

LAURUS HONORUM

“Honored with the Laurel”

Volume 13, Summer 2013

HONORS STUDENTS FIND A WORLD TO EXPLORE



WELCOME



Dr. Jones in front of the Great Cascade at Petrodvoretz (the Summer Palace) in St. Petersburg, Russia.

It has been about the wettest, coolest spring in a long time, but the weather has not dampened our spirits as we reveled with the graduates in May, and then started getting reports of the myriad summer adventures of the students and faculty. My own vacation was spent in the beautiful Baltic from Copenhagen to Petersburg (see photo), but you will see that many of our students have been to even more exotic locations, like India, South Africa, and Chile. Our alumni are also sending back exciting stories of travel and discovery, as are the Honors Faculty. This newsletter gets more like National Geographic every issue – and we like it! If you are an alumnus/a, join the party and send us YOUR story of international and professional exploration to add to the fun.

Coming Soon! Honors College Freshman Retreat 2013 Wednesday, August 14th – Thursday, August 15th

Fun-packed days are planned for our new Honors freshmen this year, beginning with the “Town as Text” event on August 14th and a day-long adventure at Broadstone on August 15th!!

- Group activities to meet other Honors students
- High and low ropes challenge courses (voluntary!)
- Just have fun and play! In the river, games on the fields, or games indoors

Watch for highlighted events and photographs of this year’s retreat in our fall newsletter.





FAREWELL

Graduating Students Honored at the Spring 2013 Honorum Laurus



On May 10th the Honors College hosted the Spring 2013 Honorum Laurus graduation ceremony. Over 280 people attended, including 70 graduating Honors Students and their guests, to celebrate their outstanding accomplishments in the Honors College. Their hard work culminated with the completion of their Honors Thesis project, with wide-ranging subjects that included Kaitlin Rzasa's "Development of Sensing Systems to Monitor the Hydrolysis of β -Lactam Antibiotics," Elliot Barnett's "How Self-Editing Can Impact Student Involvement in Adolescent Literature," and Maximilian von Poschinger's "The Future of Business Education: A Futuristic Perspective." Visit our website to get a fascinating glimpse of all our talented graduates' Honors Theses Abstracts at: www.honors.appstate.edu/academics/thesis-examples.

The Honorum Laurus is the Honors College ceremony to celebrate those who have completed the requirements to earn the distinction of University Honors. Each student so honored is *Laurus Honorum*, "one honored with the laurel" or, in this case, a medal. The medal design received by all of our graduates reflects the logo of the Honors College, which in turn incorporates the mountain songbird of the Appalachian State University word-mark. Our graduates have now taken flight giving their song to the world; we wish them every success and will follow their bright futures with pride and great interest.





Three Future Physicians



All three Honors College students who applied to medical schools are on their way starting this fall. Margo Pray (on the left) is off to UNC-Chapel Hill, Anne Marie Anglim (AJ, center) is heading for VCOM in Blacksburg, VA, while Maria Gulas (on the right) is going back home to the University of Alabama at Birmingham. These three Chancellor's Scholars have contributed so much to the campus that they will be sorely missed, but we are anxious for them to join the ranks of health care providers and share their magic with the wider world. Margo was a Biology major who plans to have a general practice, as does AJ, who majored in Appalachian Studies to hone her skills as a rural provider, and Maria majored in Exercise Science and has specialized in studying how activity can mitigate metabolic problems. They have all done brilliantly at ASU, and we are sure they will continue to blaze a bright path in the future.

Honors Students Produce Wine That's Now Available in Boone!

Students in Dr. Seth Cohen's Fall 2012 "Wine Production Practices" seminar learned all about wine making, and took it one step further by helping to produce a wine in conjunction with Grandfather Vineyards. "The Scholar" is a magnificent blend of NC grown cabernet sauvignon and merlot, and is now available at Peabody's Wine & Beer Merchants. A percentage of the proceeds from the sale of this wine will be donated back to the ASU Fermentation Science Program to help continue efforts towards a better future for the NC grape and wine industry, as well as helping with the brewing program (note the cork is from Ivory Tower Brewery, the wordmark of the ASU brewing program). Get some soon and enjoy!



