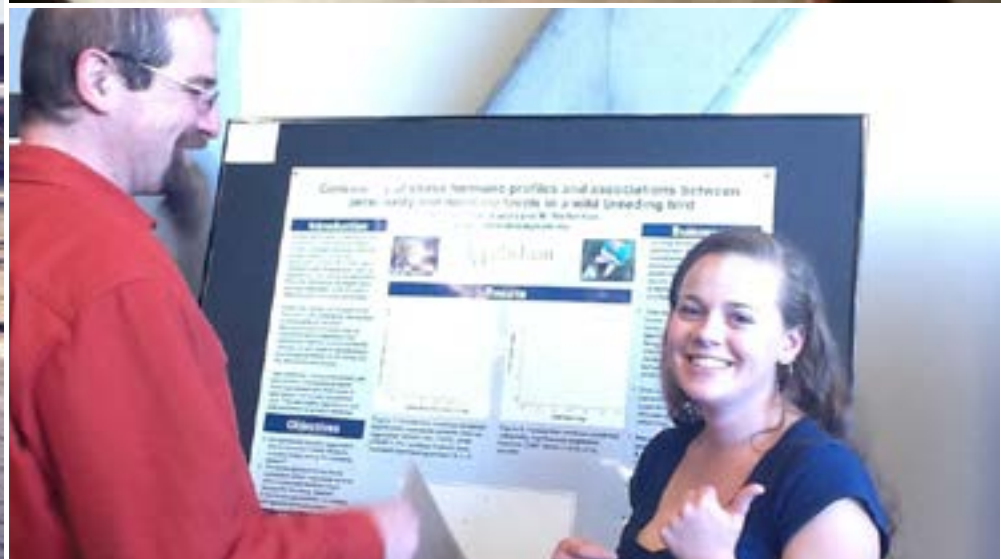


LAURUS HONORUM

“Honored with the Laurel”

Volume 20, Spring 2015



RESEARCH ABOUNDS



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:



You can also follow us on social media:



Photos, front cover: Honors Seniors Madison Frink (top left), Jane Bowers (top right), and Kristen Content (bottom right) presenting their thesis research. Dana Cobb (bottom left), Honors College Partnership Board Research Award winner, travels in Germany presenting her reeseach at a conference.



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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR: SPRING IS HERE (FINALLY)!



Spring has been slow to arrive, but it is finally, soggly, here! If the weather does not remind us of that, all the thesis defenses certainly do! You will be reading more about those this summer, but in this issue you can learn about everything from spring break alternative service trips, class trips, and study abroad adventures. There are some HC faculty reports (from The Explorers Club!), staff travel (for Fulbright and Boren Scholarships), and some early news about post-graduation plans, such as NIH research and dental school. A few alumni have

checked in with their updates, and there is an exciting new part of the Honors College Family: the Partnership Board. Please enjoy the news, and check the Honors College website for current items that are added each week to keep up with the activities until the next issue!

HONORS COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP BOARD RESEARCH FUND

This past year, the Honors College has been working to create a Partnership Board with friends and alumni who can help identify and recruit donors to contribute to the Honors College and its students. Thanks to the Founding Board Member, Dr. Johnny Waters, an example of the type of gift and what it can accomplish was inaugurated this January: the Honors College Partnership Board Research Fund. This gift was put in place and implemented in less time than it takes to say the name! Dr. Waters donated to support the research for eight students, which included sending some to conferences to present their findings.

The winners and their awarded proposals are:

Daniel Anauo: travel to NC schools for music education research

Dana Cobb: travel to Göttingen, Germany, conference to present her neuroscience research

Michael Judge: materials for plant molecular biology research

Sarah Lackey: travel to Chicago conference to present her political science research

Tibor Nagy: materials for inorganic synthetic chemistry research

Alex Prevatte: travel to UDLAP (Mexico) for research with an appropriate technology collaborator

Travis Tabor: materials for organic chemistry research

Kelley Whittaker: materials for cancer molecular biology research

Congratulations to our winners, and many, many thanks to our generous donor and Partnership Board Founding Member, Dr. Johnny Waters!



SCHOLARS DAY

On **February 21, 2015, Scholars Day**, prospective students had the opportunity to interview for the most prestigious and academically competitive merit scholarships at Appalachian State University. The Honors College, home to Chancellor's Scholars, facilitated and hosted the interviews. Honors Faculty, current Chancellors Scholars, and Honors College Staff enjoyed meeting the candidates.



