



LAURUS

HONORUM

“Honored with the Laurel”

Volume 9, Summer 2012

Honors Students on the move:
moving out, moving in, and moving on!





Welcome, Class of 2015!

We have had an exciting June meeting and advising our newest class of Honors freshmen. We have seen 124 of our incoming class, with the rest due to come for their Orientation in August. We expect a total of ~140 freshmen, and most of those will be living in the Honors and Engagement Village in Cone Hall. Some photos from Orientation are in these pages, but mostly this issue is filled with stories of summer travels and where some of our May graduates are bound. There are tales of adventure from South Africa to Spain, Puebla to Paris, and inspiring plans for graduate school and beyond. My own fact-finding mission to India is outlined with a brief peek at what that might lead to for internship opportunities in the future. As always, come back in the fall for an update!



Dr. Mark Zrull HC 2012 Teacher of the Year

One of the many duties of the Honors College Senior Vanguard is to select the HC Teacher of the Year. These students about to graduate reflect on their four years in Honors at Appalachian and review the list of all the faculty who have taught in the College during that time to select the winner. It is a difficult decision to choose among some of the best faculty on the campus, and it often takes several rounds of continuing review, discussion with other seniors, and further evaluation before they arrive at their choice. This year the honor was accorded to Dr. Mark Zrull of Psychology, who has been teaching “Plastic Brain,” an Honors sophomore seminar, for several years to continually appreciative cohorts of students. Dr. Zrull, a member of the Honors College Faculty, recently attended the NCHC annual conference (the national honors meeting) and will be going again in the fall as he continues to refine his teaching to Honors students. While already a highly regarded and recognized teacher at ASU, Dr. Zrull has never settled for where he is, but always looks for new ways to deliver complex content, engage with students, and enliven his classes. Luckily for future medal winners he will be out of the running for a while now to give others a chance. Congratulations, Dr. Zrull!





May 2012 Honors Graduation Celebration

It was a rowdy and record-breaking group of students who stormed the stage for their photo-op at the May 2012 Honorum Laurus ceremony. Sixty-two graduated this Spring, and with those from December there were 70 this academic year graduating with University Honors! Their thesis information is posted at the HC website, so if you want to be overwhelmed, just go meander through their titles and abstracts. It is everything from Rebecca Waddell's "Turkey's Admission to the European Union" to Jon Aldridge's "Living Alone: three Chapters of a Novel," and from Amy Grady's "The Mathematics of Internet Searches" to Margaret Seeds' "Photometry and Spectroscopy of Young Solar Analogs." The list is impressive and their work is creative, compelling, and often disruptive, just the way we like it. The group is shown below sporting their new medals and waving the bumper stickers that they will take with them, we hope, to the far corners of the globe that they are variously off to work in or visit. Our best wishes go with all of them, and a piece of our hearts. We hope they write back frequently with news and updates, and that they drop by for a visit from time to time.



The Honorum Laurus is an event held every semester to celebrate those students graduating from the Honors College, and this spring we celebrated our largest group of graduates! On Friday, May 11 faculty, graduates, parents, and friends gathered in the Helen Powers Ballroom of the Broyhill Events Center at ASU to award each student with their medal as "Laurus Honorum." Light refreshments were served as 280 people filled up the tables around the stage. Students one by one were recognized, their thesis title announced, and they were donned with a prestigious Honors College medal. Students then had the opportunity to thank the people who helped them through their college experience and thesis writing process. Congratulations once again to our spring graduates!



Orientation



This summer's Freshman Orientation sessions were fun and informative for the new incoming students. To get more comfortable with the campus, students were provided with tours and information regarding campus living, clubs, and safety. Students sat in on sessions given by Dr. Jones and Angela Mead about Honors academia and advising. They played games to loosen up and get to know each other, and then they worked collaboratively to come up with chants to represent their group. They were able to laugh and learn with the skits put on by the Orientation leaders. In August, the freshmen will have a continuation of this type of interaction when they travel to Camp Broadstone to be able to get to know their classmates and staff a bit better before their classes begin!