AWARDS



Three Faculty Members Honored at Spring 2013 Honorum Laurus

Dr. Mike Wise Receives Honors College Special Recognition Award



Dr. Mike Wise has been a member of the faculty in the Department of Sociology since 1972, and has contributed to Honors courses since the beginning of the Honors Program in the late 1970s. At the May Honorum Laurus graduation ceremony, Dr. Wise was recognized for his overall distinguished performance as an Honors faculty member and for his service to our Honors students over the years. Congratulations, Dr. Wise!

Dr. Jennifer Cecile Named Honors College Thesis Mentor of the Year



Dr. Jennifer Cecile from the Department of Chemistry was named the Honors College Thesis Mentor of the Year at the May Honorum Laurus ceremony. Dr. Cecile has been an outstanding mentor to Honors students for many years, but this year she mentored three students through completion of their Honors Thesis. These intense, individually designed projects demand a great deal from the faculty mentors who supervise them, and Dr. Cecile has demonstrated exceptional leadership and guidance to the Honors students she has directed in these projects. Congratulations, Dr. Cecile, and thank you for all you do for our Honors students!

Dr. Emory Maiden Selected as Honors College Faculty Member of the Year

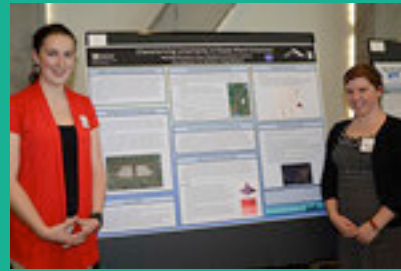


Dr. Emory Maiden from the English Department was honored at the May Honorum Laurus graduation ceremony with the award of Honors College Faculty Member of the Year. What makes this award particularly special is that the recipient is selected by the Honors College Senior Vanguard members, who solicit input from other Honors students to determine the winner. Dr. Maiden was recognized for his distinguished performance and excellence in teaching our graduating Honors students over the past four years. *"I enjoy working with Honors students because of a wonderful combination of excitement about learning abetted by flexible intelligence and strong motivation to succeed."* Congratulations, Dr. Maiden!



Honors Students Participate in 16th Annual Celebration of Student Research and Creative Endeavors

On April 18th, several Honors students were among 150 students presenting their research at ASU's annual research day sponsored by the Office of Student Research. In addition to those pictured to the right, other Honors students who presented research included Amber Harold, Kerry Bartlett, Shea Comadoll, Miranda Cook, and Abigail Joffe.

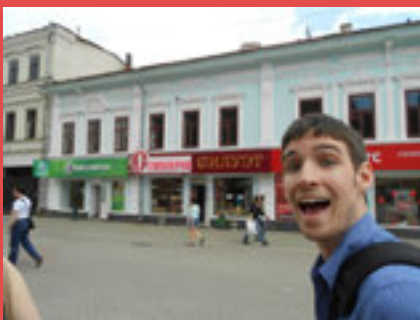


Left: Dawn Woodard (left) and Meredith Branham (right), were winners of the Sigma Xi award for interdisciplinary research.

Right: Ryan Lambert (second from right), was a top three winner in the poster competition for undergraduates.



Honors Student Receives Competitive U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship



Rising Honors Junior, Brian Clee (also pictured on front cover), is one of 32 students who received the highly competitive U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship. Brian is spending the summer in Kazan, which is in the Republic of Tatarstan, studying the Russian language in a 7 - 10 week immersion program along with 14 other students, where they are speaking only Russian. Through this experience, Brian hopes to become fluent in Russian and to continue his study of the language at the graduate level while he pursues graduate work in computer science.

Watch for his complete story to learn all about his experience in our fall newsletter. Congratulations, Brian!





Honors Orientation

The Honors College welcomed 141 new Honors students during Freshman Orientation in June. Both group and individual sessions were held to provide information to students and parents about Honors curriculum, policies, academic advising, and the benefits of being in the Honors College. The Honors Freshmen will return on August 13th for early move-in to the dorms and participate in more planned activities to kick-off the new academic year, including the second annual Freshman Retreat with the "Town as Text" event in Boone on August 14th and the Broadstone on August 15th. The Freshmen Welcome Supper will be Sunday evening, August 18th.



