shown seated in picture at right), provided a glimpse into one of the best anatomical museums at a medical school that Dr. Jones, a medical educator for over 25 years, had ever seen. Also on hand were Dr. Stephanie Smith, the Faculty Advisor for the UFS IMPULSE team, and one of the student reviewers, Inge Seale (left and center in picture at left, respectively).

The Clinical Education Internships, in the planning stages for summer 2012, will be for students pursuing careers in medicine, nutrition, or sports medicine. Nine students were selected as school started. They will be “meeting” their UFS hosts through the Internet and learning about their internships this fall. The students will be taking an HON 3515 course with Dr. Jones in the spring to prepare for the experience, then heading off to Bloemfontein on their own in May. We look forward to establishing this as a recurring opportunity for Honors students in the future.



## AIM High Welcome Banquet A Major Success

On August 30th, 2011, approximately 60 students attended the AIM High Welcome Banquet, dining on roast beef, pork tenderloin, and an array of vegetables. Dr. Wheeler, director of the Prestigious Scholarships Program, introduced the AIM High program to the new participants. He gave the students information on the many opportunities available from AIM High, namely preparing them to apply for top-rated scholarships and graduate schools. In addition to all it has offered students over the past three years, this year AIM High is introducing Peer Mentors for all of the new participants. The Peer Mentors are AIM High participants from previous years who will guide the new students through the program, as well as through college in general. In order to serve them best, the peer mentors will divide the students by major and assign each one a peer mentor within their specific college. The next AIM High meetings will be held on Tuesday, September 27 and Tuesday, November 1. See you then!



**Brittany Sleeper and Rose Buchanan introduce the peer mentor program.**



**AIM High participants enjoy dinner at the opening event.**



## John's Marathon



John Castro-Rappl, shown above, had always heard good things about Boone in the summer, so he decided to stay and take advantage of the cool mountain breeze while training for the Grandfather Mountain Marathon. In order to have somewhere to stay, and be able to get a few general education courses out of the way, he elected to live in Dough-ton Hall as the Senior Resident Assistant for both summer sessions. In the process, he was fortunate enough to be selected as a member of ASU's delegation to the NACURH conference at Western Illinois University, and along with Katia Bereznitskaia, presented on OASIS's "Red Flag Campaign," an educational program designed to enable bystanders to act in preventing sexual assaults from occurring in residence halls and off-campus settings. While the combination of jet lag, work as an RA, and marathon training was often exhausting, the rewards were definitely worthwhile. Out of this experience, he has gained the confidence to be a successful Senior RA in Mountaineer Hall this year. He will even try his hand at a longer race this coming winter—the Table Rock 54-Mile Ultra Marathon.

## Soccer and Scholarly Studies: Profile of a Student-Athlete

Nicole has two major passions in her life: school and soccer. She will be involved with both of these for her next four years at Appalachian State. Being in the Honors College and on the varsity soccer team means the world to her, although she says it can be a little challenging at times. The two combined take up a lot of time, so she has to stay disciplined in her studying to keep up her grades. She has searched for where she can get the most work done. Her favorite niche is on the third floor of the library, a silent floor with singlets. She gets her homework done right after practice so she won't stress about it later. Also, if she knows she is going to miss class for a long soccer weekend, she makes sure to stay ahead on her homework all week.

Nicole couldn't imagine herself without soccer at Appalachian State. Through both soccer and the Honors College she has made great friends, and she enjoys playing at the highest level while also working in a smaller class setting with a high level of discussion. Nicole tells us that she is having the most fun of her life and is so glad she gets to continue playing with these girls and coaches for her next four years, as well as pursuing her interest in Communication Disorders. Nicole's first few weeks of college have been some of the best, and she cannot wait to experience the rest that Appalachian State has to offer.





# EVENTS



## Freshmen Enjoy Free Food, Fellowship with Family

The fourth annual Freshmen Welcome Dinner was held on August 21, 2011. One hundred and forty-five new Honors College students were fêted at the River Street Café. It was the first time that the students could see all of the rest of their classmates at one time and meet as many of them as possible. The conversations went on long after the pies and cakes were gone as the students found new best friends, both from far away and right next door.

