

# LAURUS HONORUM

“Honored with the Laurel”

Volume 11, Winter 2012

## WELCOME HOME!



# WELCOME



## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR



The New Year started out in a rush, as we packed up and moved out of East Hall, the Honors home for a decade. Our boxes (not quite unpacked yet) are now all in the new space, Appalachian Hall, completing the transition to the Honors and Engagement Village. This lovely complex comprising Summit, Cone, and App Halls forms a castle-like rectangle with a

beautiful bailey in the center; all we are missing is the "motte"! Look for more information about the new Honors home in the Spring newsletter.

For now, you will find stories about Fall 2012, with everything from news of the annual NCHC meeting (we won an award!) to the exciting report about our newly-minted Dr. Mead. There are some alumni updates, but mostly travel tales from the adventures of students at conferences, on study abroad, or for courses (look for the Dublin foray).

My photo makes it look like we have had a lot of snow, but it has been a peculiar season. App Ski Mountain (where I am in the shot) has made enough to keep the slopes open and the ski and boarding classes will be fine, but that was where you had to go to find any snow this season until the short but intense storm on Jan. 17th! That brought a half a foot to many places, and let us take the shot of our new home looking wintry.

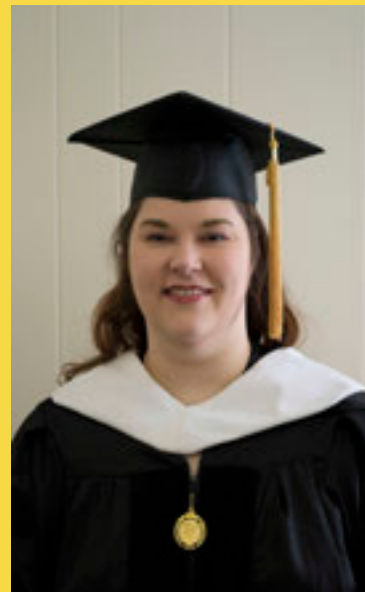
Meanwhile, all the best for 2013 to all of our friends, faculty, alumni, and students, and come see us in our new home soon!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR VERY OWN, DR. ANGELA MEAD!

Angela Mead, Honors Advising Coordinator in the Honors College, has at long last reached the end of her own academic journey! In December 2012, she graduated with her doctorate in educational leadership from Appalachian State University after working on her degree part-time while also working for the Honors College. She has spent the last couple of years working on her dissertation, titled "First-generation college students and academic advising: Words of wisdom from academic advisors."

While it was often challenging balancing work and academics, Dr. Mead is glad that she decided to pursue her doctorate, but she is, of course, even more glad to be done now! Her co-workers and friends in the Honors College are glad that she's completed her degree as well, and celebrated with her by holding a surprise party in her honor.

Dr. Mead advises education, communication, nursing and undecided majors in the Honors College, and she can now tell them exactly what it is like to finish a doctorate!





## Honors College Laurus Honorum Newsletter Wins First Place at the 2012 National Collegiate Honors Council Conference!



Each year the NCHC, the now-international association of honors colleges and programs, selects the best newsletters from among those submitted for consideration. With member institutions numbering nearly 900, the NCHC now divides the newsletters into four categories: published versions by students or by staff/faculty, and e-versions by students or staff/faculty. In each of the four categories 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners are recognized. At the Fall 2012 NCHC conference in Boston, the Honors College at Appalachian received the first place award for an e-newsletter by faculty/staff!

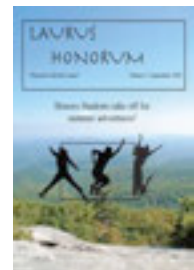
The Honors College began producing its own e-newsletter, the Laurus Honorum, every quarter since the summer of 2010. Stories of student research and travel are featured, along with Honors faculty and staff accomplishments, reports on student presentations at conferences, alumni updates, and general news about the College. While the newsletter is a simple publication, just a pdf in fact, the judges indicated that its selection over the many other entries was due to the lively stories usually accompanied by pictures of students, as well as the broad audience targeted by the varied pieces.

While the stories are usually written by the students and faculty who are in them, the editing and formatting is done by the entire Honor College staff, with the particular attention of the website manager. This was Zack Underwood in the first year, then Kent Miller, and now the newsletter is in the capable hands of Lisa Kirscht, who has already produced a fall issue that was a worthy heir to those before.