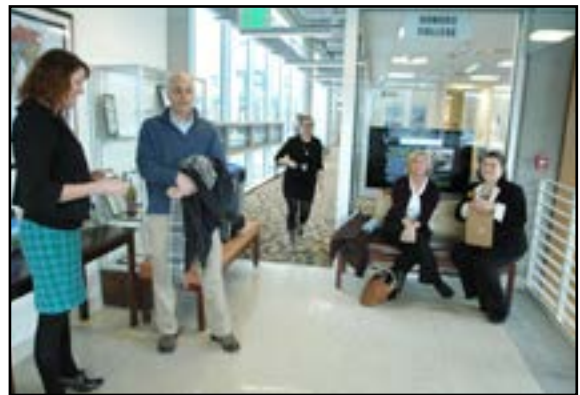
Left (top and bottom): Current Chancellor's Scholars from all four cohorts had time to network and relax together between mingling with prospective candidates.

Right (from left to right): Dr. Waldroup, Dr. Toub, Ms. Yandow, Dr. Bergman, and Dr. Mead take a breather after the last round of interviews.

Bottom Left: Interview committees consisted of Honors Faculty and current or Alumni Chancellors Scholars. Shown (left to right) are Dr. Crepeau, Dr. Hellenbrand, and Laurel Bates.

Bottom Middle: Current Chancellors Scholar Corbin Ester (left), Dr. Waters (center), and Dr. Dubino (right) review their notes after an interview.

Bottom Right: (Left to right) Dr. Runner, Dr. Anderson-Parson, Chris Waldon, and Dr. Dale





HON 3515: QUEST TO FIND KING ARTHUR

Story by Dr. Angela Mead

In March, Dr. Alexandra Hellenbrand and Dr. Angela Mead led 16 students in the Honors “King Arthur” seminar to the United Kingdom on a quest to find Arthur in modern Britain. As you can see from the photos below, we succeeded! We found the supposed grave of King Arthur and his queen, Guinevere, at the ruins of Glastonbury Abbey (photo to right), and then climbed the very tall hill that houses the Glastonbury Tor, rumored to be the entrance to Avalon, where Arthur was taken to heal from his wounds in his last battle (photo left shows climb down). From our home base in Bath, we explored other Arthurian-linked sites,



including viewing a replica of the famous round table at Winchester, which was updated by King Henry VIII, who had his own face painted onto the table in King Arthur’s place. Although not related directly to King Arthur, we also were able to see the Magna Carta on its 800th anniversary, as it was signed by King John of Robin Hood fame in 1215, and it served as a precursor to the US Constitution and Bill of Rights many centuries later. We also visited Caerleon in Wales, a Roman fort that is believed by some to



be the actual location of Camelot (photo right). Of course, no trip to England can be complete without visiting Stonehenge in Salisbury (photo below), which myth holds was built by Merlin. Those little ant-like objects in the Stonehenge photo are actually visitors, showing the impressive achievements of either ancient Celts or Merlin, depending on which story you believe.



Students prepared by reading from Tennyson, Mallory, and Geoffery of Monmouth among others. With this foundation, students were prepared to view these cities and sites as an additional texts in their quest for Camelot and King Arthur. Afterwards, students are continuing their study in myth and history, within the geographic context they experienced first-hand.

Students and faculty alike returned from our whirlwind week abroad exhausted, exhilarated, and excited to share our experiences!



ERIC VICKERS: GRADUATING SENIOR WINS COMPETITION AND LANDS HIS DREAM JOB!

Senior Honors student Eric Vickers is set to defend his thesis entitled, *The Future of Managing Terrorism Risk: Industry Challenges & Opportunities*, next week and graduate in May. In the meantime, he has had an eventful senior year, one that assures his future professional success.

This past October, Vickers led the App State Insurance Jeopardy Team to victory in the annual North Carolina Surplus Lines Association competition. Of the experience, Vickers explained *"It was a team building experience that helped me very much with my professional development. The team practiced all semester meeting twice a week to run drills with buzzers under the guidance of various faculty from the Risk Management and Insurance program. Being team captain I gained leadership experience of being responsible for organizing the group with different focus areas of study to make sure we were broadly prepared."*



Above: 2014 App State Insurance Jeopardy team with the trophy they won. Team members (left to right) included: Josh Evans, Christian Colangelo, Eric Vickers (Honors student and team captain), and Zach Southern.



