

# LAURUS

# HONORUM

“Honored with the Laurel”

Volume 7, Winter 2011

## Winter Comes to Appalachian

Cover Photo of the Great Smoky Mountains Courtesy of the National Park Service, <http://www.nps.gov>.

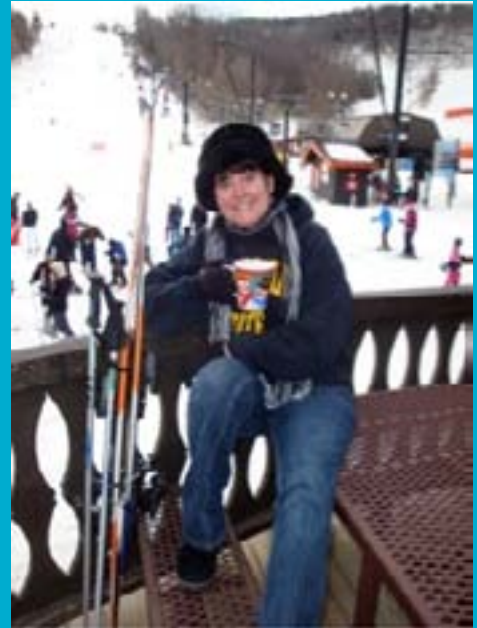




## A Word From the Director

Welcome to (finally) winter in Boone! Last year we were blown out in early December, but this has been a slower trip to the arctic. We got there this week! Warm yourselves up with a trip through these pages catching up on the doings in Honors. We have faculty in Kenya, students in The Big Apple, and alumni in Canada. There are spring courses to dream about and awards to take pride in, as well as some new initiatives to consider. There are two stories about the Honors staff attending the NCHC conference, and another trip with the IMPULSE team to a national conference. There are also two news items that remind us of the poignancy of life, as we announce with great joy the birth of Zack Underwood's son, Kai, and with unutterable sadness the loss of our very own Sam Rathnow.

As we begin this new year of 2012, I wish you all a peaceful and happy new year, and I hope that we get the chance to celebrate some event, any event – going for coffee counts – together soon.



## December Honorum Laurus Graduation!



[Read more about the ceremony on page 17](#)



## Seventeen HON 2515 and 3515 Spring Courses!

Well, it is enough to make one want to go back to school; have you seen the Honors Spring course listings? Some are old favorites back on the roster by popular demand, such as *Game & Film Worlds*, *Cryptology*, *Fight Club Politics*, and *Plastic Brain*. Others are courses that new ASU faculty are offering for the first time, like *Geoforensics*, *Environmental Law*, and *Narrative and the Caring Professions*. And then there are some new courses that previous HON faculty just want to try out, so we have Dr. Hellenbrand's *Blue Danube*, Dr. DeHart's *Cartoons to Colbert: Political Humor Explorations*, and Dr. Dodd's *Communicating Black Literature*. Dr. Dubino will be back from Kenya just in time to offer *Bringing the World Home* again, helping students complete the International Education requirement and graduate with University Honors, while Dr. Ardoin will oversee *The Washington Experience* course for those doing the ASU in DC internship program.

There also will be several cross-listed, interdisciplinary courses to round out the curriculum, and we are grateful to IDS, WGC, and Economics for sharing *We Are Water*, *Japanese Literature*, and *Experimental and Behavioral Economics* with Honors students. Finally, some other history courses that are new to the Honors lineup are: *Histories of Knowledge*, *Epidemics in History*, and *Discursive Realities: Dialogue in Fiction and in Life*. It is a nice balance of the humanities with natural and social sciences, and there are enough seats to fit into even the most demanding schedule. A world of options exists for you to explore!