The Honors College thanks all of those who have contributed their stories and expertise to help the College earn this award and national recognition. For next year, the winners may not compete again, but instead are drafted to serve as judges for the 2013 competitors. Let the games begin!

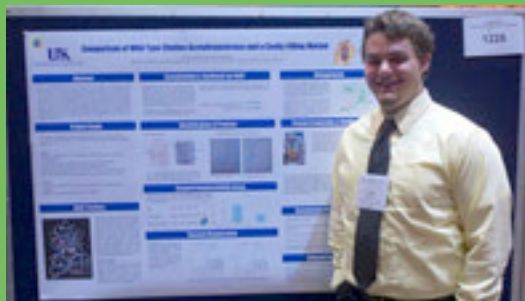


Above: Honors Director, Dr. Jones, receiving the award on behalf of the College from Dr. Richard Badenhauzen of the NCHC.





## Honors Sophomore Awarded George T. Barthalmus Grant and Presents Research



Honors Sophomore, Corbin D. Ester, was awarded a George T. Barthalmus Undergraduate Research Grant for 2012-2013. He is the first ASU student to receive this award, and one of only five throughout the state of North Carolina to receive the grant this year. This is a competitive, undergraduate research grant for sophomores only, in recognition of the late Dr. George Barthalmus (NC State University), founding member of the OSR Advisory Board at ASU, and founder of the State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium (SNCURCS). He had a passion for encouraging undergraduates to pursue their interests through research, be it in the sciences,

humanities, or through artistic expression. Dr. Barthalmus was an advocate for the early development of students in the research process as a way to engage and retain students in academics.

Corbin's project proposes to synthesize several new glyoximes that will complex with cobalt forming new catalysts. Similar cobalt glyoximes are known to catalyze hydrogen production, and Corbin's project involves the modification of the glyoxime portion to improve the catalytic properties of these materials. This research project will be carried out in the research laboratory of ASU Professor Dale Wheeler (chemistry). In November 2013, Corbin will present the results of his work at SNCURCS.

Last fall, Corbin also presented his research on the effects of a cavity-filling mutation in the enzyme choline acetyltransferase at SNCURCS and the South Eastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (SERMACS), which was conducted at the NSF REU program at the University of Kentucky with Dr. David Rodgers. *"I strongly believe that going to these meetings were two of the best experiences I've had as an undergraduate. They provided opportunity to discover the variety of different studies in my future field, and allowed me to talk to representatives from graduate schools I've been interested in. They were great for receiving constructive criticism and encouragement, and also validated my academic efforts as more than just doing well in classes."*

In October, the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience held their annual meeting in New Orleans concurrent with the Society for Neuroscience conference, where Dr. Jones, Director of the Honors College, was recognized as a recipient of the Distinguished Mentor Award. This award is given only occasionally to recognize members of FUN who have made outstanding contributions as mentors for young neuroscientists. The Past-President of FUN, Shelly Dickinson, wrote Dr. Jones to say *"Your nominator and the committee agree wholeheartedly that the contributions you have made through IMPULSE are not only outstanding, but deep and long-lasting. Students who participate in IRTs gain knowledge, confidence and important scientific skills."* IMPULSE is the ASU-hosted undergraduate, online journal, IMPULSE, which gives students around the world a chance to learn and publish in a peer-student reviewed journal.

## Dr. Leslie Sargent Jones Receives Distinguished Mentor Award



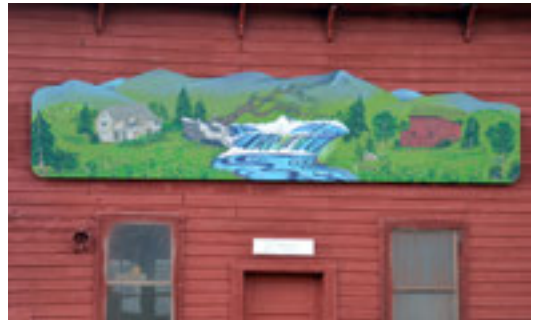
# COMMUNITY



## Honors Students' Work With Elk Knob Community Presented in Washington, D.C.

A junior honors seminar titled "Community Based Art" partnered students with a local non-profit to create art that provides a window into the unique cultural and natural history of the communities surrounding the Elk Knob State Park in Watauga and Ashe Counties. The class was supported by grants from the Watauga County Arts Council and the Appalachian Regional Commission's Appalachian Teaching Project. Students met with community members and designed work to reflect locally important themes such as the movement of water, people, and time; social interaction; and human involvement in the natural world.