Above: Chancellor Everts proudly displays the Insurance Jeopardy trophy won by App State!

This, along with the internship that Eric did in the insurance department at Snyder's Lance in Atlanta last summer, were exactly the training he needed to land his post-graduate dream job! During the internship, Eric had the opportunity to meet and work with insurance underwriters from AIG. Then, when he attended the Southeast Risk Insurance Management Society Meetings in Myrtle Beach in September,

he had the opportunity to meet them again and passed them his résumé. Shortly thereafter, he received a call for an interview and by December had a full time job, arranged five months before graduation! Eric starts his new job in June. Of his future plans, Eric shared, *"I foresee myself going to graduate school to pursue an MBA, and AIG has already said they would help pay for that. Completing honors, and especially thesis research, will help me stand out from other candidates."*



Above: Eric Vickers with Dr. Dave Woods, faculty member in the Risk Management and Insurance program, lead faculty training for the Jeopardy competition, and was Eric's thesis mentor.



CORNELIUS MARTIN & EMILY HORSMAN: OFF TO DENTAL SCHOOL

Senior Honors Student Cornelius Martin received three offers (ECU, UNC, and Meharry) from dental schools and interviews at five out of the five schools to which he applied. He received some of the highest scholarships available from both UNC and ECU, and it was a fierce competition in the end. As Cornelius reports, *"I'm going to ECU! It was a tough decision but I finally decided. It was weird because Chapel Hill started fighting for me at the end. Once I told them I was going to ECU, I started getting phone calls and emails every day, asking, 'Are you sure, are you sure?' And yes, I am sure!"*

His final decision boiled down to ECU's focus on special-needs dentistry. As Cornelius describes, he is most passionate about *"working with people with Autism, Down Syndrome, those in wheelchairs, in prisons, and those dealing with substance abuse. I also want to work with rural and low income populations. I am from a small town in Mississippi—Cleveland, really Mountain Bayou, but that is really tiny so I just say Cleveland. That is where I get my passion for working with people who are struggling."* He was most impressed with what ECU has to offer him in working toward and reaching that goal.

Cornelius starts the four year dental program in the fall of this year. After that, if he is able to specialize, he will still have an additional two years of training. He does plan to stay in North Carolina. As he explains, *"I want to give back to the state where I have received my education and where I hope to practice dentistry."* Eventually, he would like to have a practice somewhere bigger, like Charlotte or Raleigh, but plans to travel 45 minutes or more away to smaller, rural areas to serve more low-income needs. This summer, Cornelius plans to continue the volunteer work he has been doing with the NC Missions of Mercy (NCMOM) that sponsors a free dental care clinic for the underprivileged and under-served in Charlotte and Salisbury.



Cornelius Martin in the Graduate and Professional School Resource Library in the Honors College.



Emily Horsman ('14), a Biology and Chemistry double major, will be attending MUSC dental school this coming fall. She was the first student to do a summer dental shadowing program at our partner school, Bishop Heber College, in Trichy, India (see photo; Emily is center flanked by her friends at one of the dental clinics). Emily credits her experience there, and her thesis research in chemistry, as key components of her successful application.

Congratulations Emily & Cornelius!



HONORS STUDENTS LEARN AND SERVE ACROSS THE GLOBE: SPRING BREAK ALTERNATIVE SERVICE EXPERIENCES (ASE)

Honors students **Emily Brown, Ashlee Harvey, Emma Labovitz, and Jordan McCraight** joined a group of fourteen students and two ASU faculty members on an ASE to Piñas, Ecuador, for Spring Break. As Emily explained, *“In Ecuador, it is mandated by the President that all students learn English. Students on the ASE worked with an English camp teaching children ages 5-18. We spent four of our seven days preparing lesson plans and then teaching them to the children, in rotating groups. The whole experience was rewarding because we were able to provide something for a community that they truly needed and that couldn’t be provided by just*



Above: Honors Sophomore Jordan McCraight (back row left) and her teaching partner, Tamela Queen, with students they taught in Piñas, Ecuador.