Honors Student Offers New Style of Urban Dance



Joshua Carr is a rising Honors College senior and is the Founder and President of Entropy Dance Crew at ASU. Joshua participated in this year's Summer Dance Series through the Department of Theatre and Dance, which offered a variety of dance classes open to dancers at all levels. On June 4th, Joshua held a class in the combined style of Krump with Hip-Hop influences, creating a new style of urban dance. This was a very high-energy class that required dancers to let go of what they were used to and make new discoveries. The warm-up, breakdown of movement vocabulary, and set movement to music made this a fun and exhilarating experience (and a good workout!) for all who attended.

Upon earning his degree in psychology, Joshua plans to open his own dance company that will provide career opportunities for choreographers and dancers within his community. He also plans to practice dance therapy for youths as a way of managing anxiety, emotional wellness, and overall physical health.



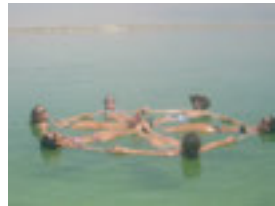
Honors Alumna Makes Positive Impact While Exploring the World

One year ago, Ryan Bradley's Appalachian undergraduate career ended and she became an Honors College graduate and Mountaineer Alumna. Ryan's life as a college graduate began with a nutrition internship in Bloemfontein, South Africa, arranged by the Honors College, followed by world-class rock climbing with amazing people in the Rocklands of South Africa. The day she returned to the U.S. she immediately drove to Maine to do research at Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory. Ryan was there to assist her ASU mentor, professor, and friend, Dr. Sue Edwards. *"Appalachian has had such an immense impact on me and I needed to ease myself away from the place and people who helped shape who I have become today."* After a week or so of unpacking, Ryan repacked and set off to Israel to experience yet another culture and lifestyle. *"Much like all of my adventures, Israel was full of non-stop excitement and I am proud to say I now have friends fighting in the Israeli army; fighting to keep Israel free."*

where they gave away the great goods received from their sponsors. They were able to inspire people with disabilities to set goals, overcome obstacles, and reach new heights. At the culmination of their journey they had been taught so many lessons by incredible people, raised thousands of dollars, and had over 20 sponsors (including clubs from ASU)!



Bouldering in Joe's Valley, UT



Floating with friends in the Dead Sea, Israel

After arriving back in the US, Ryan took the next month to continue planning for her "big" trip. Throughout her final semester at ASU, along with studying, climbing, writing her thesis, and surviving a case of "senioritis," she began planning and organizing a fundraiser: Climbing 4 Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Ryan's father was diagnosed with MS the year she was born, and watching him struggle and fight his deteriorating body gave her the courage and desire to help others with MS. She and her best friend traveled cross-country giving presentations and providing information about the disease. They worked in partnership with the National MS Society and took people with MS climbing, free of charge. By the time Ryan and her friend reached California they had acquired many sponsors and quite a bit of gear. They were able to get a bar to sponsor them, as well as a band to come and play at their benefit and raffle show,



Climbing Ancient Art at Fischer Towers in Moab, UT



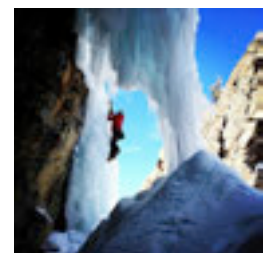
Table Mountain in Cape Town, South Africa

Ryan took a year off from school to travel and try her best to make a positive impact on the world. She saw amazing places and climbed in world-class destinations. On top of incredible locations and climbs, she met people who changed her life forever. Some who will be lasting friends, and others who taught valuable lessons and whom she can only hope to see again one day. *"People who change your life are everywhere, many of mine are from Appalachian, we just have to take the time to give people a chance. My travels have temporarily come to an end as I plant my feet back on the ground of reality. But my journey is not over; my journey is life."*

"A journey is best measured in friends, rather than miles."



Sunrise at Masada, Israel



Ice Climbing in Ouray, CO



Honors Alumnus Experiences International Cultures Before Dental School

As Zack Anderson approaches the first day of dental school this August since graduating in May 2012, he can't resist reflecting on the experiences and opportunities he received through ASU and the Honors College that helped him get there. Majoring in pre-professional Biology, while taking additional courses in Spanish, business, and Honors, provided him with an academic experience that was diverse, challenging, and relevant to his interests and goals. *"Through the Honors College, not only did I take exciting and unusual courses like Math and Fairness in Elections, and Principles of Wine Production, I was also able to write an Honors Thesis in Spanish on a topic relevant to my future as a dental student and practicing dentist!"*

