

LAURUS HONORUM

"Honored with the Laurel"

Volume 19, Winter 2014



CELEBRATIONS!



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:



Photo, front cover: Honors student Elyse Lawson in Tivoli, a theme park in the center of Copenhagen.



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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR: EMBRACING THE SEASONS!



Winter has been a bit late in arriving this year, and if not for Appalachian Ski Mountain making snow, I could not have taken out the sled for a little bit of terror on the side slope (photo left)! But other than some disappointment on the weather front, the students in Honors continue to help us recall what the seasons are. The group who graduated in December and their thesis defenses brought us up to graduation and the winter break, and the study abroad reports remind us of who has been gone, and that others will soon be going for spring. There are stories about local events, like the Chancellor's lovely dinner for the Chancellor's and Wilson's Scholars, as well as a fun report on a new Fall course that was a great hit ("Inventing Language"). There are some updates on Honors College Faculty and staff scholarly activities, and a nice group shot of the students who

went to D.C. for the Neuroscience conference. As always, we thank those who have donated to Honors to help the cause of educating the best and brightest at ASU, in the state, and from around the globe. Every gift, no matter how small, is deeply appreciated and very helpful. It all adds up! Please take a look at the list of gift options and how an amount you might give can help support students do specific things towards their degree.

DR. BUD GERBER HONORED WITH THE MEDAL

Dr. Leslie "Bud" Gerber has taught Honors courses since the beginning of the Honors Program, and has fond memories of working with students in the old Honors location that was Watauga College in East Hall. His most recent offerings were courses on the millennials, such as "*Naming Generation Y*" and "*The Millennial Generation; Narcissism or Nobility?*" He has had a profound impact on many Honors students over the decades of his time at Appalachian, and although we are sad that he is approaching his last semester, as he moves to the retirement phase of his life, it gave the Honors College very great pleasure to honor him at the December Honorum Laurus ceremony. Dr. Gerber provided a wonderful graduation speech for the audience, after being awarded with his own Honors Medal, and was eloquent on the topic of whether the faculty should always be thanked. As one would have predicted, given his innovative teaching methods, he challenged us all to question the value of mere gratitude, and to look for the deeper implications of the intellectual exchanges between students and their mentors.



Thank you, Dr. Gerber, for a great talk, your wonderful courses, and your years of service to ASU and the Honors students.



YOU CAN HELP HONORS STUDENTS:

GIFT SUPPORTS

- \$20** • Binding and shipping of one Honors thesis.

- \$50** • Thesis research supplies.

- \$85** • Student membership to a professional organization.
• The registration fee for a national conference.

- \$135** • One student's passport needed to go abroad to conduct research, study abroad, or attend an international conference.

- \$195 - \$250** • The cost of the GRE, GMAT, or another graduate school exam for one student.

- \$275** • The cost of the MCAT, DAT, LSAT, or other professional school exam for one student.

- \$500** • The December Honorum Laurus graduation ceremony.
• Materials for community outreach and service learning.

- \$750 - \$1,200** • Travel for one student to present at a national conference.

- \$1,500** • Airfare for one student to go abroad to conduct research, study abroad, or attend a national conference.

- \$2,000** • The May Honorum Laurus graduation ceremony.

- \$2,500** • The Honors Freshmen Retreat.

- \$5,000** • One student to study abroad for a semester.

- \$350,000 endowment** • One full-ride, endowed scholarship.





HONORUM LAURUS CEREMONY

DECEMBER 2014

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 bestowed the Honorum Laurus medal and are officially “honored with the laurel.” The medal design 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 song to the world; we wish them success and will follow their bright futures with pride and great interest.

On December 12th, the Honors College hosted the Fall 2014 Honorum Laurus ceremony. Only those most dedicated students, graduate with University Honors. In this ceremony, we celebrated the accomplishments of five esteemed graduating Honors Students. Their hard work culminated with the completion of their Honors Thesis projects, which included the topics of video game maps, end-of-life care, stellar activity, and groundwater contamination. To see the Honors Thesis abstracts of our graduates, visit our website: www.honors.appstate.edu/academics/thesis-examples.