A few short weeks later, on September 25th, the Honors College called the class together again - this time with their families - to celebrate the successful start of the students' college careers at the Freshmen Family Picnic. This annual event has recently been held at Legends, but it had to be moved to the Plemmons Student Union this year in deference to the flooding that occurred the night before! With the wonderful catering staff rushing to adjust and the helpful Student Programs folks directing guests, the picnic went forward. The nearly 250 guests were joined by some special attendees: Mrs. Jerri Heltzer (key supporter of the Heltzer Honors Program for International Education), the Chancellor (with Mrs. Heltzer at right below), and Mrs. Peacock! Students and families enjoyed the chance to talk to the Chancellor, as always, and these special guests helped to make this fourth annual picnic the best ever! Thanks to everyone for coming, and Happy Birthday Jimmy Miller!





## Meredith Goes to Greece

At the end of her freshman year, Meredith Branham went on a life-changing trip abroad. The trip, led by Dr. Spencer, spanned 17 days, visited 7 different Grecian cities, and included an in-depth study of philosophy and religion of ancient and modern Greece. This study abroad trip was the first time Meredith had ever left the country. She experienced a place filled with people and a culture different from her own for the first time. This gave Meredith something she had desired for most of her life - a glimpse of the world and a sense that she was somewhat more connected to it. Dr. Spencer taught Meredith and her fellow classmates at ancient archaeological sites in Greece about ancient Greek mythology, history, culture, religion, and their effects on the world. The most rewarding part of the study abroad experience for Meredith was integrating traditional learning with experiential learning to understand and value the depth of the knowledge acquired better. She discovered ancient Greece and modern Greece while also exploring the Greek language along the way. She had thoughtful and outlook-changing conversations and connections with people from Greece and fellow classmates on the trip. Meredith tells us that this trip was one of the best and most maturing experiences of her life.



## Erika and Sarah Visit Russia

This summer, Erika Gleason went with Sarah Tencer to Yaroslavl, Russia for three weeks through an organization called Cross-Cultural Solutions. This group specializes in giving their volunteers experiences that include community service and tourism. On their free afternoons, they toured various museums, churches, convents, kremlins, and even the home of a family of artists! When working, Erika and Sarah made crafts and played games with children in a psychiatric hospital, a shelter, and several summer camps for kids from lower income families. They also worked with groups of senior citizens and people with disabilities. Erika and Sarah received language-building and cultural lectures on Russian fairy tales, cooking, and the Romanov family. They learned about many things that have made Russia great, as well as some of the social struggles that the country still wrestles with today. Erika has turned her time there into an independent study and is currently working with an Appalachian Sociology professor to further research the trials that people with disabilities face. Overall, Erika reports that the trip was a very rewarding and insightful experience.

Photo above: Erika and Sarah at the Church on the Spilled Blood, Saint Petersburg, Russia.



## B.T. and John Travel to South Africa (But Not With Dr. Jones)

Two Honors students, B.T. Nguyen and John Schwabe, traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa, this past summer to study with students at the Health Sciences School of the University of Johannesburg. Students spent their days shadowing clinicians in the public health care system of South Africa, then met every evening to discuss the cases they saw with their ASU faculty leader, Dr. Nathan Mowa from the Biology Department. This also added cultural and economic context to what they were learning. The trip wasn't all work though. The students traveled to Capetown after finishing their internship, spending plenty of time in the sun and taking in the sights of this fascinating country. Dr. Mowa is collaborating with colleagues at the University of Johannesburg to formulate a Memorandum of Understanding. Doing so would make this an annual program for ASU students wanting clinical experiences beyond the United States.



## Michael Goes to Zimbabwe

This past summer Michael Cutshall traveled to Mushyamunda Village in Zimbabwe for an experience not easily explained in words. Since his long-term goal is to work in underdeveloped countries helping people in need, he joined a mission team from the First Christian Church in Johnson City, TN, consisting of people interested (or already in) the medical field. Although he has traveled internationally before, he was still rather nervous about this trip. They set up simple clinics and he enjoyed being able to work there, but was most moved by how kind and rich in spirit the people were; this made him realize that not only were we going to help them, but they were also able to help us. Being in their presence and living with them for over a week helped us grow because we experienced such great hospitality and kindness with what little they had. The sacrifices that he witnessed displayed a kind of love that he has never experienced, and he now is sure after this trip that he wants to be able to do the same thing all over the world.