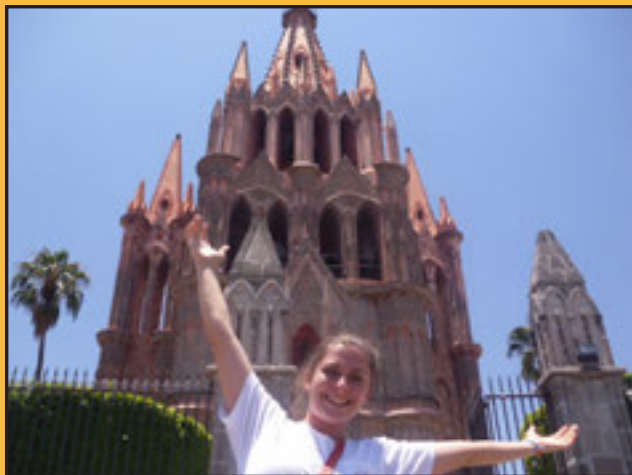
Language Immersion in Spain

Laura Rash is studying abroad this summer in Spain during the month of June. Having previously done volunteer work in Central America, she has always had an interest in Spanish and plans to obtain a minor in this language at Appalachian. She hopes to go on to graduate school for a degree in School Psychology and having this Spanish language minor would help further her goals in an educational setting where the fastest growing minority speaks Spanish. Being immersed in the culture of Spain and its language, Laura has a new perspective and motivation to make school settings a more diverse and culturally sensitive learning environment. She encourages anyone who has any interest in studying abroad to look into the many options available at Appalachian including exchange as well as more short term summer studies in which she was enrolled.

International Education



Bethany Boggess, Pre-Med, spends a month in Puebla



Bethany is a Biology major/Spanish minor with dreams of a future medical practice that extends health care to those who need it most in the world. She is spending June learning about the impact of culture on health education and practice at the medical school of the Universidad de las Americas Puebla, Mexico. She is shadowing third year students and doing a research project on public health and epidemiology in Mexico with a professor at the medical school and reports that the experience has been breathtaking in its scope. She expected her Spanish would improve, but she has been most excited with all that she has learned about health care and the challenges of reaching out to provide quality health care to all the citizens in the region.

Matt Freer, Chemist, spends a month in Puebla

Elsewhere on the UDLAP campus, Matt is synthesizing chemical products that can be used to prevent various potentially harmful bacteria from surviving in water. In addition to some nanoengineering, though, he is finding time to rock climb. He and Bethany are shown below on a foray to the largest (by volume) pyramid in the world just outside Cholula. The Spanish built a church on top of it back in the 15th century, but the mammoth Cholulatecan wonder is dwarfed by the neighboring volcano.





Sustainable Service in Wales

As an Appalachian Studies major, Anne Marie Anglim wanted to develop a global perspective on issues that the Appalachian region faces, so she recently embarked on a trip to Wales that focused on adventure, sustainability, and service. Similar to the Appalachian region, Wales has experienced a cyclic pattern of exploitation and injustice—resulting in regional poverty. Through a 35-day expedition, she explored the Welsh countryside and gave back to the area through environmentally based, service-learning projects. The pre-expedition coursework included learning about the Welsh history, language, industry, and people, which came to life during the trip. She explored the numerous ways that Wales is addressing their environmentally destructive past by promoting sustainable living and green technology. She also backpacked through the Brecon Beacons National Park, sea kayaked in the Menai Straights, and hiked Mount Snowdon. She finished the trip by staying with farm families in the Pembrokeshire area to learn about sustainable farming methods in Wales. This trip has given her a cultural awareness of how people in Western Europe are approaching a more sustainable way of life, and it has helped her develop a global perspective about the challenges that Appalachia faces—opening her mind to possible solutions. She says that she couldn't have dreamed of a better experience!