Left: Four of the five graduating Honors students from left to right are Caleb Yelton, Chase Erickson, Ryan Lambert, and Alyssa Tyler. Missing was Kaitlyn Plant who was finishing her student teaching.

Above (all photos): Graduates at the ceremony, being medaled by Dr. Jones, celebrating with and thanking their guests.

Above, right column, center: Ryan Lambert with his faculty mentor, Dr. Richard Gray.

Above, bottom right and left: Chase Erickson’s parents proudly watch as he is medaled by Dr. Jones.



CHANCELLOR'S DINNER

HONORING CHANCELLOR'S AND WILSON SCHOLARS

On Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2015, Appalachian's new chancellor, Dr. Sheri Everts, hosted Chancellor's Scholars and Wilson Scholars at Appalachian House. This annual event allows all four years of scholars to meet and mingle, getting to know one another. The two scholarships' selection committee members, the Honors advisory board members, and members of the Chancellor's cabinet were also in attendance, and students enjoyed the opportunity to chat with faculty and administration. Students and faculty alike relished the great food and even better conversations. Students were sharing their research, creative endeavors, coursework, and international experiences with each other, and with the special guests in attendance. There were also many selfies taken with Chancellor Everts and with the trophies representing ASU's athletic successes. Fun was had by all, and we look forward to our dinner celebrating the many successes of our wonderful students again next year!



Above (left and right): Dr. Everts welcomes everyone and introduces the various groups in attendance, including student scholars, faculty, administrators and staff.

A big thank you to Dr. Everts for hosting this event.



Above and right: Student scholars, faculty, administrators, and staff enjoy the great food along with engaging conversations.





FRESHMAN FAMILY PICNIC



On Sunday, November 2, the Honors College staff welcomed Freshman parents and families to our Annual Freshman Family Picnic hosted on Sunday afternoon of ASU's Family Weekend. Honors college freshman enjoyed showing their families the Honors College and introducing them to their new Honors College community. Upperclass Honors students, who have already completed the international requirement, came to share their experiences. Freshman and their families benefitted from the insight and advice they shared. Many were inspired by the variety and positive experiences ranging from semester study abroad, faculty-led summer trips, and Honors College pre-health clinical programs.





ERIC BURTON: STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IN PERU

Story by Eric Burton



Above: View of Machu Picchu from Montaña Machu Picchu

This past July, I set out for Peru with twelve other students and three faculty members from Appalachian. Over the two and a half week journey, we studied Andean cultures and environments and had several once-in-a-lifetime experiences along the way.

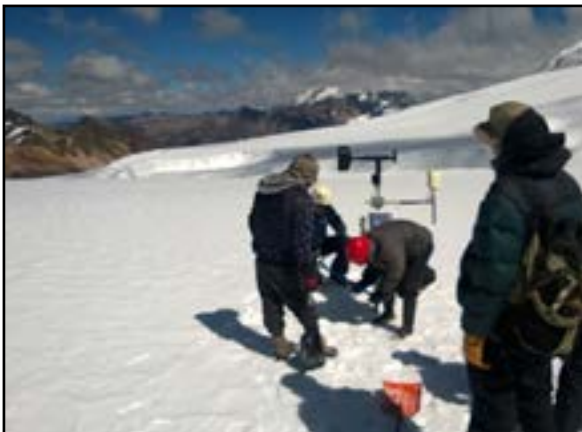
After a full day of travel, we arrived at the hostel in Cusco that would be our base of operations for the trip. We explored the city, and then traveled down the sacred Urubamba Valley to

Machu Picchu, the natural beauty and cultural richness of which I will never forget. The second and main part of our trip consisted of a 10-day trek in the Cordillera Vilcanota. This is where the

material that we had been reading all summer and subsequently discussing on the trip came to life. We saw the environments that are being affected by climate change, and we walked alongside, and on top of, the tropical glaciers that were one of the main focuses of the coursework. The trek culminated in an ascent to Osjollo Anante at over 18,000 feet to service a weather station, from which we could see the world's largest tropical glacier and the site of critical paleoclimate research, the Quelccaya Ice Cap. Walking through these landscapes that I had spent so much time studying was the most rewarding educational experience of my life, and the trip as a whole is one that I will not forget.