Image Source: Public Domain



## Dr. Dubino Spends a Semester in Kenya

In the Fall 2011 semester, Dr. Jeanne Dubino (shown on the left in photo with a friend below) was a visiting professor/scholar at Egerton University in Njoro, Kenya, where she had been a Fulbright Scholar/Researcher in 2002-2003. Egerton University is located 2 ½ hours' driving distance northwest of Nairobi, in the Rift Valley. It was founded in 1939 by Lord Maurice Egerton of Tatton as an agricultural college. In 1958, five years before Kenya's independence, the college began to admit students of all races from Kenya and from elsewhere in Africa. Egerton is still Kenya's premier public agricultural university, but it is also renowned for its programs in the humanities and social sciences.

While Dr. Dubino was at Egerton, she taught classes in the European classics and in women, gender, and development, along with two online classes for Appalachian in Global Studies. Given her interest in travel and travel literature, women's studies, and globalization, she was in the perfect place! She was involved in a number of other endeavors as well: she gave a seminar paper on interdisciplinary studies; attended several conferences—on sustainable development, gender, and the future of Kenyan politics and literature; participated in graduate student thesis defenses; met with staff setting up online classes at Egerton; and attended and visited a number of concerts, schools, speeches, and events.

She also had the chance to travel around East Africa a little. She went to Zanzibar, an island off the coast of Tanzania, and its Kenyan counterpart, Lamu. Lamu is famous for its several thousand donkeys which stray about its narrow streets and alleys, but, with the absence of automobiles on the island, they are also the major means of transportation and hauling. She visited Lake Bogoria, home of thousands of flamingoes, and the Masai Mara, where she went on a short animal safari. She will return to ASU at the beginning of the Spring 2012 semester and will be teaching an HON 3515 on "Bringing the World Home" for students fulfilling their International Education requirement. Who more perfect to do that!







## Honors College Staff Travel to Phoenix for NCHC

The Honors College sent the office staff and two faculty members to the annual National Collegiate Honors Council meeting in Phoenix, AZ, in October. Dr. Jones gave an invited presentation on Honors housing and chaired a session on participation fees. Dr. Wheeler made a connection with Erik Ozolins, President of the Honors Transfer Council of California; as a result, we have entered into negotiation for a Memorandum of Understanding with that body. Catina DeBord zeroed in on presentations relating to alumni affairs and advancement, while Kent Miller focused on pre-professional advising and branding issues. Our faculty folks, Drs. Dee Parks and Mark Zrull, enjoyed seeing how other honors colleges and programs produce and deliver their curricula, while City as Text™ was a hit with Drs. Wheeler and Parks. Dr. Lane found the sessions on assessment useful for stimulating new ideas, and Dr. Jones had the chance to discuss honors issues with directors and deans old and new. All in all it was a productive and reenergizing event, and we look forward to meeting our honors colleagues again in 2012!

### Honors Participation Fees

*Leslie Sargent Jones, Appalachian State University*

There has been a recent trend to charge an honors fee. The growing economic pressures place honors, often not tuition generating, at a disadvantage in raising programming monies. We will discuss why some have taken this route and why others never will.

Type: Roundtable Discussion Theme: Participation Fees



Photo: Mark Zrull, Dee Parks, Kent Miller, Catina DeBord, and Michael Lane (l to r) at the awards banquet.

### Where Honors Lives: Stories of Honors Physical Structures

*Linda Frost, Eastern Kentucky University*

*Keith Garbutt, West Virginia University*

*Leslie Sargent Jones, Appalachian State University*

*Michael Sloane, University of Alabama at Birmingham*

*Robert Spurrier, Oklahoma State University*



## Dr. Wheeler Explores Phoenix

At the NCHC conference in October, Dale Wheeler participated in the City as Text™ program in Phoenix entitled “Colliding Worlds – Connection to the Land” with other conference attendees Kevin Litwin, Kevin Zamora, Philip Phillips, and Sharmila Patel (Dr. Wheeler is on the far right in the picture below). City as Text™ required participants to leave the hotel and work in small teams to discover what makes Phoenix tick. The group visited the Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park. Located next to the Sky Harbor International Airport, it is the site of a 1,500 year-old Hohokam village ruin. Along the outdoor archeological trail, one can see a platform mound, a ballcourt ruin, replicated houses, and native plants. What was most enlightening about the experience was how the Hohokam people rerouted the Salt River from several miles away to irrigate the arid land for their survival at this site. The stark reality of their dependence on the irrigation ditches was clearly evident as they walked through the excavated site in 96°F heat.