An interest in Dr. Weston Price's studies on nutrition and dentistry around the world inspired Zack to compose an Honors Thesis titled, "Los problemas creados por los cambios en la dieta occidental y la falta de acceso a la atención odontológica en los Estados Unidos," which explored the connection between Western diets and oral health, as well as the issues related to dental care access today. To make his college experience even more interesting and rewarding, he explored and took advantage of programs offered through the Office of International Education and Development (OIED). Through OIED, he was able to take courses in New Zealand, including a faculty-led program, a semester abroad, and a summer abroad in Spain. *"These opportunities not only gave me academic experiences a global perspective, but also inspired me to become involved with International Appalachian, a student-led organization dedicated to internationalizing the ASU campus."*



Due to his interest in international cultures and travel, Zack took a year off from school after graduating from ASU in order to take a trip around the world. Visiting eleven countries in Europe, Asia, and the South Pacific allowed him to visit past exchange students at ASU, volunteer in schools and orphanages, and explore new places he never visited before. Now the gap year is coming to a close, and he is about to begin his journey as a dental student at the University of Colorado. *"A huge thank-you goes out to ASU and the Honors College for making this all possible!"*





Honors College Signs Two Memoranda of Agreement/Understanding With NC Community Colleges

This spring, the Honors College was delighted to host members from Haywood Community College and Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College to sign Memoranda of Agreement/Understanding (MoA/U)! These MoA/Us signed by Provost Lori Gonzales and officials from the community colleges will allow the students who participate in the community colleges' honors programs a fast-track into the Honors College at Appalachian, allowing them the opportunity to graduate with University Honors. The Honors College has been working diligently with local community colleges for over three years to develop and grow community college honors programs.

These recent signings are the second and third community college to have arrangements with the Honors College. In April 2011, the first MoU/A was signed with Southwestern Community College. Currently, the Honors College is excited to be in the process of signing its fourth MoA/U with Durham Technical Community College. The Honors College looks forward to welcoming Honors students from these colleges, and hopes to sign more MoU/As with other community colleges in the future.



Provost, Dr. Lori Gonzales, signs MoA/U with Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College



Provost, Dr. Lori Gonzales, signs MoA/U with Haywood Community College



Dr. Chris Osmond Joins Honors College Faculty

Dr. Osmond loves working with Honors students because *"they're not afraid to 'go there': to find the place where what they discuss in class crosses with what they really care about, and bring that exciting intersection to light to move and improve us all."*

The Honors College would like to welcome Dr. Chris Osmond, Assistant Professor of Leadership and Educational Studies, as the newest member of the Honors College faculty. Dr. Osmond teaches Social Foundations of Education to future teachers, and his research focuses on the use of the humanities ("narrative pedagogy") with teachers, nurses, social workers, and other caring professionals to protect against burnout and help them thrive in their vocations. He also works in the fields of curriculum theory, aesthetics, reading education, and educational policy, especially critical work on the rise of neoliberal models of accountability and the emerging "audit culture" in public education.



Nick Smith Experiences Chile While Completing Spanish Minor

This past winter, Honors student Nicholas Smith decided to escape the frigid Boone spring semester in favor of the more agreeable South American climate. For five months, Nick lived in Viña del Mar, Chile, and was enrolled in Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso in Valparaíso, Chile, specifically in Viña del Mar, a city within the Valparaíso metropolitan area.



Nick is a sophomore sociology major who is also completing a double minor in religious studies and Spanish. In just one semester, Nick was able to start and finish his Spanish minor by taking 15 hours of classes - all in Spanish. He was able to practice his Spanish at home while living with his Chilean family, which included both parents and their 14 year-old son and eight-month old daughter.

In the five months he lived in Chile, Nick was able to experience much of the culture and daily life of a Chilean, as well as getting involved in ways that one only could by living there for an extended period of time. This included witnessing the protests and demonstrations of the growing student movement; frequenting the outdoor markets; participating in weekly basketball games at the university; taking a Chilean cooking workshop; volunteering to teach English; surfing with a grassroots non-profit; and finally, mastering the craziness of the local public transportation. Nick was also able to travel during his time abroad, making trips to the north and south of Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, as well as successfully completing the world famous W-Trek, a six-day hike through beautiful Chilean Patagonia. In the future, Nick hopes to build on his Spanish language skills as well as continue working with inner city kids. He will always treasure the relationships he built with his family and friends in Chile and all over the continent.