Above: View of Laguna Sibinacocha with the Quelccaya Ice Cap, the largest tropical glacier in the world, in the background



Left: Servicing the weather station on Osjollo Anante at over 18,000 ft.



AYAKO NAKANO: A SEMESTER AT KANSAI GAIDAI UNIVERSITY

Story by Ayako Nakano



Above: Ayako (right) in front of “Kinkakuji” or The Golden Pavilion in Kyoto, the ancient Capital of Japan. Kansai Gaidai University is located between and in easy commuting distance to Osaka and Kyoto.

I am a Japanese-American, and I studied abroad this past fall semester at Kansai Gaidai University which, each semester, hosts nearly 400 foreign exchange students from all over the world! Students take classes in English across a variety of disciplines all focusing on East Asia and Japan. Students also have the option of taking Japanese language classes. By the way, Dr. McDowell spent the first semester of her junior year abroad at Kansai Gaidai while a student at Rhodes College. Ask either of us about our amazing experiences (20 years apart)!

As a history major, I learned a lot about the history and politics in the Pacific. While abroad, learning opportunities are not limited to classrooms, and exist everywhere. Whether you take a stroll downtown, go to the supermarket, or go to a local festival, there is always something new to discover and from a different perspective. Being surrounded by people from Europe, Asia, North America and Australia gave me the opportunity to look back to the US with a new set of eyes.

This experience, most importantly, helped me think critically about my own identity. There are many factors shaping how people identify themselves including: race, religion, or a geographic origins. Most in the U.S. affiliate as American but the nuances of identity are unique and complex, easily overlooked in our everyday lives.

We are all also citizens of the world; I think it is important we each see our American identity from a global perspective. I strongly urge Honors students to take advantage of the opportunity to go out and explore our planet. It is a privilege!



Above, top left: Danjiri Festival in Osaka, a city for boundless exploration.

Above, top right: This under water temple on Miyajima island is 45 minutes outside of Hiroshima.

Above, bottom left: To reach Kiyomizu Temple you must walk up hill for 30 minutes, but you will be rewarded with a beautiful view of Kyoto. Down the hill, there is also a district known as Gion, where Geishas still provided entertainment at high-end traditional restaurants.

Above, bottom right: Shibuya Crossing in Tokyo, right outside Shibuya Station, is famous for being the busiest pedestrian crossing in the world.

Left, top: The A-Bomb Memorial Park in Hiroshima honors those who lost their lives. It is an enormous park space and museum dedicated to global peace.

Left, bottom: The A-Bomb Memorial Building, one of the few surviving buildings, has been protected as a visual symbol, a reminder of the devastation and what can be prevented.



BENJAMIN GOLDBERG: JUNIOR SEMESTER ABROAD IN LONDON

Story by Ben Goldberg

I spent this past fall semester, the first of my junior year, studying at Kingston University in London, United Kingdom. I am a Pre-Law, Political Science major in the Honors College. While in London, I studied human rights, criminology, and international relations. Studying in London was a valuable experience in which I learned about other cultures, and became immersed in British life and society. Kingston University provided me with a learning experience that allowed me to meet and study with students from all over the world.



Above: Ben in front of Chirk Castle in Wales.

During my semester abroad, I traveled throughout Europe. I visited Wales and Liverpool to see where my grandparents grew up. I traveled to visit family in Albania and Romania. I also toured Dublin, Amsterdam, and Paris. This experience allowed me to gain perspective on cultures that were different than mine, and ignited a passion for travel. Due to this incredible experience, my career goals were affected. I plan to pursue further studies abroad, and hope to one day live again in London.



Above: Ben at Bran Castle in Romania.

Right: Ben up in the London Eye, a giant Ferris wheel on the South Bank of the River Thames in London.

I was drawn to the Honors College partly due to the international education requirement. I encourage others to take full advantage of the opportunities available. Any student who studies abroad has a once in a life-time opportunity to gain a unique perspective on the world.