Above (left to right): Honors Freshman Emma Labovitz, Junior Natalie Frankle, and Honors Sophomore Emily Brown in the mountains of Piñas, Ecuador.

any-one. For me teaching was difficult because I had no previous knowledge of Spanish. It was inspiring to see how much the children wanted to learn and were willing to put in the effort to understand and succeed.” Jordan furthered, *“My teaching partner and I taught action words, as well as ‘I can’ and ‘Can you?’ statements. Other groups taught subjects such as geography and weather. At the end of the week we helped to clean the local school for students with special needs. This experience was extraordinary and has inspired me to continue to spend my school breaks by participating in ASEs.”*

For her Spring Break ASE, **Honors Senior Shannon Wright** traveled to Guatemala along with thirteen other ASU students. They stayed in the small town of San Martin and worked in the village of El Quimal (photo left). In addition, the group visited historical and cultural sites in Guatemala City and Antigua. Shannon shared, *“Although, I only spent one week in the country, I learned so much!”* Shannon is headed to George Washington University for her MS in Public Policy.





ASE: SUSTAINABLE FARMING IN COSTA RICA

Honors students Abby Woodward and Michael Yonkovig spent spring break in Costa Rica with a group (photo right) of thirteen other students and Dr. Catherine Fountain, an iASE. They spent the week on a sustainable farm run by a man named Javier and his wife Racquel in the mountains of Costa Rica—Villas Mastatal, about 2.5 hours outside of San Jose. The group learned about and practiced sustainable, bio-dynamic farming techniques. In addition to their work on the farm, students took a day to work at the local school (shown right bottom) landscaping, planting a garden, and playing soccer with the kids. As Abby related, *“We traveled to the Pacific Coast to spend a day on the beach and clean up a sea turtle refuge area. We also had the opportunity to experience true Costa Rican life through a home stay with the families in Mastatal. With no Spanish knowledge, the language barrier was especially difficult for me and several other students. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have traveled with students who are so passionate and knowledgeable about sustainability.”*



SERVICE FOR PEACE: ASE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Honors Freshman Annie Pharr spent the week of spring break in the Dominican Republic on an ASE working with the organization Service for Peace. As she reported, *“We were working in La Represa, one of the five communities making up El Cidral about an hour from the capital. The town is surrounded by huge green mountains and a beautiful river that we played in every evening. The majority*



of the time we spent working on an addition (photo right) to the primary school there, mixing concrete, putting it on the walls, painting, and clearing the area.



There was definitely a learning curve to concreting walls, but the Dominicans we worked with were patient and fun to be around. On Thursday we visited a cacao farm run by the women in the community next door as a means of income. They showed us how to take the cacao, get the beans out for roasting, shell them, and mash them into cocoa they sold (photo left). The experience was memorable for all of us, and even though we went there with the intention of helping, I think that their kindness, hospitality, and positivity taught me much more than they realized.”



SEMESTER ABROAD IN MADRID: DILLON HEWITT-CASTILLO & JACK SCHAUFLER



Above: Dillon looking at the Madrid skyline from the Palacio de Cibeles.

Honors Juniors and Chancellor's Scholars Dillon Hewitt-Castillo and Jack Schaufler are studying abroad this spring semester at *la Universidad Europea de Madrid*. The campus is located in the suburbs of Villaviciosa de Odon; Jack and Dillon are living in apartments in the heart of Madrid. They are thriving in the challenges and having great adventures. Dillon, a finance and banking major, relates, "I took an economics and management course last trimester; I am currently enrolled in an operations and production class, as well as business



Above: Jack (left) and Dillon (right) in the Swiss Alps.

Spanish. The Spanish teaching methodology here is very different in that the professors maintain a much less formal atmosphere and require many small presentations. We are here from January until the end of June so we have a lot of time for traveling and experiencing Madrid. I am also in the process of acquiring data from the Spanish Wine Trade Observatory for research into my thesis topic on the Economic Impact of Climate Change on the Spanish Wine Industry."

As Jack further reported, "This semester abroad has been an experience unlike any other. In the beginning it's like the first day of college all over again. You go to campus for the first time, attend orientation for international students, and make friends based purely on where you decided to sit in the lecture hall, all on top of being in a completely new country. It forced me out of my comfort zone right

away, and I'm glad it did. I have gotten the chance to make friends from around the world. Some of my best friends being from Australia, Finland, Austria, Ireland, Switzerland. The ability to talk to people with different perspectives, hear their life stories and their views on global politics, has taught me more than most classes could. The other part of the semester that has made a huge impact on me has been the ability to travel. We have been to Switzerland, the Netherlands, and Portugal so far; with trips to Italy, the Czech Republic, Turkey, and Morocco planned for the remainder of the semester. I cannot even begin to express how much it has taught me, both about myself and about the world we live in. This semester has taught me how incredible the world is, but it has also made me see how much I love Boone, and how great of a school ASU really is."