Faculty member Tom Hansell worked with honors students and the Elk Knob Community Heritage Organization (EKCHO) to design and build a mural on the old Eller store in Pottertown and an iron tree that was installed on the Meat Camp side of the mountain. The students produced an "art raising" event in the Meat Camp community where local community members created a border of hand prints on the mural, and made stepping stones with local materials to surround the metal tree. The event also featured music and a potluck meal. After the event, the metal tree was "planted" at 1401 Meat Camp Road, and the mural was installed on the Old Eller Store on South Road in Pottertown.



The students presented their work to the Appalachian Regional Commission during the annual conference of the Appalachian Teaching Project on November 30th in Washington, D.C.



The Elk Knob Community Art Project is sponsored by the EKCHO, the Appalachian Teaching project of the Appalachian Regional Commission, The Honors College, and the Center for Appalachian Studies at Appalachian State University. Materials and labor were donated by Watauga Building Supply and Zachary David Smith-Johnson.



## Great Food, Great Company!

APPetite for Life is a program sponsored by the Prestigious Scholarships Program, directed by Dr. Dale Wheeler. Once again this fall, several AIM High students got the opportunity to join faculty members at local restaurants for a lovely evening of great food and lively discussions about graduate school, scholarship opportunities, scholarly activities, and aspirations for life. A wonderful time was had by all who participated!



**Above:** Dr. Unal Boya and Dr. Eva Hyatt are joined by Rebecca Overcash, Duncan Meyer, Jessica Wolf, and Colin Griffith at Hunan Restaurant.

**Below:** Dr. Leslie Sargent Jones and Dr. Bill Anderson are joined by Allison Williams, Jonathan McHone, Molly Burns, Marissa Osborne, Ashleigh Beason, Lisa Morris, and Elisabeth Artz at Bistro Roca.



**Left:** Dr. Holly Martin and Dr. Jill Ehnenn are joined by Erica Linett, Abbie Morrissey, and Samantha Craig at Mint.

# CONFERENCES



## Seven ASU Students Present at Neuroscience Conference

The ASU editorial team for the journal *IMPULSE* went to New Orleans over Fall Break to present a poster on the impact of Google Translate on journal access and use. Psychology and Honors College professor Dr. Mark Zrull accompanied them, and the team presented their poster over three sessions at the Society for Neuroscience meeting. They also took advantage of the concurrent annual meeting of the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience to recruit future reviewers and submissions from the other undergraduate presenters from around the country.



Seen in the photo from left to right, back to front, are: Lindsey Shapiro (Executive Associate Editor), Jessie Wozniak (Associate Editor ASU), Miranda Cook (Executive Editor), Alison Rossi (Publicity Editor), Kate Davison (Editor-in-Chief), Dana Cobb (Publicity Editor), and Carly Redfearn (Publicity Editor-Social Media).

## Dr. Angela Mead Presents at National NACADA Conference



Honors Advising Coordinator, Dr. Angela Mead, presented her doctoral research at the annual National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) national conference in Nashville on October 7th. In 2011, NACADA awarded Dr. Mead a research grant to conduct her research on first-generation students. Her presentation title was “Advising First-Generation College Students: Research from Advisors Who’ve Been There and Done That.” She presented in front of a packed room of advisors and administrators from institutions across the country. The audience responded with great interest and had several questions for Dr. Mead, both during and after her presentation.