Culture and the Arts in Vienna



This short-term study abroad program took 17 students from a variety of majors, along with Drs. Jim Toub (ART), Victor Mansure (MUS) and Alexandra Hellenbrand (GER and Global Studies), to Vienna, Austria, for three weeks this spring.



Students took two HON courses (HON 2515 and HON 3515) and experienced history and art and music live on site in one of Europe's most beautiful capitals. They had class in the Belvedere Palace (can you imagine a lecture on Klimt's "The Kiss" right in front of the painting?!) and toured Beethoven's residence in Heiligenstadt, in addition to visiting the Esterhazy Palace, where the composer Haydn lived and worked, and visited Freud's home.



And, of course, no visit to Vienna is complete without a culinary tour of the coffeehouses and cafes that would make this trip one of the most delicious programs ever! Both the students and the professors agreed that they learned a great deal about Vienna and enjoyed the surrounding Austrian mountains.





Pre-Dental Students Study Dental Education in Mexico

Rising Honors College Juniors Heather Newman (Biology), Naderah Naseri (Spanish), Jennifer Hendren (Biology), and Austin Harbison (Biology) are spending the month of June at the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP) in Mexico. Thanks to the dental school (Facultad de Estomatología) faculty, these four pre-dental students are shadowing dental students in the teaching clinic as they learn to perform dental procedures in four different settings: pediatrics, surgery, general, and periodontics. They are all studying Spanish at ASU and preparing to train for a dental practice that will serve both English and Spanish-speaking patients. They are shown here in a microbiology lab at the dental school.

In addition to observing a range of dental procedures and learning both the shared and different approaches to dental training and practice, the four have enjoyed traveling around Puebla and visiting historic and cultural sites in the region. Here they are shown at Las Fuentes, where the Battle of Puebla was won in 1862 by the Mexican army against invading French forces on May 5, giving birth to the Cinco De Mayo holiday, with the city of Puebla in the background.



Katie Marr Learns About Love and Power in Paris

Drs. Jack Kwong and Randy Reed from the Department of Philosophy and Religion took 14 students in May to Paris and Rome on a program called "Love, Sex, and Power." The students spent 10 days in each of the cities examining how these themes are reflected in the history of Christianity. They visited numerous churches, catacombs, ruins, palaces, and museums (e.g., Louvre, D'Orsay, Versailles, Coliseum, Vatican Museums, St. Peter's Basilica). They also took some day trips to nearby towns and cities, including Chartres and Giverny (Monet's Garden) in France, and Ostia and Milan in Italy. The students also were asked to think about the 'meaning of life' and to reflect upon their experiences in order to arrive at a hypothesis about what constitutes a good life. Not hard to think about when you are also attending the opera and concerts while taking advantage of the great food in both places! Katie Marr, an Honors Philosophy major (holding the banner in front of the School of Athens fresco in the Vatican) participated and will be happy to know that next year Drs. Kwong and Reed will offer the two courses as HON 2515 and 3515 classes for the Honors College.





Students Travel with Dr. Mowa for “South Africa Clinical Shadowing” Course

This summer, 12 students had the opportunity to take the trip of a lifetime to the great country of South Africa. This trip was designed to integrate like-minded pre-professional students into a cultural and clinical experience that would not only broaden their horizons, but also help to contribute to their future goals and ambitions. The trip began with a history lesson on apartheid, to help students understand just how recently the violence in this country had been quelled. This provided students with an understanding of the various demographic factors that play a role in giving adequate health care to the entire population of a country. South Africa is a country that has a shortage of medical practitioners, much like the rest of the world, the only difference is that everyone in this country is entitled to quality healthcare. Having the opportunity to witness this dynamic first hand allowed students to grasp some of the challenges that these future clinicians will have to face when entering the healthcare field as the US government continues to pursue universal healthcare.



