

LAURUS HONORUM

“Honored with the Laurel”

Volume 15, Winter 2013

EXPEDITION: AVALANCHE!

See full story inside!

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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. Follow us below and let us hear from you!





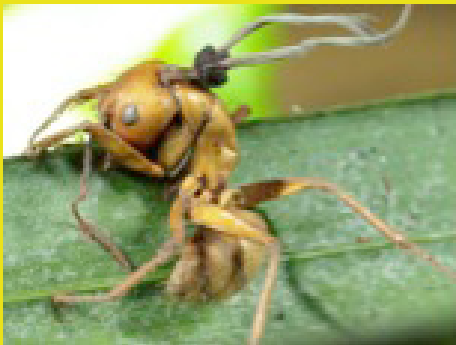
WELCOME

As we greet 2014 there is much to celebrate. We are delighted to welcome our new Associate Director, Dr. Heather Waldroup, and also to announce a new Honors program in Exercise Science. Congratulations to both Dr. Waldroup and ES! It was wonderful to have the largest number ever of Honors graduates at our Honorum Laurus ceremony in December, though we are sad to say farewell to these excellent scholars; as you can read about their thesis defenses, you will see what we mean. We are very proud of our students, like Katie Fals and the entire *Community-Based Art* class, for their service to our region, and thanks to all the students who went off to conferences this fall to help represent Honors. There are also some fabulous trips to read about, from Ireland to Italy, LaTrobe to Lake Louise. We also hope you will love hearing from our alumni as much as we do; kudos to Brittany and Cori! So dive in, as Callie did “down under,” and warm up with this fun read.

A Word From the Director



Spring 2014 Course Line-Up



The Honors College HON course line-up for spring once again has some old favorites, like Dr. Dale's *Love and Death* and Dr. Osmond's *Narratives in the Caring Professions*, as well as a few that were offered last year for the first time, like Dr. Love's *Music and Politics* or Dr. Dunston's *Tycoons, Titans and Blaggards*. A new course is Dr. Jones' *Zombie Masters: Parasites to Politics* that will go from the weird world of alien organisms taking over neural control of individuals from another species, to social memes and the mind control efforts of everything from gaming to governments.

There are also several great travel courses, like the Vienna adventure with Drs. Toub, Mansure, and Hellenbrand. This combined HON 2515/3515 course will have students waltzing on the Danube in May. There are also two graduate business courses, one to Poland and another to Brazil, open to qualified upper class students with an interest in international business and sustainable business practices.



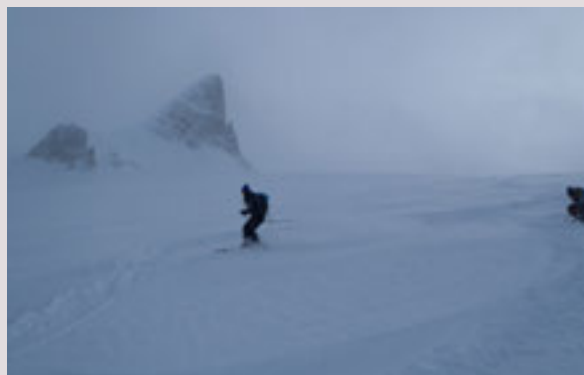
EXPEDITION: AVALANCHE!



In Spring 2013, Biology major and Honors freshman Andrew Cox signed up for an unusual spring break trip, "Expeditioning in Canada." Under the guidance of Richard Campbell from University Recreation (our intrepid Honors Freshmen Retreat leader!), Andrew and his classmates went on the trip of a lifetime to Canada to experience epic mountain climbs, breathtaking views, and a whole lot of snow.

Their crew rented cross country skis and split boards from Calgary University, then headed out to get their ski legs acclimated to Canada with Norquay and Lake Louise, two of Canada's most iconic ski resorts. After a couple of falls and some great snow, the focus was shifted to the main purpose of the trip: learning everything from glacier safety precautions to advance techniques for skiing on powder. With a positive and fun atmosphere the group braved the infamous Wapta Traverse, a multi-day trekking and skiing pathway through some of the most beautiful mountains in North America. Plunging headlong into the expedition with two world-class guides, the students were able to make the most out the adventure and bonded quickly over the love of snow sports. Skiing in fantastic conditions and enjoying the unparalleled sights of Canada made the days fly by.

But all too quickly the expedition came to an end. Although no one wanted to leave, everyone took away something. For some the best part of the trip was the sightseeing, for others it was the challenge of back-packing on skis, and for a few more it was just simply pushing the limits of skiing. Each person went into the trip as an individual but came out a part of a tight-knit group with bonds and memories to last a lifetime, and a new appreciation for snow!





Honors College Bids Farewell to December Graduates

The Honors College held its December *Honorum Laurus* ceremony on December 13th, celebrating all of the hard work and dedication of our December Honors College graduates. Family, friends, and faculty members who served as directors for the students' Honors Theses joined to see the students receive their medals, symbolizing "one honored with the laurel."