# CONFERENCES

## Honors Faculty and Staff Attend National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference

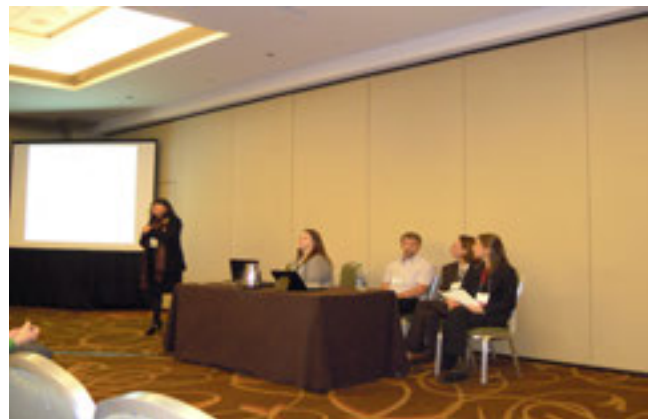
The Honors College went to Bean Town! In November, six members of the Honors College faculty and staff and one student went to Boston, MA, to attend the National Collegiate Honors Council national conference. Drs. Jones, Lane, Wheeler, and Mead and Honors student Rose Buchanan gave a presentation on the Honors academic mentoring and advising model. Dr. Jones gave an invited talk on budgeting and fiscal management in Honors and served on a panel about Honors newsletters. Dr. Mead presented about first-generation Honors college students. Dr. Mark Zrull, Honors College faculty, focused on the role of faculty in Honors colleges and programs. Dr. Lane attended several sessions on assessment, and Catina DeBord learned more about management of Honors and advancement issues. Drs. Lane, Wheeler and Zrull had fun exploring Boston in the City as Text™ program, and everyone had a chance to see a bit of Boston's storied history and unique culture. We had a great time in Boston, and we look forward to reconnecting with our Honors colleagues in 2013 in New Orleans!



**From left: Dr. Mead, Dr. Lane, Dr. Jones and Honors student, Rose Buchanan, pose with the Laurus Honorum Newsletter Award (see page 3 for highlights about our Newsletter award!).**



**The group enjoys a fabulous dinner at one of Boston's amazing restaurants.**



**Group presentation about the Honors academic mentoring and advising model.**



**An evening party full of dancing (Dr. Mead is hiding in the back!).**





## Thesis Defenses Complete for Eight Honors Students

All of the hard work paid off for eight honors students who successfully defended their theses in the final weeks of the Fall 2012 semester. These intense, individually designed and directed experiences demand a great deal of both our honors students and their directors. Congratulations to the students, and special thanks to the faculty members who served as their directors!



**Rebecca Coley** (left)  
*"The Influences Affecting End-of-Life Care Decisions of Terminally Ill Patients"*  
Director: Dr. Sandi Lane



**Jonathan Carpenter** (right)  
*"The Study Abroad Experience: What Really Makes a Difference - An Empirical Study of Business Students at Appalachian State University"*  
Director: Dr. Marin Meznar



**Molly Spears** (left)  
*"Assessment of the Speech and Language of Spanish-English Speaking Children"*  
Director: Dr. Joeseeph Klein



**Michelle Jewell** (right)  
*"What Can I do With a CIS Degree? A Review of CIS Graduates' Post-Education Employment"*  
Director: Dr. Douglas May



**Haley Kearns** (above)  
*"Great Leaders: Accomplished Individuals or Accomodating Circumstances?"*  
Director: Dr. Michael Krenn



**Gerald Murphy** (above)  
*"Florida v. Jardines: The Constitutionality of Dog Sniffs"*  
Director: Dr. Lauren Waterworth



**Samantha Craig** (above)  
*"Pastiche, Palimpsest, and Plagiarism in Moulin Rouge"*  
Director: Dr. Leon Lewis



## Allison Nelson Conducts Research at Clemson University

During Summer 2012, senior computer science student, Allison Nelson, attended Clemson University's National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates program in Mathematics. She worked under Dr. Neil Calkin and Dr. Janine Janoski on a project to analyze the combinatorial game of Nim when played on a graph. She and her colleagues were able to use computational methods to iterate over many instances of the game and were able to recognize and predict patterns in gameplay. The Grundy number of a game represents the state of the game at any given point. Using their new data, it was easy to predict what the Grundy number would be based on the number of edges in the graph and the different sequences of moves. Along with learning about advanced mathematical methods, Allison gained valuable knowledge about research and advice for a future career in academia.

She has presented her work at SNCURCS and at a REU conference at UNC Asheville. Allison is currently working on a paper to submit to a peer-reviewed journal and is applying for Ph.D. programs in computer science in order to meet her goal of being a computer science professor in the future.



Allison Nelson pictured third from right.