Wrestling with 3 month old white tigers at the Lion and Rhino Park. Pictured (Left to Right): Lee Stanley, Vinny Burns, Steven Mouro, Chirayu Patel

In addition to the clinical shadowing, there were some remarkable extracurricular activities as well. To begin with, there was the trip to the Lion and Rhino Park, where they played with lion, cheetah, and tiger cubs, and a drive to a nature reserve to see some of Africa’s wildlife in the wild. In addition to this, they also went to a professional rugby match at Ellis Park, and some of them even were able to stand on the field where Nelson Mandela presented the trophy to the world cup champion South African rugby team. That was only a snippet of all of the wonderful opportunities that this trip provided, Chirayu would highly recommend this trip, as this program will only continue to grow and improve each year.

Music in Ireland

This May, Cara got to travel with a group of eleven other students and two Appalachian State University professors to Ireland. During two weeks, Cara and the other students had the opportunity to study Irish traditional music and experience Irish culture. Cara attended classes at University College Cork, including lessons on the pennywhistle, Irish flute, badhran, gamelan, and Irish traditional dance. Each night, Cara would go to hear real traditional Irish musicians in Cork. Appalachian traditional music finds a lot of its roots from Irish music, so Cara enjoyed learning the subtle differences and comparing the music she grew up with to the music of her ancestors.

The group traveled to Blarney Castle, and Cara got to spend the day exploring the beautiful, historical building and surrounding estate (and kissing the Blarney Stone!). She even got to explore a small, cave-like dungeon! Visits to Dublin, Rock of Cashel, Cobh, and Kinsale were other highlights of the trip. Cara learned about the political history of Ireland during her conversations with the locals and visits to cathedrals and churches. Cara has returned to the States with a better global awareness, a deeper understanding of musical traditions, a lifetime of memories, and even a brand new Irish flute! She hopes to go back one day to continue her studies of Irish music and culture.





University of the Free State Hosts Nine Pre-Health Internships

The month of June saw nine Honors College students venturing to South Africa for the first-ever Honors College pre-health clinical education internships. They went to learn more about their clinical education and career paths through the lens of another country and culture. Thanks to the generous hospitality of our partner institution in Bloemfontein, pre-med, nutrition, and sports medicine students had the opportunity to spend four weeks shadowing students in the same fields as they went through their training programs. The four pre-medical students, Lee Pippin, Christina Daly, Meghan Kuser, and Margo Pray, spent the first week orienting to Bloem and visiting community health outreach locations, followed by two weeks of intense medical student shadowing (overseen by Dr. Pieter Nel), and a final week of working in clinical outreach settings (shown here left-to-right with their UFS guide in the center at the REACH center).



Katie Kelly (shown here at the UFS rugby team's practice where she learned how to "strap"!) spent her month learning about both physical therapy training and basic research into sports medicine practices. She also earned a certification in aquatic kinesiology and says that she plans to investigate ways to incorporate water exercise into her future PT practice. Many thanks to Dr. Marlene Schoeman for making sure Katie had such a rich experience!

Over in the Nutrition and Dietetics Department, Profs. Ronette Latigan and Corinna Walsh integrated ASU's four Nutrition students, Kalie Peyton, Aubrey VanGoethem, Ryland Bradley, and Brittany Sleeper (shown here left-to-right with Cecile, far right, who visited ASU on the F1 program and met our students last fall!) into an intense series of week-long exposures to four different training venues and courses. Besides being able to see both private and public sector practices, they spent a week at the Mangaung Clinic in that township (shown here) involved in the working on the outreach efforts there. All four also made presentations to the faculty and other students in the program on topics assigned by the UFS faculty. Kalie is shown here talking about the patient-caregiver relationship.