KYLEE MROZ:

ADVENTURES IN THE LAND DOWN UNDER

Story by Kylee Mroz



Above: Kylee holding Buttons, a koala at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary in Queensland.

There are only a few things in life I have wanted more than to go to Australia, so when the chance arose for me to spend over four months there, I signed up in a heartbeat. In June, I found myself enrolled as a student at Southern Cross University in Lismore, New South Wales. Though there were some cultural differences, I found it quite easy to adjust to the Aussie lifestyle.

The University was about the size of Appalachian, but I never

walked passed wallabies, koalas, or echidnas on my way to class in Boone. I could talk for days about my Australian adventures, but there are two experiences that stood out the most. The first was volunteering at Friends of the Koala, a koala rescue center located on campus. Here I would spend a few hours a week working with some of the funniest creatures I have



Above: Kenny was a patient at Friends of the Koala and was released after several weeks in care at the center.



Photos from the field camp including: my professor Dr. Ross Goldingay holding a carpet python found near camp (above), a bush rat being marked before release (top right), and a microbat caught overnight in a harp trap (right).



ever met; it was like a dream come true. The other experience was a field camp I attended for my Wildlife Conservation class. This camp allowed me to assist in the completion of a wildlife survey for the National Parks Service by teaching me several surveying techniques. Both experiences will encourage me as I work towards a career working with wildlife. Though there are so many places I want to see in the world, I know I will find my way back to Australia once more.



ELYSE LAWSON'S YEAR IN COPENHAGEN

Story by Elyse Lawson



This year, I'm studying abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark, with the Danish Institute for Study Abroad (DIS). I am loving it all, living in the city with my host family, biking to school every day, and trying my best to pronounce Danish words correctly. As the first semester comes to a close, I'm so thankful for this opportunity. I'm learning inside of the classroom and out, with professors who set amazing goals and put so much heart into making

sure what we are learning is applicable beyond the course, final paper, or test. I've taken trips with my classes to Sweden, London, and Istanbul, and through these experiences apply what we've learned in the classroom to real-life. This has allowed us to broaden our horizons beyond our American and Scandinavian viewpoints. I can't wait to see what is in store for me this next semester!



Left: Preparing to swim in the canals of Copenhagen in an annual open water swim, Christiansborg Rundt.

Above, top: Sailing on the Bosphorus in Istanbul, Turkey.

Above, bottom: Hiking and sea kayaking outside Goteborg, Sweden.

Below: The Rainbow Panorama, and exhibit by Olafur Eliasson at ARoS in Aarhus, Denmark.





DR. WALDROUP PUBLISHES *THE COLONIAL GAZE: BEATRICE GRIMSHAW IN THE PACIFIC*

Associate Director Heather Waldroup has an article forthcoming entitled, *The Colonial Gaze*, in which she analyzes the life and work of Beatrice Grimshaw, a journalist, novelist, and travel writer who worked in the Pacific in the early 20th Century. Dr. Waldroup's article is to be part of an anthology on early photography in Australia edited by Anne Maxwell of the University of Melbourne.

Left: Front page of the article, *The Colonial Gaze*, with text introducing Beatrice Grimshaw's life and work.

Below: Interior page of Dr. Waldroup's article, with a photo attributed to Beatrice Grimshaw.





DR. ANDY HECKERT RESEARCH SABBATICAL IN ARGENTINA



Honors Faculty member, paleontologist, and Professor of Geology, Dr. Andy Heckert, spent this past fall semester conducting research in Argentina. What follows is his report from the field.

My trip had several components—I studied specimens in museums, went in the field, and attended the International Palaeontological Congress (IPC) in Mendoza. My principal collaborator in Argentina is Dr. Julia Desojo of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales.

I traveled to Buenos Aires, San Juan, and Tucuman to study in museums, visiting a world-class museum in La Plata (photograph above), as well. In the museums I focused primarily on fossils of aetosaurs—heavily armored Late Triassic reptiles that one can think of as a bizarre hybrid of an armadillo and a primitive crocodile. Right now, I am putting the finishing touches on one manuscript and am about halfway through another paper on the growth of their armor.