Clockwise: Michael with friends in the village, bungee jumping in Zimbabwe, at Victoria Falls, at the clinic.





## Katherine Explores Medieval Medicine



While most people agree that the outcomes of war - social upheaval, economic interruption, and death - should be avoided, there are often overlooked societal improvements that result from warfare. One such example is in medicine. In the 12th century, surgeons were limited in their knowledge by the Catholic Church's prohibition on dissection. During the Third Crusade, European surgeons learned on the battlefield and made great improvements in trauma surgery. Katherine Bakewell's thesis is written in the narrative form as the diary of Geoffrey, a real surgeon who accompanied Richard the Lionhearted on the Third Crusade and then returned to his home in England. The novel deals not only with the changes in medicine at the time, but also with the culture clash between the Christian Crusaders and the Muslim Ottoman Empire. Full of adventure, gore, and what Katherine presumes is dry wit, the book is intended to show how the Third Crusade and exchange of ideas between supposed enemies helped innovation in medieval surgery.

## Class in Costa Rica



Instead of staying on campus for summer school, Michelle Jewell and six other ASU students spent two weeks traveling across Costa Rica. They visited several hospitals, businesses, and universities to learn more about their sustainability habits. While it was a great way to learn about a foreign country and its policies, the group also had lots of fun exploring the various beautiful landscapes. Whether it was hiking up volcanoes, or kayaking and snorkeling in the ocean, Michelle says that Sustainability in Costa Rica was an awesome summer class to take.

## Mission Work in Mexico



John Sarris and Christina Naylor went to Mexico with the Salem Presbytery July 9-17 on a construction mission trip. They stayed at a Bible School in Ocosingo, in Chiapas, Mexico. John and Christina also visited San Cristobal, in Chiapas.



## Language and Culture Assistants in Spain: Wearing Many Hats

Special Contributor: Laura Tabor

As the latest group of honors graduates heads off into the world, a new class of seniors is trying to figure out what to do as soon as they graduate from college. Honors students are known for exceeding expectations and meeting challenges, but the job market in the United States is unequivocally tough, regardless of tenacity. This past year I knew this to be true, so I wanted to use the uncertainty as an opportunity to do something entirely new.

While in the Honors College at Appalachian State, I received a travel grant that helped me spend a month in Madrid, Spain, over the summer. I learned a lot about myself, the way other cultures function, and the Spanish language while there, but it was not a long-term experience of cultural immersion. I chose to apply to the Language and Culture Assistants of Spain program for my first year after graduation. The program hires native speakers of English and other languages to come to Spain and work part-time in their public school system. Some of the uses of this program include:

1. Spending a whole year abroad even though you didn't have time or money to do so while in college.
2. Vastly improving classroom Spanish skills without having to be fluent in Spanish for your job (all teaching is done in English, so your Spanish would simply be necessary for regular life interactions)
3. Participating in an educational environment different from the United States to widen your Education degree's scope, or, if you didn't major in education, giving teaching a shot without having to get a license first.
4. Allowing yourself more free time to work on graduate/professional school applications, while still having time to invest great effort in your work.
5. Striking off on your own after the relative comforts of college and, in many cases, proximity of family and friends.

The program is not for everyone, but anyone with an intermediate level of Spanish and any interest in seeing the world, teaching, or languages should definitely look it up online and consider it. Feel free to email Laura Tabor (shown below) any questions you have about the application process at [taborlm@appstate.edu](mailto:taborlm@appstate.edu).