## Spotlight on APPetite For Life

APPetite for Life is a program that brings faculty and students together for dinner table conversation about preparation for graduate school. Over 30 students participated in the six APPetite for Life Events held this fall, with topics ranging from business, to cultural and environmental studies, to education.

In the photo below, students Ally King, Catie Cannon, Kerry Hilton, Elke Talbot, and Morgan Shank joined Professor Lisa Stinson of the Art Department and Dr. Garner Dewey of the College of Fine and Applied Arts for dinner at The Best Cellar in Blowing Rock. Thank you to all the students and professors who participated this fall.







## International IMPULSE Team Presents at Society for Neuroscience and Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience Annual Conferences



Oct. 12-15 saw the Appalachian editorial team for IMPULSE up in D.C. to present a poster about the role of social media in the journal's outreach. Helping present the poster were students from other review teams at Middlebury, St. Olaf, the University of South Carolina, and amazingly, two students from the University of the Free State in South Africa! Inge Seale and Marizna Barkhuizen (second from right back row and far left first row in photo at left) flew in the day before and shared in four days of meeting events. The whole group went out for the traditional Saturday dinner, this year at an Ethiopian

restaurant (Meskerem Ethiopian restaurant, bottom right), and enjoyed getting to know their colleagues they had only known through email before. Joining us were Dr. Sandra Kelly, from USC, and Dr. Yasushi Shigeri, from the AIST in Osaka, Japan. The photo upper left shows the ASU team at the meeting (Miranda Cook, Jessie Wozniak, Meghan Kusper, Marizna, Ben Minton (back), and Inge, Dr. Jones, Kate Davison, and Alaina Doyle, front). There was a minor disaster with the van on the way back, but all ended happily, thanks to a very kind mechanic in Lamsburg, VA. Thank you, Mr. Wright!







## Clinical Internships Established at UDLAP and BUAP

In response to the growing number of students majoring and minoring in Spanish while planning clinical careers, the Honors College has arranged for students to spend four weeks in programs with medical and dental students in Mexico. Thanks to support from the Office of International Education and Development, Dr. Jones was able to visit the Universidad de las Americas Puebla (UDLAP) and the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP) last month. With the help of Ivette Palacios at UDLAP (second from right in top photo) and Alvaro Gonzalez (left-most in photo at bottom) at BUAP, four students will be going to UDLAP this June and four will be at BUAP. The pre-dental students will be hosted at the BUAP dental school (pictured in the bottom photo with Dental School Dean Jorge Albicker in the center), while three pre-medical students will be at UDLAP for the month. The picture at the top shows the staff of one of the outreach health clinics that partners with BUAP in the neighboring town of Sta. Isabel. One student will be doing a nanotech research internship in the lab of Dr. Erick Bandala at UDLAP.

Thanks to our wonderful partners in Puebla for creating these unique exchange opportunities, and we look forward to great stories next summer from the state with the world's largest pyramid and Popocatepetl -- one of the tallest volcanoes!