The field work component (photos left) was a two-week trip prospecting and collecting in the Middle Triassic Chañares Formation in Talampaya National Park. The Chañares are world famous—vertebrate paleontology legend A.S. Romer and his crews made many spectacular discoveries here in the 1960s, and in many ways this trip was the most amazing collecting trip I have ever been part of... I was able to field test some new screenwashing techniques and improve the yield of small specimens they collected.

I also attended the IPC in Mendoza, co-authoring one poster presentation on aetosaurs with Dr. Desojo and her student, and giving a talk on microvertebrates. I took field trips to Triassic rocks and a day in Mendoza to tour into the Andes Mountains, catching a glimpse of Aconcagua, the highest peak in the southern hemisphere. The road, which connects Argentina to Chile (along a route Darwin traveled ~180 years ago) included some of the most spectacular geology I have ever seen.

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Above: Dr. Heckert (far left) the only North American with Dr. Desojo's crew.

Below: Dr. Heckert hanging out with a model of Zupaysaurus, a predatory dinosaur from the Triassic of Argentina.





STUDENTS INVENT LANGUAGE & SOCIETY IN HONORS SEMINAR

In a junior level Honors seminar, “Inventing Language(s),” one of seven HON 3515 seminars offered this past fall in The Honors College, Honors students created a language and related society. The language they created, “surarnatat” means “the traveling people talk.” The students also developed a history of the society that spoke the language and its culture, location, legends, and music, and created a tree community called “rulwatf.” The course was taught by Dr. Donna Lillian, Honors Faculty member and a linguist in the Department of English.

The course’s focus on constructed languages explored what language is and what it takes to create a new language. “One goal of the class was to help students understand enough about the structure of language that they could not only talk about it but create a new language,” according to Dr. Lillian.

The class comprised 17 students, each with a different major. As with all Honors seminars, the interdisciplinary nature contributed to the success of the course, Dr. Lillian said. “We had students from political science, history, psychology and criminal justice, for example, who all brought different perspectives to the class. I think that’s why we could do some of the things we did.” Students, like Jessica Rinker, agreed that the diverse range of majors in the class added to her experience. “From everyone’s different (academic) major viewpoints, we were able to collect enough information and words we would need and different viewpoints on how we could create our imaginary society.”

The students hope to create a university club based on the class and continue meeting and expanding the language and developing their “community.”



Management and entrepreneurship major Niko Gibson created this artistic rendering of the tree community “rulwatf.”



Photos: The end-of-the semester presentations followed a festival format that included poetry, song, stories, and history. **(Top left)** Ryan Hellenbrand reads the history of the “rulwatf,” written in the created language of surarnatat, which means “the traveling people talk.” **(Top right)** Communication and public relations major Olivia Easley, left, and psychology major Brian Froeb wrote and performed a “song of the elders” in surarnatat. **(Bottom left)** Jake Chesney, a history major, reads stories from Aesop’s Fables that he translated into surarnatat. **(Bottom right)** Jessica Rinker wrote and illustrated a children’s book in surarnatat. Jessica said the seminar allowed her to combine her interests in English, children’s literature, and art.



SOCIETY FOR NEUROSCIENCE CONFERENCE



Above: Students are all from ASU unless indicated: (front row, l to r) Hannah Johnson, Elisabeth Johnson, Alison Rossi, Dana Cobb, Sarah Kimmich (UCSD), Rachel Sledge; (back row) Corbin Ester, Danielle Russell, Walker Stevens, Ben Mansky (Middlebury), and Kyle Sasser.

Nine ASU Honors students were joined by Middlebury and UCSD colleagues to present a poster on the use of IMPULSE, the premier undergraduate journal for neuroscience, in teaching neuroscience to undergraduates. The poster was presented both at the annual Society for Neuroscience conference, held in Washington, D.C., and the concurrent Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience meeting. Sophomores through seniors had the chance to discuss neuroscience and how it is taught with faculty from institutions around the world at this conference with an attendance of over 30,000. Most had attended the conference in 2014, but there were five who experienced the madness of this neurosensory overload for the first time.