Jessica Rinker and Nicole Steyl Conquer Italy!

From May 14th to June 2nd, Honors students Nicole Steyl and Jessica Rinker traveled with the Outdoor Programs to the Tuscany region of Italy. According to Nicole, *"When signing up for the trip, I thought I would be hiking on a nice trail to see pretty views with a group of students I didn't know. What I gained was the most incredible experience of my life, not to mention a group of friends who I consider my Italian family!"*



Above: Jessica Rinker

Below: Nicole Steyl



Jessica and Nicole set off to explore Italy with a group that included two Outdoor Programs leaders, an Italian couple, a New Zealand guide, and ten other students. They spent most of their time hiking in the Cinque Terre National Park, the National Park on Elba Island, and the Alpi Apuane mountains, but they also enjoyed visiting art museums, Duomos (churches), and sea-kayaking on Elba. The group also spent time exploring villages such as Parma, the Cinque Terre (Monterosso, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola, and Riomaggiore), Pruno, Volterra, Elba Island, Siena, a farm in the Cassentino Valley, and Florence.

Jessica, Nicole, and the rest of their "Italian family" stayed at hostels, refugios, and hotels, and worked together to hike over 60 miles up rocks, through snow, and along the edge of a mountain



Nicole Steyl (upper row, third from left) and Jessica Rinker (top row, third from right) pictured with members of group on a day of fun.

to reach the summit. The food they ate in each stop was unique to the area, allowing them to try foods such as wild boar, rabbit, and multiple types of pasta and pig. In each place the group traveled along the trails, and the New Zealand guide or the Italian couple would talk about the history, culture, or flora and fauna of where they were. They got to meet incredible, diverse Italians, and be fully immersed in the culture by exploring parts of Italy that many never have an opportunity to see. The group learned some of the language, the social habits, and visited some locals' homes just to talk during free time.

By the end of the trip, the group could definitely say that they walked, talked, and ate like Italians! *"This trip and how much we learned are indescribable,"* says Jessica, *"we had life-altering, adventurous, and unforgettable experiences that we will cherish forever."* Nicole added, *"I thought I was just signing up for a cool trip; what I didn't know was that I would hike some of the hardest trails, see the most gorgeous views in the world, and leave with the most amazing friends."*





Four Students on Honors International Experiences in India

Taking up the challenge of being the first in a new program, Alexandra Dezii, Emily Horsman, Danielle Russell, and Dawn Woodard headed off to India at the beginning of June for a four week “out-ternship” at Bishop Heber College in Trichy, Tamil Nadu. Alex (shown below with a nurse in the clinic) and Danielle (2nd from left in cricket picture on right) were signed up for medical clinic observations, and got all that they hoped for at two Ob-Gyn clinics and beyond (Alex has now seen a delivery and was overwhelmed by the opportunity).



Emily (on left in cricket shot above) was slated for dental practice observations, and she saw everything from extractions, to root canals, to orthodontia.

Dawn (in blue in photo at right) elected for the most unusual experience, as she wanted to do some biology field work, so she was out counting sparrows and learning about all the other birds of Trichy along the way. She is shown with one of her co-birdwatchers.

Alex, Danielle, Emily, and Dawn are on the cover (left to right at a wedding) pictured in their newly-purchased salwar khameez, clothes they were glad to don for their coolness and comfort. Look for more details on their stories in a future issue.





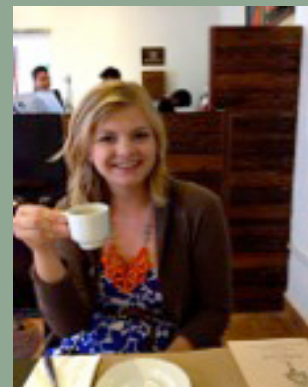
INTERNATIONAL

Four Students Get Hands-On Medical Experience in Mexico

Four students spent the month of June in Mexico at two different schools: Elanor Shingledecker and Kim Noel were at Universidad de las Americas Puebla (UDLAP), while Kelsey Fuller and Miranda Cook were hosted at Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP). Elanor (below left) was doing shadowing at the medical school, learning about medical student training and health care delivery, while Kim was working in the chemistry lab of Dr. Erick Bandala learning how to insert cobalt into the compound SBA-15; she sent us a picture of her lab work (below center)!