**Rural health clinic in Sta. Isabel, Puebla**



**BUAP Dental School Administrative Faculty**



## Rose Buchanan Presents at Women's Studies Conference

When Rose Buchanan completed her final paper for her Honors 2515 class in December 2010, she had no idea that she would be presenting her research at the National Women's Studies Association Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, nearly a year later. Her class, taught by Dr. Michael Lane and entitled "Pros(e)titution," had examined depictions of prostitutes in nineteenth-century literature and involved a semester-long research project on a topic of the student's choice. For her project, Buchanan had investigated the West's misconceptions of Japanese geisha as prostitutes, particularly as seen in books such as Arthur Golden's *Memoirs of a Geisha*. After she had presented her findings to the class last year, Lane had encouraged her to submit her paper to the NWSA Conference that was taking place the following November. Buchanan took his advice and found out in late spring of 2011 that conference officials had accepted her paper as a poster presentation. Working with Lane over the summer and fall semesters to translate her paper into a visual presentation, Buchanan finally headed down to Atlanta with her poster in tow in November, excited to be going to her first major academic conference.

As Buchanan recalls, she was initially nervous to be presenting her research alongside graduate students and professionals at such a large venue. But attendees' kind words and genuine curiosity about her research quickly put her at ease. Her favorite part of the experience, she says, was engaging in discussions with other attendees who had also studied misconceptions of women as prostitutes; one attendee even pointed her to sources about female Indian artists who, like geisha, are mistakenly believed to be sex workers as well. Buchanan also enjoyed learning about other presenters' research. She was particularly intrigued by a fellow student's poster examining the objectification of women on social media sites such as Facebook.

Overall, Buchanan says, attending the NWSA Conference was a fun and educational experience. Not only did it allow her to network with other academics, it also opened her eyes to the wide range of potential research topics to pursue in the future. Buchanan was aided in her efforts as a recipient of the Maggie McFadden Scholarship. She also wants to thank the Honors College, the Office of Student Research, and the AIM High Program for providing financial support for her trip. Furthermore, she is grateful to Dr. Lane for the many hours he spent working with her and helping prepare her for the presentation. As Buchanan says, "I received so much support from everyone here at App, and I could not have done it without them. Anyone who gets the chance to go to a conference should definitely do it. It was such a wonderful learning experience, and I hope to be able to attend another conference very soon!"



# PRESENTATIONS

## Emily Presents Talk at Research Symposium



Sophomore Emily Stewart Long has been studying modern Germany intensely since arriving in Boone last August. “The research I do has taken many turns and led me down paths I never thought I’d even cross; the journey has been an immersion, a struggle, and ultimately a gift,” she said of her experience. On Saturday, November 19, she had the chance to share her passion for history and philosophy. She began the process of presenting her work to fellow aspiring scholars at the State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium (SNCURCS) held at East Carolina University with her mentor Dr. Michael Behrent. She is extremely pleased that she took this opportunity, and she encourages all students with passion to take this step and share their love of knowledge with anyone who will listen.

She presented a paper entitled “A Critique of Ernst Nolte: Nazism as a Metapolitical Transcendental Phenomenon.” She suggests that Nolte’s dialectic of fascism’s maturation through European history has a key flaw. “By identifying and researching the significance of this flaw in his book, I feel that I been able to begin the process of overturning the conception of Nazism as ‘resistance to transcendence.’” In this way, she feels she can work toward a deeper understanding of the movement that was Nazism and hopefully find for it some semblance of peace.

Emily has some advice for her fellow students as well. “I’d like to take this opportunity to communicate to the student body the reality of their own power and ability. Now is the time for students to realize your own dreams, to make your own mark and to give yourself to what you see as beautiful and vital. Devote yourself to a burning question; share what you find with the world.”





## Chancellor's Scholars Explore New York City

During Fall Break, all 15 Chancellor's Scholars invaded New York City! As part of their *Voyages* course, Chancellor's Scholars spent five days in New York City exploring potential major and career options, while also learning about other countries and regions in one of the most diverse cities in the world. A group of pre-health students were able to visit Cornell Medical School and observe interviews for prospective medical students. A number of students interested in music and theatre went to several musical events, seeing an opera (*Nabucco*), a classical performance (New York Philharmonic), jazz clubs, and other performances. All students and the two instructors, Dr. Leslie Sargent Jones and Angela Mead, saw *The Lion King* on Broadway. Everyone returned tired but with great stories and memories!