While in D.C. several took advantage of nearby schools and research sites to make visit and do interviews for the future. Corbin Ester spent Monday at NIH, where he will be doing a post-baccalaureate research year after graduation this spring, while Rachel Sledge scheduled a visit to George Washington University's DPT program. Look for a reprise of half these folks in Chicago next fall, while a new group joins them on the team. There will be also presentations this spring at the annual SYNAPSE conference (this year in Asheville), and at the quadrennial International Brain Research Organization conference in Rio de Janeiro.

'TIS THE THESIS SEASON!



These seven students successfully defended their Honors theses in December: (left to right, top to bottom) Carys Kunze, Ryan Lambert, David Marvel, Chase Erickson, Alyssa Tyler, Rebecca LaMaire, and Caleb Yelton. For thesis titles and abstracts, go to:

<http://honors.appstate.edu/academics/thesis-examples>



RONALD TROGDEN SHARES HIS EXPERIENCE *PURSUING GRADUATE STUDIES ABROAD*

ASU Honors Alumnus ('10), Ronald Trogden, came to speak to current students in the Honors College on Tuesday, January 13, 2015. Ronald is currently a tutor and Ph.D. candidate in the Department of English Studies at The University of Durham in the United Kingdom. Ronald is also the Editor of Book Reviews for the journal *Kaleidoscope*, and Resident Warden in the University College at The University of Durham. In his talk, "Pursuing Graduate Studies Abroad" Ronald shared his experience and strategies for success. Students and staff of the Honors College benefited from Ronald's insight and enjoyed seeing him back on campus.



Right: Ronald giving his talk to students and staff in the Honors College.

Far right: Ronald in his traditional attire at The University of Durham.

RACHEL GOODING AT UNC ASHEVILLE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Rachel Gooding, ASU Honors Alumnus ('11), is currently attending the UNC Medical School in Asheville. As she describes, she is thriving: *"I enjoy the variety of my week, covering all disciplines of medicine as I shift from obstetrics and gynecology on Mondays to psychiatry on Fridays. I enjoy that my preceptors and I have been able to get to know one another, forming relationships of education, collaboration, and trust. I enjoy checking in on "my" patients whom I follow wherever their health care needs take them, whether it be to their annual physical exam, med checks, specialty appointments, or hospitalizations. And although it's tough on those days that I have to be at the hospital at dawn, I especially enjoy being able to look out the window and see the sun rising over the beautiful Appalachian Mountains of Asheville."*

Story and photo source:

<http://www.med.unc.edu/md/asheville/student-bios/student-bios-2013-2014>



SPRING BREAK, HON 3515 SEMINAR TO STUDY KING ARTHUR IN BRITAIN

The story of King Arthur has been shaped by the geography of Great Britain, even as the country has shaped the story over time. Over Spring Break (March 7-15) this semester, the students in *HON 3515: King Arthur*, taught by Dr. Hellenbrand (and accompanied by Dr. Mead), will



travel to Great Britain. The class will explore Arthurian sites that figure prominently



in the course literature (medieval and modern): Stonehenge (right top), Tintag-el (left bottom), Caerleon, Glastonbury, Winchester Castle and the Round Table. The program thus serves as a “laboratory” for the course, since we will use these visits as a way to study “the story in its place.”

SPRING 2015 THESIS SEASON

PROMISES TO BE JAM-PACKED

SCHOLARS DAY

By Invitation Only

On **February 21, 2015, Scholars Day**, prospective students have the opportunity to interview for the most prestigious merit scholarships at Appalachian State University. The Honors College, home to Chancellor’s Scholars, looks forward to the interviews and meeting the candidates.

The deadline for thesis applications for Spring 2015 semester has passed. We have received a record number of 85 (and counting) applications and proposals. Interdisciplinary thesis projects range from art installations, chemistry lab work, to proposals for staging fictitious political campaigns. Keep an eye out on the Honors College calendar, as these defenses are scheduled later this spring.

Come out and 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!



***WATCH FOR THE
SPRING 2015 ISSUE!***



If you would like to donate to the Honors College and support our talented students, please visit our website and click on the image above, which is located at the bottom of our home page at **www.honors.appstate.edu**.

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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