Above left: The cathedral in Toledo at sunset



Above top right: People relaxing alongside Lake Zurich



Above bottom right: A view of a canal in crossing one of Amsterdam's many bridges



AMANDA BRYSON SPENDS THE SEMESTER DOWN UNDER

Story by Amanda Bryson



Above: Amanda in front of Twelve Apostles Marine National Park in Victoria.

Wow, Australia has been a whirlwind of fun trips, sight-seeing, and meeting new people! Pretty much every weekend has been spent travelling someplace new.

One of my first trips around Australia was to Phillip and Churchill Islands. I got to see kangaroos, koalas, wallabies, penguins, an emu, and a wombat among other things. And of course, I got the required touristy picture with a kangaroo and koala.

A few weekends later, I travelled to the Great Ocean Road. Among other things, I saw Cape Otway Lighthouse, Loch Ard Gorge, and The Twelve Apostles.

I also spent two weekends visiting an Australian friend whom I met back in the States when she studied abroad at Appalachian. One weekend was spent exploring Bendigo, where she is currently attending "uni." The other weekend, we went to Paynesville in the Gippsland's, where she grew up. Both trips were awesome, as I was able to get away from the big cities and check out smaller towns in Australia.

Finally, over Easter break I spent four days exploring Sydney. Through connections of a friend, we were able to stay with a family who lived in a suburb outside the city. Of course I loved seeing all the iconic sights: the Harbor Bridge, Opera House, Bondi and Manly Beaches, and the Blue Mountains and Three Sisters. But perhaps cooler than any of the sights, was the ability to be a part of a family for a week and to see how the locals live.



Right: Ferry Ride in Sydney with the Opera House in the background

Right Top: Amanda poses with a Koala.





KATHLEEN HAINS, ELIZABETH NOLEN, & KEVYN CRESS: ADVENTURES AT KEELE UNIVERSITY AND BEYOND

Three honors students are at Keele University in England this semester. They report great adventures and personal growth. Here we share field reports from Kathleen Hains and Elizabeth Nolan.

First, Kathleen Hains shares, *"This picture (right) was taken of me while I was on my three-week spring break from Keele University in England. I was on a day trip from Salzburg to Hallstatt, Austria, a small village located near the Dachstein Mountains (shown behind). It was one of the most gorgeous places I have ever been. I started off the trip in France with my parents before meeting up with two friends in Prague over Easter. We then traveled to Vienna, Salzburg, and Munich. To get to the area where this picture was taken my friends and I had to take a funicular up a mountain. We then had to go even further up to a platform that jutted out over the Hallstatter See. A view like this is just one of the many rewards of study abroad."*



Elizabeth Nolen further reflects, *"This picture (below) was taken while I was on a hiking trip through the Umbria region in Italy in April of 2015. On this particular day, we hiked from the town of Assisi to Gubbio.*



I am standing on Roman ruins at the top of the highest point of the town, a spot we accessed by a bird cage-like funicular. During my three week Spring Break, I was fortunate enough to travel from Keele University in Staffordshire, England, to Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, and Italy. For the first week of this trip I travelled with three other students, and we planned the entire trip on our own. This was a learning experience for all of us, and it showed us that we were capable of anything we set our minds to. I was able to travel to places I had never been before and interact with people who spoke different languages and had different cultures than what I was used to. This trip has opened the door for future adventures and is only the start of a lifetime of travel."



WESLEY DAVIS: A SEMESTER IN SALAMANCA, SPAIN

Story by Wesley Davis

I never imagined a college career without a study abroad experience, and for the last two months I have studied at Spain's historic University of Salamanca. At Appalachian, I study history, Spanish history specifically, and I have reaped a bounty of



Above: View of the Cathedral from a nearby garden.

wonderful experiences from my trip. Studying history, I believe that it is important to interact with history, to feel it and be surrounded by it. Each day I walk from the modern city surrounding the historic city center, and it is amazing to see the stark transformation that takes place over a couple blocks. Cars and selfie sticks aside, walking through the district is like stepping back in time. Each block is graced with a beautiful sandstone building, the vast majority of them having been built in the early modern period. And this afternoon, on a whim, I decided to tour the Cathedral. I spent nearly three hours wandering through the vast complex, taking time to visit each chapel and read each exhibit. Despite that, I still have not finished. However, in that lies a microcosm of the importance of my visit as a whole—that I am able to take my time and explore Spain's history. For two months, I have found myself challenged by the struggles of living in a non-English-speaking country, and since I arrived here in Salamanca, I have been suspended in a permanent state of awe, and I expect that to continue through my time here.