Waiting for the flight to be called at the Charlotte-Douglas Airport



Playing in the fountain down at Battery Park



On the boat tour of the harbor



## Angela Honored at National Advising Conference



In October 2011, Angela Mead, Honors Advising Coordinator, was honored at the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) national conference in Denver, Colorado. Angela was awarded a NACADA research grant for her dissertation research on academic advising and first-generation college students. Angela expects to receive her doctorate in May 2012.

## A.J. Wins Community Impact Award

Honors junior A.J. Anglim has won the North Carolina Campus Compact's Community Impact Student Award. A.J. was featured in a University News article commending her achievement. She has been extensively involved with the imPACT Team and has served on the Dance Marathon Committee, the Homecoming 1,000 Pints Blood Drive Committee, and the Don't Throw It Away campaign.





## Williams Wins Award for Civic Leadership

Departmental honors senior Samuel Williams was honored with the John H. Barnhill Civic Trailblazer Award in a ceremony on November 12th at Wake Forest University. Williams was named for the award in large part for his founding of two civic organizations, ACT OUT and the Men of Service Day. An article on his accomplishment has appeared in the Appalachian State University News on the ASU website.

Says Samuel about receiving the award: “Winning the John Barnhill Award was an incredible honor. And I believe that it serves as a reaffirmation of community efficacy, the idea that a group of motivated individuals can advocate and cause tremendous change in a community. I see receiving the Barnhill Award as acknowledgement of the motivation and hard work of all the people who made the events for which I was recognized possible. That includes both the fellow members of Appalachian and the Community Together who supported the events and the members of the Appalachian State community who were so willing to serve when the need and opportunity arose. This award served as motivation to work harder and as a reminder of the incredible community which I have been so lucky to spend the past four years in.”







## Honors Graduates Study at the University of Toronto

Elizabeth Glenn Guy (winter '07) and Richard (Tommy) Guy (spring '07) are currently PhD candidates at the University of Toronto in Psychology and Computer Science, respectively. The honors curriculum played a special role in their lives: it's where they met! After taking Calculus III and Honors Introduction to Logic and Proof together, they started dating and were married in the summer of 2010 before moving to Canada to pursue their doctoral degrees. Elizabeth got her first taste of research volunteering in Dr. Mark Zrull's lab as a sophomore. Her initial hope was to boost her resume for a career in clinical psychology, but she was inevitably bit by the "research bug." The opportunity to interpret data with the current literature, creatively design new experiments to answer lingering questions, and openly debate results within the lab was intoxicating. She decided to continue her studies in the experimental psychology M.A. program at Wake Forest University. There she developed a strong interest in the neurological underpinnings of reward-related behaviors, especially how they relate to maladaptive behaviors like addictions, eating disorders, and gambling behaviors. She is continuing her studies in this field at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health at the University of Toronto with a thesis focused on nicotine addiction. Specifically, her current studies are aimed at testing the hypothesis that nicotine is addictive because it makes other rewards in the environment more salient - in other words, nicotine may be addictive because it makes social interactions more exciting, drinking more rewarding, and coffee more stimulating.

*continued on the following page...*





Tommy double majored in Math and Philosophy & Religion at Appalachian, completing honors in Philosophy & Religion. From there he went to Wake Forest to study Mathematics, where he worked on a wide range of projects including discrete dynamical systems, computational imaging, and bio-statistics. He decided to add a second Master's degree in Computer Science, where he continued to work on machine learning applications to statistical genetics. He also developed an iPhone app called Verbal Victor that was featured in several national newspapers and has sold over 1500 copies in the App Store. Tommy is currently researching the intersection of computer vision and human-computer interaction. He hopes to develop novel motion tracking algorithms to understand the way that people interact with objects around them. This research could lead to novel navigation aids for the visually impaired, as well as treatment aids for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Both Tommy and Elizabeth credit Appalachian for giving them a broad range of interests that they've carried to their research careers. They still love the mountains, and they get back to Boone every chance they get.