At BUAP, sociology major Kelsey was working on a project with Dr. Calderón on migration and labor, she is shown above on right with her favorite Moka Fri-Oreo Frappe, which has temporarily distracted her from her data analysis. Miranda was auditing nutrition classes and developing her thesis research on diet, exercise, and diabetes in consultation with faculty from Nutrition and Nursing; she is shown on the right sampling a coffee as part of her project.

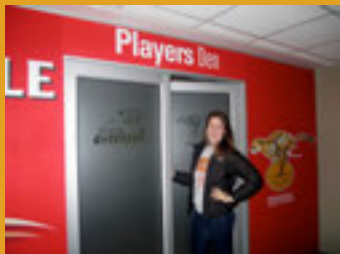


In addition to their professional experiences, they also traveled around the region seeing beautiful scenery (note waterfall on front cover) and magnificent, ancient structures, like the Great Pyramid of Cholula (with the 400 year-old Church of Our Lady of Remedies below left), and admiring the neighborhood volcano, Popocatepetl. Their blogs are also filled with reports of wonderful foods, including the regional star chiles en nogada.





Two for Sports Medicine In South Africa



Jaclyn Redman enters the locker room for the Cheetah Rugby Team.

Honors student Jaclyn Redman and her ASU colleague Eric Sensenbrenner spent June at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa. As students interested in a future in sports medicine or a related field, this four-week experience gave them the opportunity to observe firsthand how physical therapist, orthopedists, and other clinicians in this field practice.

They even got to work with the trainers for the Cheetah rugby team! Remarkable colleagues at UFS, like Dr. Louis Holtzhausen, the head of Sports Medicine, introduced them to a wide range of career possibilities, from “fisio,” to surgeon, to orthotics producer. They have been learning a great deal about South Africa, of course, but also, as Jaclyn wrote in her blog *“between the endless supply of anatomy, physiology, biokinetic and physiotherapy lessons I receive every day, I’ve also been blessed to hear amazing stories, learn life lessons, and really get to know some of the people we have crossed paths with.”*

This was the second round of students going to UFS to observe clinical training and practice, but another group of four pre-meds is going out in July/August for a month of medical school experience, and we will have their report in the fall newsletter.

Honors Faculty Member Teaches in Germany

Dr. Tom Mc Laughlin (English) spent the month of June teaching a graduate seminar in “Theories of Reading and Interpretation” at the University of Trier in Germany. Trier is a city that dates back to Roman times, when it was the capital of the northernmost regions of the empire. Constantine built a basilica there, and the city is filled with Roman ruins as well as medieval cathedrals, very old half-timber houses, and the birthplace of Karl Marx! The university was founded hundreds of years ago, then shut down by French revolutionary troops, and then re-opened in the 1970’s. The graduate students in the class were studying in their second (or third) language, and were fluent enough to understand difficult theoretical and philosophical texts in English.

Dr. Mc Laughlin also gave a public lecture on the topic of his most recent research, “The Reading Body.” In addition, he and his wife Joan visited Paris, Strasbourg, the Black Forest, the Mosel Valley, and the Rhine. They also played host in Paris and Trier to their granddaughter Rebekah, who just graduated from high school.



Dr. Mc Laughlin at the Roman baths in Trier

ASU students have studied German language and culture in Trier, under the auspices of ASU’s German department, and the university would love to have ASU students from other majors do exchanges there. They have a lively program in American Studies, if you want a different perspective on our country, and they are a comprehensive university that would be of interest to almost any ASU student. Please contact Dr. Mc Laughlin if you want to explore this option at mclaughlin@appstate.edu.

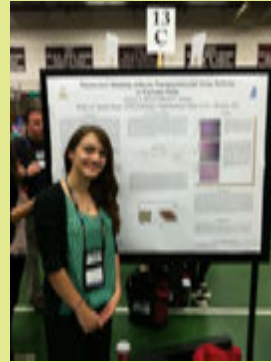


Honors Students Among Those to Present at NCUR

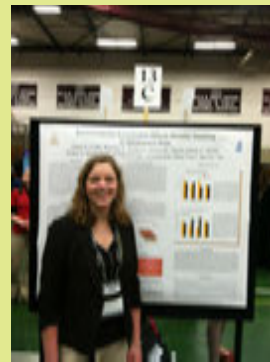
It was April. It was spring in Boone. It was time for the 27th National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) held in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The University of North Carolina at Asheville began the NCUR in 1987 with a conference of about 400 participants. Now, the NCUR is hosted by a different college or university each year and attracts more than 2,000 poster, oral, visual arts, and performance presenters annually.