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Above: Sixteenth-century plateresque façade of the Patio de Escuelas.



Above: View of the city's famous Plaza Mayor at night.



STAFF TRAVEL FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Dr. Dale Wheeler is the Director of the Prestigious Scholarships Office and an Honors College academic advisor. He traveled to New York City (photo right) March 7-9, 2015, to participate in a Fulbright Grant informational workshop organized by the Institute of International Education (IIE). The program selected Appalachian along with 14 other universities out of 75 institutions. Each has the potential to increase their number of Fulbright applicants. The group learned the history of the Fulbright program, statistics of placements throughout the world, and current initiatives to strengthen the program. A follow-up meeting in NYC is scheduled for December 2015.

Each participant was asked to increase institutional student applications for Fall 2015. Fulbright Grants are 9-10 month experiences and include: round-trip transportation to the host country, room, board, and incidental costs, accident and sickness health benefits, and in many countries, book and research allowances, mid-term enrichment activities, full or partial tuition, and language study programs. Eligible students are seniors in the year they apply.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, is the largest U.S. international exchange program offering opportunities for participation in international graduate programs or to teach in K-12 and universities. The IIE is the world leader in the international exchange of people and ideas, and U.S. students who study abroad gain cross-cultural knowledge and international exposure required for their future role in an increasingly interdependent world.

The ASU Fulbright application deadline is Friday, August 31, 2015. For more information, contact Dr. Wheeler at (828) 262-2083 or wheelerde@appstate.edu



Dr. Jones has served as a Boren panelist for the past three years, and was in Washington, D.C., this March serving on the STEM selection panel for the 2015-16 academic year. The Boren Program for International Study (AKA the National Security Education Program), funds undergraduate students to study languages for 6-9 months at institutions around the world, preferably in places with unusual critical need languages (Mandarin, Urdu, Arabic, etc.) and with a required interest in a career related to national security. They will also fund STEM (science/math) majors to study in two-three month summer language programs. Selecting the students who apply for these programs falls to the Boren review panels of faculty from universities around the country. It was an exciting day of discussing the applications of nearly 50 students with aspirations of linking their STEM majors to careers in agencies such as NSA, CIA, State Department, DoD, and Homeland Security. No one from Appalachian applied to this particular opportunity, but it is a great way to have a summer or year of language study abroad paid for by Boren!



DR. JOHNNY WATERS: AN EXPLORER EXPLORES

Dr. Johnny Waters, Honors College Partnership Board Founding Member, Professor of Geology, and Honors College Faculty member is shown in photo (right) attending the 111th Explorers Club Annual Dinner at the American Museum of Natural History. This year's annual theme was *From Dinosaurs to the Stars*, and was held March 20-22. This annual weekend and dinner event is know for pushing boundaries. The food is exotic, the dress (black tie to native) exceptional, the guests extraordinary (like Neil deGrasse Tyson), and the decor unbelievable (dinner under a lifesize blue whale!).



Dr. Waters' has earned the distinction of membership in the Explores Club having "contributed in broad terms to the cause of exploration and evidencing a sustained interest in some field of scientific exploration and the furtherance of scientific knowledge of the world." Most notably, for the past five years, Dr. Waters along with his colleague Dr. Sarah Carmichael, have been part of a United Nations-funded international group called the International Geologic Cooperation Program (IGCP), which was assembled to improve and build scientific capacity in third-world countries.



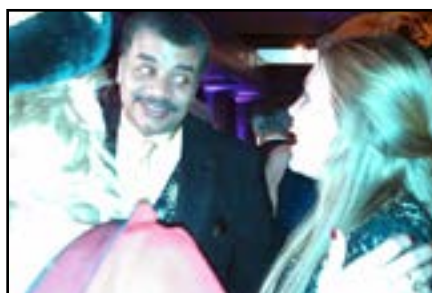
Above: Dr. Carmichael, Dr. Waters, and Cameron Batchelor (left to right). **Below:** Cameron Batchelor with Neil deGrasse Tyson.