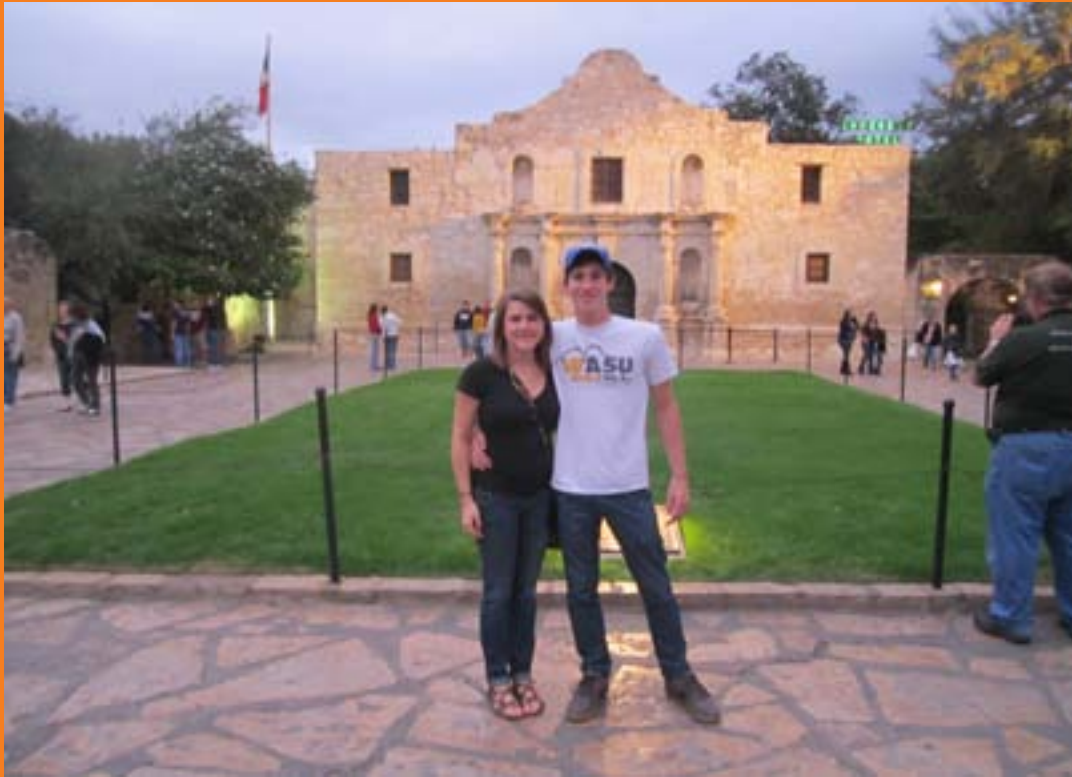
## *In Memoriam - Samuel Guissing Rathnow - 1990-2011*



The Honors College mourns the sudden loss of senior Sam Rathnow. Sam was a member of the upcoming Class of 2012 and would have graduated with Honors in Appropriate Technology. We join with his family, friends, and the community in being deeply saddened by this event.



## Katrina Benton Explores Education



Katrina Benton Donham ('09 ASU Honors English/Spanish Alum) recently relocated to Austin, Texas--the "Live Music Capital of America"--with her husband Erik Donham ('09 ASU Communication Alum). Her spouse will pursue a Master's degree in advertising at the University of Texas, beginning Fall 2012. Around this time last year, Donham received her Master's degree in teaching from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina. She spent her first year teaching ninth and tenth grade English at a Wake County public high school. She is now teaching seventh grade English in Dripping Springs, Texas, approximately 30 miles east of Austin. On teaching, Donham comments, "It's an inexplicable joy to teach young adults. My ultimate goal is to turn these novel learners into lifelong seekers of knowledge. I am truly honored to do what I do every day."