## Honors Alumnus Tim Hefflinger Presents to Honors Students and in London



Recent graduate Tim Hefflinger, a Philosophy/SD Major and Honors Alumnus, came back to give a talk on the October night that Superstorm Sandy brought early snow to Boone. His talk was a storm of its own, with the topic "The Discipline of International Economic Development: Creating Docile Bodies" generating many questions and discussion that went on long after the talk was over. The Department of Philosophy and Religion co-sponsored the talk, which was a preamble to a conference in London, England, where Tim was invited to talk. He traveled there later in November to give a presentation based on one chapter of his Honors Thesis at a conference sponsored by the University of East London. The conference focused on "Assessing Progress in International Development," and Tim's application of Michel Foucault's theory of Discipline to economic development proved fruitful. In its plenary session, Tim's presentation stimulated discussion and led to many intriguing conversations with undergraduates and professors alike. Tim also had the opportunity to explore London as a tourist, and is now considering pursuing graduate studies there.



## Boone KidsCon at Watauga County Public Library

During the Fall 2012 semester, Dr. Craig Fischer taught an Honors sophomore seminar that focused on comic books and graphic novels. One big part of the class was Boone KidsCon, an all-ages comicon for Watauga County children, which the class organized and staffed at the Watauga County Public Library on Saturday, October 20th from 11am to 3pm. Admission was free, and about 100 people attended the event.

With the support of the Honors College, the event included appearances by two artists, Ben Towle and Rachel Haycraft. Ben Towle is an Eisner-nominated cartoonist whose most recent book, *Amelia Earhart: This Broad Ocean* (with Sarah Stewart Taylor), a graphic novel for young adults, was released by Disney/Hyperion Books in 2010. His current project is *Oyster War*, on the GoComics website found at [www.gocomics.com/oyster-war](http://www.gocomics.com/oyster-war).

Rachel Haycraft, an Honors College graduate who created a graphic novel for her Honors Thesis, is a current graduate student in Educational Media at Appalachian. She drew a chapter of *Revenant Aidenn*, a manga-influenced fantasy epic, for her undergraduate Honors project. She continues work on *Aidenn*, samples of which can be seen at [youtube.com/watch?v=OsLwWxjbNII](http://youtube.com/watch?v=OsLwWxjbNII).

KidsCon began with Ben and Rachel conducting a special tutorial with local Girl Scouts. On the Cadette level, the Girl Scouts offer a "Comics Artist" badge, and the class invited Scouts to come to the comicon at 9am, before it was open to the general public, to work with them on their badge projects.

At 11am, the doors opened to everyone, with lots of activities and giveaways ready to go. Everyone who came received a free all-ages comic book, including the illustration in a handout pictured below, and participated in drawing games designed to teach the fundamentals of comic-book form. The rules for one of those games, called the Shuffleupagus, can be found at [www.sito.org/synergy/shuffleupagus](http://www.sito.org/synergy/shuffleupagus). Ben and Rachel both gave presentations on their work, with lots of illustrations, and the class also screened a program of classic Warner Brothers cartoons.

Dr. Fischer reported that the inaugural KidsCon was a joy and a success. *"It's terrific to work on an event that promotes literacy in the community in such a fun way. I was especially impressed with my Honors students, who gave up a Saturday to share their enthusiasm for comics with the next generation of readers."*





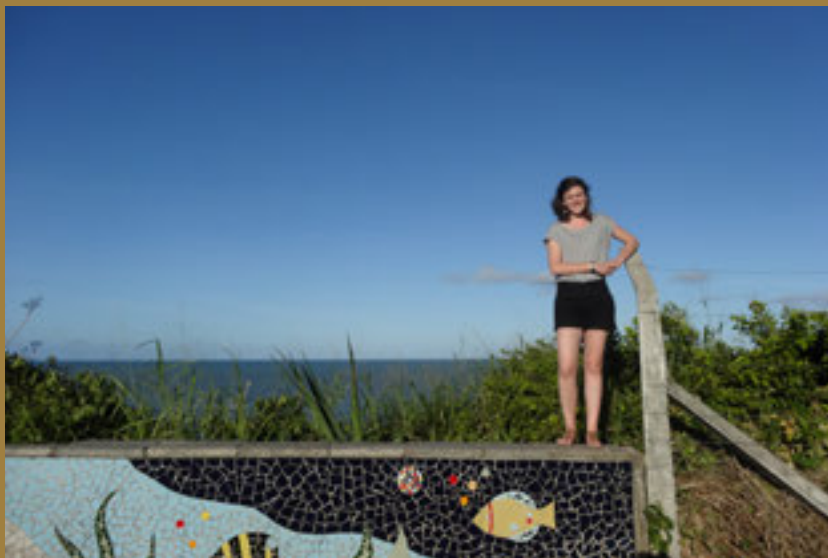
## Rachel Duffus Teaches in Brazil!