This groundbreaking climate change research is being conducted through the Devonian Anoxio Geochemistry Geochronology and Extinction Research (DAGGER) project.



Dr. Water's Dagger student, Cameron Batchelor '15, won an Explorers Club Youth Activity Award in 2014 to do fieldwork in Mongolia. She was selected to give a talk about her travels and research at the 111th Explorers Club Annual Dinner Gala Weekend (photographs left).

Above (center): Dr. Waters holding a broom for dusting sediment off the outcrop. **(Bottom):** the field support group at the IGCP 596/580 joint meeting in Ulaan Bataar and Khovd Province, Mongolia, August 2014.





ALUMNA CARRIES LESSONS FROM ASU INTO THE CLASSROOM AS A HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER

Story by: Sara Little Moore

After graduating from App State, I went on to earn a Masters of Arts in Teaching from Belmont University in Nashville. I taught high school English for four years, and I know that my time at ASU contributed to my success as a teacher. Not only did I have a solid foundation regarding the material, but I also recognize that the excellent professors I had served as my role models in the classroom. The best professors and teachers are passionate about their subject and are also devoted to the well-being and success of their students. This was certainly true across the board at ASU. I have always been very interested in environmental issues, and I took advantage of nearly every environment-themed class that ASU had to offer: Environmental Politics, Environmental Ethics, Environmental History, and on and on. However, one that stands out was a general honors course called American Environmental Writers taught by Dr. Silver. Both the texts and the discussions were so rich, and I was able to carry elements of the course into my own classroom. I am and always will be so proud to be a graduate of ASU!



Click [here](#) for a feature story about Sara in the local Charlotte newspaper.



KENNETH KENNEDY AT UCLA LAW SCHOOL

Kenneth Kennedy, a Vocal Performance graduate is now in his first year of law school at UCLA, and writes that *"UCLA has been fantastic. The faculty has been wonderful as have my classmates. The environment here is supportive...Since I've been here I got to meet with the attorney I interviewed for my thesis, and she has given me the contact info of the legal department heads at several of the big labels out here to talk to in regards to an internship this summer. Very exciting! I definitely think I've decided on the right school and the right profession. It's been challenging, but the work has been extremely satisfying."*

Left: Kenneth Kennedy and fiancée Kate Burkhalter (both class of '14) at the LA Opera!



“A DREAM OPPORTUNITY FOR AN ASPIRING CLINICIAN SCIENTIST”: CORBIN ESTER AWARDED POSTBAC

After graduating this May, Corbin Ester will begin working as an intern with the Postbaccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award (Postbac IRTA/CRTA) program. Specifically, he will be working in the lab of Dr. Paul S. Meltzer, Chief of the Genetics Branch of the National Cancer Institute, and Head of the Molecular Genetics Section on the intramural campus of the National Institutes of Health, in Bethesda, MD.



After working there last summer as part of the NIH Summer Internship Program (NIH SIP), Corbin decided he wanted to spend a year or two working full time in a research lab, so he started the application process and contacted several principal investigators directly. As a result, he was offered several interviews, and ultimately was offered a position in Dr. Meltzer’s lab.

Corbin is interested in pursuing a career in research medicine. As he explains, *“I want to not only be treating the patients, but designing the cures for their ailments in the lab as well. Specifically, my research and clinical interests are focused on childhood cancer. Dr. Meltzer is a leader in genome science as it is applied to cancer research, and he is also a trained pediatric oncologist. To be able to work with him and his team of brilliant scientists and clinicians at the NCI for the next few years is a dream opportunity for an aspiring clinician scientist, and I am honored to have this position.”*

Corbin hopes to use this opportunity and time to prepare his application for MD/Ph.D. programs, while also gaining invaluable training that is sure to catalyze his future career.

SYNAPSE MEETS IN ASHEVILLE

Saturday, March 28, was a snowy day in Boone, but ten intrepid students were on the road at 6 am to make the drive to UNC-Asheville for the annual SYNAPSE, undergraduate neuroscience meeting! There were over 150 students and faculty at the day-long conference, and the team made good use of the time to talk about IMPULSE and the opportunities to publish and review for undergrads. There were five freshmen in the group, and they all had a chance to work on their presentation skills, as well learning how upper class students are negotiating the transition to grad and professional schools. Thanks to those students who drove — that first hour was scary!