# CONFERENCES



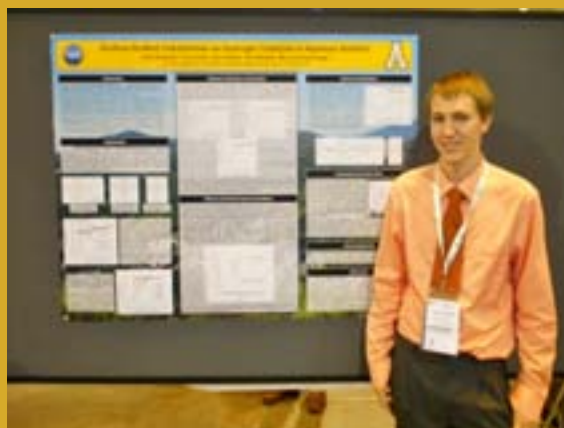
## IMPULSE in Italy

Senior Biology student Kate Davison flew to Florence, Italy, this July to attend the Eighth World Congress of the International Brain Research Organization, which works to promote neuroscience research, teaching, and history globally. This was both her first international conference and her first time traveling abroad alone. As the Editor-in-Chief of IMPULSE, she presented a poster for the organization. IMPULSE is the premier international, undergraduate journal for neuroscience, and it is hosted by the Honors College. While at the conference, she volunteered for the International Brain Bee Competition as well, and met with high school students from around the world interested in neuroscience. This quadrennial meeting gave her a unique, internationally-oriented opportunity to promote the journal and its service to undergraduate students worldwide. Now back at APP, she is working on the tactile stimulus activation of rat superior colliculus for her thesis with Dr. Mark Zrull in Psychology. Coming up in November, Kate and four other Appalachian students will be on the road again at the annual Society for Neuroscience meeting in Washington, D.C., to present another poster on IMPULSE; they will be joined by several students from the six Reviewer Training Site institutions, including two students from the University of the Free State in South Africa!



## Christopher and Amber Attend ACS Meeting in Denver

Honors students Christopher Eubanks and Amber Harold attended the 242nd National American Chemical Society Meeting in late August held in Denver, Colorado. Both students are chemistry majors and spent this past summer on the Appalachian campus participating in research projects. Chris presented his research findings in the Division of Inorganic Chemistry with a poster entitled "Surface-Grafted Cobaloximes as Hydrogen Catalysts in Aqueous Solutions." Amber's poster was presented in the Division of Biological Chemistry and was entitled "Liquid Culture of *Caenorhabditis Elegans* Promotes Efficient Functional Organic Anion Transporter Assays." This fall, both Amber and Chris will be submitting Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship applications for funding of their senior research projects. Amber and Chris are from King, North Carolina and will graduate in May 2013.



# EXPERIENCES



## John Thomas Gray in N.Y.C.

Jordan Thomas Gray (above, far right) attended New York University full time during the Spring 2011 semester as a visiting student. He studied philosophy, public policy, and electronic music. During his time at NYU, Jordan lived as an intern in the Appalachian New York Loft, two miles away from the NYU campus at Washington Square Park in Manhattan. During the Spring and Summer, he also participated in a paid internship at the Anti-Defamation League headquarters, conducting contemporary research on Right Wing Extremism.



## Shelby's Show

This summer, Shelby Forsyth had the opportunity to conduct the pit orchestra and play keyboards for the famous Internet musical, "Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog". Burlington's Extraordinary League of Thespians put this on-stage version of the show together. All of the proceeds went to the American Red Cross to aid in N.C. Tornado Relief efforts. The show ran for three days and was a major success. Shelby was glad to use her musical talents for such a worthy cause.

## ALPS Holds its First Pre-Law Workshop

On September 14th, the Appalachian Legal Preparation Scholars (ALPS) program had its first campus-wide Pre-Law Workshop in the Plemmons Student Union. Approximately 50 interested students attended to learn more about the application process for law school, school selection, and the legal profession in general. Mr. Miller will be having Pre-Law Workshops monthly; the next workshop will be on Tuesday, October 18th at 7pm in the Calloway Peak Room, Plemmons Student Union. For more information on the ALPS Pre-Law Workshops and Pre-Law Advising at the Honors College, visit our website at <http://honors.appstate.edu/academics/honors-academic-mentoring/pre-law-advising>.



## Honors Welcomes Corey Bullock to the College



Corey Bullock joins the Honors College team as the Graduate Assistant for the Prestigious Scholarships Program (PSP). He will be working with Dr. Wheeler, Director of PSP, to coordinate the AIM High and APPetite for Life Events, as well as various scholarship recruitment sessions. Corey completed his undergraduate studies at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in English and French, with the addition of NC Teaching Licensure. He and his wife Laura recently relocated to Banner Elk, his wife's hometown, from Wilmington, NC, where Corey had been an avid surfer. He is currently completing his Masters of Public Administration here at ASU, focusing on nonprofit management.

## Next Laurus Honorum Arrives in the Winter!



The Honors College Newsletter

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