Rachel Duffus, a junior majoring in Global Studies and Spanish, spent Summer 2012 teaching English at Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco in Recife, Brazil, a coastal city located at the northeastern-most tip of the country. The Brazilian government launched an initiative called Ciências sem Fronteiras (Science without Borders), which increases the global opportunities for science-minded university students. A major component of this program is a preparatory course for the TOEFL exam, a rigorous English proficiency test required for studying abroad in the United States. Rachel and five other Appalachian students each taught two classes daily for ten weeks. They were responsible for designing lesson plans and exams that covered test-taking skills and English basics.

Every day before catching the city bus to school, Rachel's hostess, an older woman who practically became her Brazilian grandmother, prepared a lavish brunch of exotic fruits and pastas. Over these daily meals, she not only shared local dishes, but also the Brazilian tradition of bonding over meals; each meal was filled with worldly advice and stories. Luckily, Rachel's hostess spoke Spanish, as Rachel knew only the minimal Portuguese she was picking up along the way. Rachel's Spanish skills improved greatly, something she did not anticipate while living in a Portuguese-speaking country. She still finds herself occasionally combining the two languages!

Outside the classroom, Rachel experienced some adventures that were exactly what one would expect from Brazil, and others that were quite surprising. Being on the coast in Brazil, she felt compelled to visit the beaches. Brazil is notorious for its beaches for good reason; even the most public of beaches are surrounded by natural reefs and filled with clear water. Also, most of June and July are filled with celebrations, such as São João, so though she missed "Carnaval," Rachel participated in equally exciting festivals. The weekends during these months consisted of parades and traditional dancing.

She thoroughly enjoyed learning a new language, adventuring to vibrant, remarkable locales, teaching English, drinking too much sugar cane juice, and receiving daily wisdom over home-cooked meals. Even though Rachel only learned of this opportunity a month before going, it turned out to be one of the most enriching experiences she has ever had.



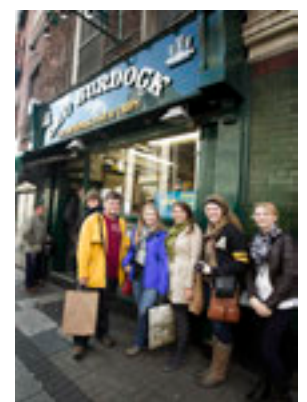
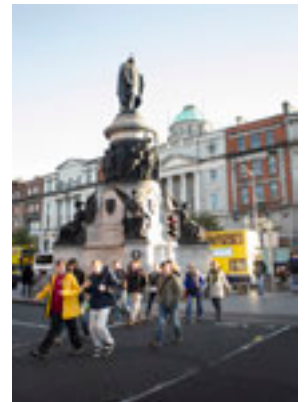


# INTERNATIONAL

## CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS TRAVEL TO DUBLIN

Ten Chancellor's Scholars, Charles Mize, Christopher Waldon, Colleen Choate, Dillon Hewitt-Castillo, Elisabeth Artz, Jack Schaufler, Laurel Bates, Luke Sealey Olivia Fitts, Shane Tolbert, along with Voyages instructors Dr. Leslie Sargent Jones and Dr. Angela Mead, took the trip of a lifetime to Dublin, Ireland, during Fall Break.

Departing from Boone on Tuesday, October 9, they arrived in Dublin to do a city bus tour on a chilly Irish morning that kept everyone awake despite the red-eye flight and lack of sleep. They saw Dublin castle, museums (and bog bodies!), cathedrals and many other historic sites, but they also saw many modern elements of this cosmopolitan city. Dr. Jones took a group of students to visit a neuroscience research lab of a colleague at Trinity College and, later, another group to see a World Cup-qualifying soccer game between Ireland and Germany, but sadly, the home team lost. The group walked for miles upon miles over the medieval cobblestones, fortified by traditional Gaelic food and a hearty Irish breakfast each morning. Some students even learned to love tea and beans on toast! The trip was both educational and fun, and something that none of the participants will ever forget.





# The Honors College Staff Wishes You a Happy, Healthy, and Successful 2013!



**Next Honorum Laurus  
Arrives in the Spring!**

**give now**

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](http://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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