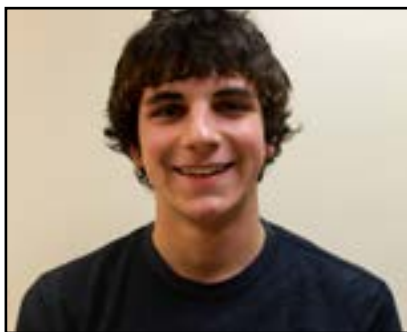




HONORS STUDENTS SERVE ALL AREAS OF BOONE

Story and Photos by: Honors students Luke A. Weir and Emma Labovitz

Even with busy schedules, Honors College students still find time to serve the community. Spring semester 2015 is well on its way; students are back in Boone and continuing the unyielding pursuit of learning. With classes, library trips, and club activities, many students' schedules are stuffed enough, but not freshman Honors students Larry Lapushin and Andrew Smith. Both gentlemen give back to the community in different ways.



Andrew Smith (photo, left) is an intern at Climate Voices, "a nonprofit whose mission and vision is to give voice to all aspects of climate stewardship," Smith said. At Climate Voices, Smith is able to serve both the people of Boone and the environment by working to bring clean solar energy to Boone. Smith explains that he became interested in environmental stewardship when he took a school sponsored bus to be one of over 400,000 participants in the People's Climate March in New York City last autumn. Smith says his involvement with Climate Voices allows

him to participate in something he loves and wants to be a part of. Smith is also an active shag dancer, runner, and ASU Ambassador.

Larry Lapushin (photo, right) serves the community via the Circle K Club, where he often participates in their bi-weekly visits to the Boone Hospitality House. At the Hospitality House, Lapushin dishes out meals to Boone locals who might not be able to afford the full price of a healthy meal. Lapushin also attends bingo nights at the Brian Estates nursing home, where he helps with bingo and enjoys the company of seniors who witnessed Martin Luther King Jr.'s march on Washington, D.C., and still others who were childhood neighbors with Frank Sinatra.



Lapushin also works a job with Food Services, and—like many others—says he is still working on balancing time between his job, friends, service, and schoolwork.

While both Lapushin and Smith have different ways of giving back, both agree that service is an integral part of the human experience. "I love service, it's one of my favorite things, and it can make a pretty big difference," Lapushin said. Smith weighed in with, "there is a variety of service, it's not just volunteering—it's the little things." Lapushin encourages everyone interested in serving others to, "try as many different things as you can, and I bet you'll like anything that you do." Perhaps service should be a slice of more folks' schedules. Sure, catering to the requirements of rigorous coursework is important, but so is taking a step back and serving for the greater good. As Smith revealed, "service is anything that shares the greater message of love." And as the Beatles always sang, "all you need is love."



SPRING 2015 HONORUM LAURUS CEREMONY TO BE HELD ON MAY 8TH

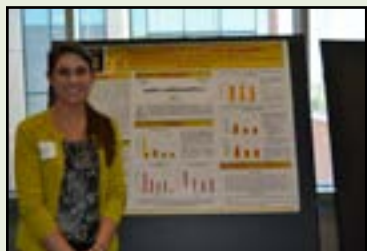
In the Honorum Laurus ceremony, the Honors College celebrates those who have completed the requirements to earn the distinction of University Honors. Graduating students are officially “honored with the laurel,” bestowed the Honorum Laurus medal and unique graduation hood. The medal design reflects the logo of the Honors College, which in turn incorporates the mountain songbird of the Appalachian State University word-mark. In our Spring 2015 ceremony on May 8th we will hood and medal a record number of graduates (over 70).



STUDENT RESEARCH DAY: APRIL 24TH

The 18th Annual Celebration of Student Research and Creative Endeavors was held on Thursday, April 23th, 2015 on the 4th floor of the new Plemmons Student Union addition.

Come see Honors students showcased their research in performance, talks, and posters!



SPRING THESIS SEASON: UNDERWAY & JAM-PACKED

We have a record number of over 70 defenses lined-up over the next couple of weeks. Corbin Ester kicked off the season by successfully defending his thesis entitled, *Organic Frameworks for Novel cobalt Glyoximes as Potential Hydrogen Catalysts*, on Thursday, April 16. Interdisciplinary thesis projects range from art installations, chemistry lab work, to proposals for staging political campaigns.

It is such a thrill to watch Honors students transformed from knowledge consumers to producers. These events are some of the most exciting in the life and community of the Honors college!



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SUMMER 2015 ISSUE!***



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THE HONORS COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

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