Twenty-nine Appalachian State undergraduate researchers ventured into the snow and ice of Minnesota and Wisconsin and made their way to La Crosse to present their research. The students represented disciplines including anthropology, biology, chemistry, history, music, physics and astronomy, psychology and neuroscience, religious studies, interior design, and theater and dance.

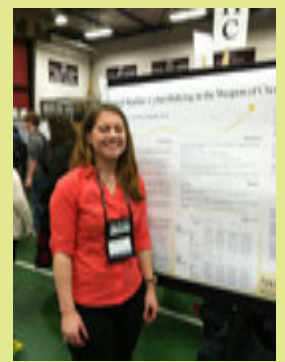
Included in the group were many Honors students, and Drs. Alan Utter and Mark Zrull made it to all of the Appalachian student presentations. As always, they were impressed by the caliber and quality of the students' work. Dr. Zrull is already gearing up for next year's conference, which will be hosted by the University of Kentucky in Lexington, and looks forward to excellent Honors College representation, warmer temperatures, and no snow.



Left: Honors student Alison Rossi presents: *"Restricted Mobility Affects Periaqueductal Gray Activity in Female Rats"*



Above Left: Honors student Dana Cobb presents: *"Environmental Enrichment Affects Novelty Seeking in Adolescent Rats"*



Above Right: Honors student Kelly Welch presents: *"Virtual Warfare: Cyber-Bullying as the Weapon of Choice"*

Carys Kunze Attends International Music Conference

This June, Honors student Carys Kunze traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she was the sole student intern at the International Conference of the College Music Society, a professional organization for those who teach, research, perform, and compose in the field of music at the collegiate level. The conference featured papers, performances, and workshops from leading professors and professionals in collegiate music, as well as opportunities to experience the vibrant culture of Argentina. As the student intern for this conference, Carys had the opportunity to work closely with both conference organizers and attendees, view the "behind the scenes" workings of a major conference, and gain valuable leadership experience, as well as enjoy the local culture.

While in Buenos Aires, Carys also enjoyed the opportunity to expand her current research project, titled "The Power of Group Dynamics in Musical Ensembles," to the international level. As part of this ongoing research, which focuses on how the group dynamics of an ensemble can affect student learning, musical growth, and enjoyment, Carys utilized the opportunity of being in Buenos Aires to observe one of the city's most well respected university choral ensembles and gather survey data from its singers - an exciting opportunity to test preliminary findings on an international scale!



HONORS COURSES

Drs. Jack Kwon and Randy Reed Lead HON classes to Paris and Rome

This summer, Drs. Jack Kwong (P&R) and Randy Reed (P&R), pictured below, took 15 students on the study abroad program “Love, Sex, and Power”, and spent three weeks in Rome and Paris.



This 6 credit-hour program, now in its fourth year, examined the philosophy of love, sex, power and the meaning of life, and how these themes were reflected in the history of Christianity. It did so by visiting and studying myriad of museums, churches and other historical landmarks in these cities, such as the Vatican museums, the Coliseum, St. Peter’s Basilica, the Pantheon, the Louvre museum, Notre Dame Cathedral, Versailles, the Eiffel Tower, the Rodin Museum, Napoleon’s Tomb, and Monet’s house and garden.

Other exciting highlights of this year’s program include: the Necropolis (the burial grounds of St. Peter’s bones), the hypogeum (a vast network of underground tunnels beneath the Coliseum), the Scala Santa (the ‘holy steps’ stained with Jesus’ blood), a day trip to Florence to see Michaelangelo’s *David* and Botticelli’s *Birth of Venus*, a day trip to Milan to see the Duomo Cathedral and Da Vinci’s *The Last Supper*, an organ recital at the Notre Dame Cathedral, and a performance of Mahler’s Third Symphony at the Santa Cecilia Accademia.

Aside from these academic activities, everyone, of course, also had a healthy helping of gelato, crepes, or (and in some cases, *and*) cappuccino!





In Memorium Keegan Garrett
September 3, 1993 - April 24, 2013



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For more information on how to donate, please email or call the Honors College. We appreciate your support and generosity!

The Honors College Newsletter

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