It has been an eyeopening experience for all nine, and they have been particularly impressed with how cold it could be. That did not stop them, though, from venturing out and even camping in ox carts up at Golden Gate National Park (Aubry peeks out of one here) or visiting the monarchy of Lesotho, and some brave souls tried cage-diving with sharks and rock climbing in the famous areas around Cape Town. With the safe return home of all nine, we will start planning for next year's program!



Honors College Working to Expand Internships to India



Dr. Jones with children of MCCSS



Transients' neighborhood of Family Life Institute



Village outside Trichy

Dr. Jesse Lutabingwa, Director of the Office of International Education and Development, once again supported the Honors College's efforts to create clinical education internships abroad. Currently, the opportunities are in two schools in Mexico and one in South Africa, but following a trip to India in May, two schools in Tamil Nadu, The Madras Christian College in Chennai and Bishop Heber College in Trichy, are now possible sites for Honors internships. In addition to these two colleges, which both have vibrant exchanges with Appalachian, the Madras Christian Council of Social Services in Chennai has also hosted ASU exchange students, thanks to the dynamic Ms. Isabel Richardson, and is willing to expand this option for Honors internships.

The opportunities that students can consider are quite varied, and extend from the Christ Faith Home for Children to the Little Drops home for aged and homeless men. These potential placements might be suitable for a range of students, from pre-med to social work, and from sociology to psychology. Pre-meds can select from several options, including the MCC Family Life Institute, where they can shadow a Social Work graduate student twice a week working with a Sister serving patients from the adjacent neighborhood of transients.

Visits out to rural villages while in Trichy are an option, as Social Work graduate students also have placement there designed to help villagers with everything from health rehab progress to education and social realignment (caste system prejudice is still wide-spread despite laws prohibiting discrimination).

There is also the possibility to work on environmental research at the Pulicat Lake site of the Department of Zoology of MCC. This Estuarine Biological Laboratory is a brackish body of water on the coast of India between Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Another possibility is to do wildlife research at regional national park with Dr. Relton Albert of Bishop Heber College.



Alumni



Several of this year's graduates are planning to go to graduate school in the future, but there are several who will be starting their graduate programs immediately. Examples of some of these are Dan Walker (Biology and University Honors) who will be heading to the University of Tennessee Knoxville to continue his environmental biology studies (his thesis was on Trophic and population ecology of introduced flathead catfish *pylodictis olivaris* in the lower Tar River, NC).



Alexis Dale will be there as well, but she is off to work on Chemistry as a continuation of her thesis research on "Development of a Method to Passively Sample Fraser Fir Pesticides in Natural Waters Using Polar Organic Chemical Integrative Sampling."

Jordan Gray will be in Boston with a scholarship to Tuft's Department of Philosophy to pursue his interests in cognitive science, philosophy of mind, and metaethics.



Erika Gleason will be at the University of Maryland for graduate work in Public History (her University and English Honors thesis was "Examining sources of heresy in the book of Margery Kempe").

Chris Barbour (yes, those are crutches under his arm -- shattered his leg a week before graduation!) is moving out to the University of Montana to take up his scholarship to do more in mathematics. He graduated with Math and University Honors and a thesis on "When Zombies Attack!: Mathematically Modeling an Outbreak," as did his fellow Math major, Tyler Bradley, who is going to the University of Vermont for graduate work; his thesis was on "Cross-Cultural biases in international clinical trials."



Sarah Tencer, a Social Work major whose thesis was "An Academic Analysis of the Food Stamp Program: Past, Present, and Future" will be at UNC this fall to start her Masters in Social Work.



Lewis Jones, a saxophone performance major, will be at the University of Miami perfecting his skills, while Jordan Scruggs will be at Yale Divinity School in New Haven, CN. She wrote her thesis "Lost and Found: A Creative Writing Memoir of Self-Discovery Abroad" this past spring while living in Costa Rica.