# GRADUATION

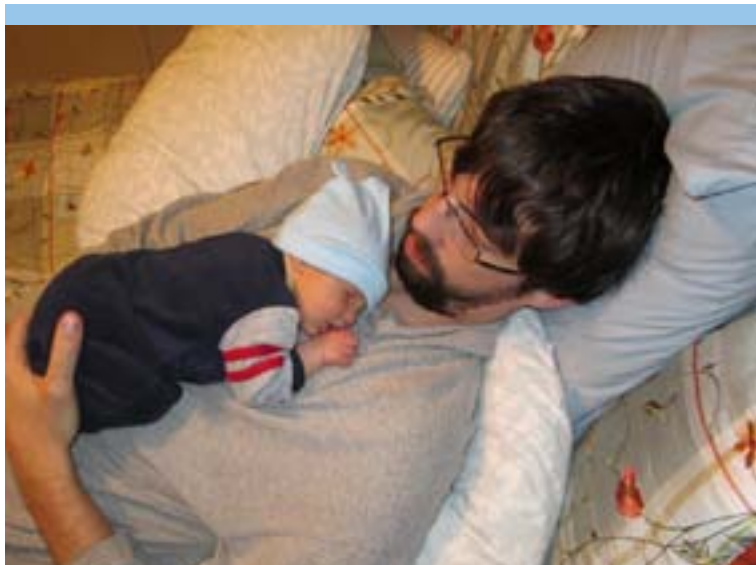


## **December Honorum Laurus Graduation Ceremony**

The Honors College graduated seven students with University Honors during our Honorum Laurus ceremony on Saturday, December 17, 2011. Each of these students completed the rigorous Honors College requirements, including writing and successfully defending their Honors thesis. All of the Honors College graduates have exciting plans for their immediate future, and we are confident that they are all on their way to wonderful careers. We hope to hear great things from them soon!

Elizabeth Cherveney is applying to medical school; she has had several interviews but has not decided whether to attend yet. Clara Harrison is interning with Bridgestone Firestone in the spring before starting graduate school in communications in the fall. Cecelia Hinek is exploring internship and career opportunities with non-profit agencies. Elizabeth Marquardt and Danielle Pulcini will be new teachers. Kristin Pollock is living in Thailand and coaching high school cheerleading at the International School of Bangkok, and she hopes to work with the US Agency for International Development focusing on education and gender in Asia. Lauren White is has been accepted to law school for next year and is considering her options.

We are very proud of these students and their accomplishments, and look forward to graduating more scholars at our May Honorum Laurus ceremony. Congratulations, and best wishes for your bright future!



## Zack's New Family

The Honors College is pleased to announce a new member of the Honors College extended family! Zack Underwood, former Honors Advisor and Technology Specialist, and his wife, Ryan, welcomed a new addition on November 15, 2011. Kai August Underwood "arrived healthy with all ten fingers and toes." Zack and Ryan are enjoying life as new parents and are adapting to the lack of sleep. Welcome baby Kai and congratulations to Zack and Ryan!

## Next Laurus Honorum Arrives in the Spring!

The Honors College Newsletter

Director

Dr. Leslie Sargent Jones

Associate Director

Dr. Michael Lane

Advising Coordinator

Angela Mead

Pre-Law and Business Advisor

Kent Miller

Administrative Assistant

Catina Debord

Director of Prestigious Scholarships Program

Dr. Dale Wheeler

Graduate Assistant

Corey Bullock

Director of Development

David Taylor

Contact The Honors College

Address: ASU Box 32073, Boone, NC 28608

Email: [honors@appstate.edu](mailto:honors@appstate.edu)

Phone: (828) 262-2083

Fax: (828) 262-2734