Graduates to Medical School

It has been a record year as all five Honors College students who applied to medical school were admitted. Two others doing department Honors are headed there as well. John Schwabe and Kyle Flores, both Biology majors graduating with University and Biology Honors will be starting at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine in the fall. The Brody School of Medicine at ECU will see Katy Dodd (Biology major, University Honors), Beth Cherveney (Exercise Science major, University Honors), and Delvon Blue (Biology Honors and Health Care Management majors). Cori Rogers (Biology and University Honors) is heading to the University of Tennessee-Memphis College of Medicine, having spent two summers doing oncology research at St. Jude's and collaborating with UT-M faculty. And Kolby Richardson (Biology Honors) is planning on attending Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey, PA. All seven completed biomedically-related thesis projects, which was part of what motivated them to apply and certainly contributed to their success. We are very proud of all of them, and know they will be outstanding and compassionate future physicians, bringing the latest in treatments to their patients and helping to expand medical practice so that all in their communities have the care they need.



Three to Professional Schools at UNC and Villanova



Caitlin Kannan, a Criminal Justice major, will be attending UNC Law School this fall. She did her thesis, an examination of "Anti-Muslim Sentiment in America: Post-9/11 and Today," with Dr. Todd Hartman. She will have fellow grad Caitlin Covington not too far away at the School of Pharmacy. Dr. Jennifer Cecile was Caitlin Covington's thesis advisor on a project studying "Functional Characterization of the *C. elegans* Organic Cationic Transporter."

UNC Pharm was in Caitlin Covington's sights from the beginning of her time at APP, and she happily reports that her Chemistry major and the advising in Honors and from Celeste Crowe in the Health Professions Advising Office kept her on track to fulfill her dream.

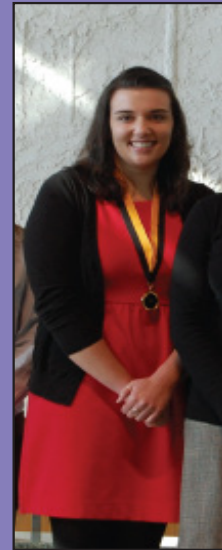


Lauren White, who graduated in December 2011, will be going to law School at Villanova University. She is currently working as a Customer Support Analyst at DaVita in Philadelphia, but is anxious to continue on the professional path.



Alumna Heads to Grad School at VCU

Emily Hostetter is starting a grad program in Health Care Administration this fall at Virginia Commonwealth University and could not be more excited. She has been working and taking classes from the Health Care Management major since she graduated to see if this was the right career path for her, and has become convinced that this is where she will be both challenged and make a difference. She graduated in 2010 (see picture) with a thesis that examined what the impact of doing a thesis was. She says that the experience of doing her own research, learning how to negotiate human subjects surveys, analyzing the data, and then presenting in both as a thesis and at her defense, have been critical for helping her understand studies of health care delivery. She will be making her own contributions to this field soon and we'll look forward to more updates on that in the near future.



Graduates Step Back into the Classroom

Teaching is a profession with constant giving and receiving. Seven graduates intend on embarking on this professional journey of planning, pedagogy, and process by stepping back into the classroom. Teaching English abroad is a great way to experience learning and traveling together. Jon Aldridge is voyaging to Korea, while Leah Weatherman is heading to Spain. Discovering different parts of the United States is as equally admirable. Tyler Laminack joins the Teach for America corps in Chicago, and Christina Naylor is traveling to Charleston to begin teaching. Ally Coe and Alyssa Montgomery also plan on a career in education, and James Rickenbaker is prepared to teach Spanish and History.



Jon Aldridge



Leah Weatherman



Tyler Laminack



James Rickenbaker

Honors and Engagement Village

The construction on The Honors and Engagement Village is nearing completion! While Summit Hall towers over the new office building, Cone Hall stands in the back. Students will begin to move in August 14th before classes begin, but The Honors College offices will not be open until next Spring semester. This much-awaited housing project has created a lot of excitement among staff and students alike!



The Honors College Newsletter

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