The special guest honored this year was retiring faculty member Dr. Richard A. Spencer (bottom photo), who has taught an Honors class each year in Religious Studies. Dr. Spencer played a large role in naming both our *Honorum Laurus* ceremony and the Honors College newsletter. Each year, he traveled to Greece and Turkey with students who received Honors contract credit based on their experience. Congratulations to all!



New Exercise Science Honors Program!

The Department of Exercise Science is the newest unit at ASU to create a new Honors program. Thanks to the remarkable support and hard work of Drs. Scott Collier and David Morris, the ES faculty proposed an Honors track that will allow ES majors who complete the course of study to graduate with Honors in Exercise Science. This much-awaited addition to the list of majors offering departmental Honors is greatly appreciated by both ES majors and the Honors College. It will encourage students to pursue primary research and an Honors thesis as they prepare for their graduate school goals, whether DPT, MD, PA, or any other health-related advanced degree. Thank you, ES faculty and staff!





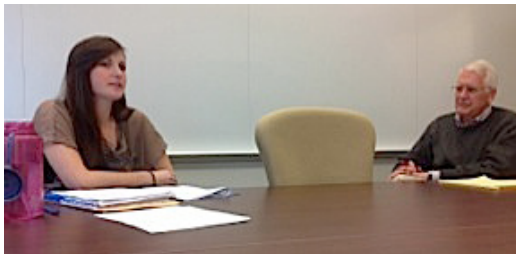
The Thrill of the Thesis Defense!

The end of each semester brings the excitement of attending thesis defenses of students across the disciplines. There are only a few in December, of course, but still enough to get a taste of the joy of scholarly discovery. This semester we were able to sample a variety of topics, including Cassidy Culbreth's *Is Clicker Training More Effecting Than Verbal Cues with Shelter Dogs?* (pictured on right). Her Director was Dr. Ken Steele (Psychology), and her Second Reader was Ms. Gilda Gordon of the Watauga Humane Society, where the study was conducted. Thank you WHS for accommodating this work.



Psychology major Sarah Clarke also did primary research with Dr. Chris Dickinson on *Will You Look Me in the Eyes? ASD and Gaze Patterns*. Second Reader Dr. Nina Jo Moore brought the useful perspective of a Communications professor to the fascinating exchange that followed Sarah's description of the novel study on eye tracking and memory. The implications of her findings to autism provoked an intense discussion of neurotypical and atypical gaze patterns.

Another Psychology Professor, Dr. Mark Zrull, was the Director for Biology major Carlson Keller's thesis on *Effects of Environmental Enrichment Upon the Amygdalae of Adolescent Rats*, with Second Reader Dr. Darrell Lewis, a neurologist from Duke University. The discussion at the defense was a lively exchange on the role of emotion in activating cFOS expression in the basolateral amygdala and how this can be used to help understand PTSD.



Pictured on the left, Brindley Polk tackled the problem of *Primary and Secondary Education Changes during the Third Reich* with Director Dr. Rennie Brantz (History, pictured with Brindley at the defense) and our own Dr. Angela Mead as her Second Reader. This challenging topic led to an extended and engrossing conversation on the role of government in education and whether questioning authority can and should be taught.

The Geology Department was ably represented by Chase Batchelor and her Thesis Director Dr. Chuanhui Gu. Second Reader Dr. Colby from Geography joined in the examination of Chase's thesis on *Hyporheic Exchange and Nutrient Uptake in a Forested and Urban Stream*. Since this was a local project, there was extensive discussion of what the next steps on this study of water exchange in local creeks might be.

As the debate was going on in Watauga County over whether *The Chocolate War* should be taught in school, Emily Johnson, an English Secondary Education major, was defending her thesis on *Bridging the Gap: Using Young Adult Literature to Access the Classics*. With Director Dr. Elaine O'Quinn (English) and Second Reader Dr. Chris Osmond (Education, committee shown on right), Emily embarked on a stimulating presentation of how to use *The Chocolate War*, for example, as a scaffold for introducing *Lord of the Flies* to young adult readers. Perhaps the Watauga School Board should take note.



(Continued on Page 7)



Thrill of the Thesis *(Continued from Page 6)*

Another close reading of pieces of literature was undertaken by Alison Tressler. Dr. Craig Fisher (English) directed her thesis on *Humanism in Literature: Triumph of the Human Spirit in a Pessimistic World*. Dr. Lisa Curtin Grizzard as Second Reader helped think through how psychologists like Maslow would evaluate self-actualization of the main characters in *The Scarlet Letter* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Finance and Banking major Brittany Barringer discussed *Factors that Impact Job Placement for Finance and Banking Undergraduates*. Brittany, along with Thesis Director Dr. Chris McNeil (Finance and Banking) and the Honors College's own Dr. Angela Mead as Second Reader discussed how student extracurricular involvement, internship experience and grades have an impact on job seekers' placement after graduation.



Lisa Moeller (pictured on left), an International Business major, gave a thoughtful and insightful analysis in *Chinese Preference for Luxury Goods*. Lisa discussed how Chinese consumers have specific preferences for luxury goods, and often tend to prefer luxury goods from outside of China. Her thesis was co-directed by Dr. Pia Albinsson and Dr. Jennifer Henson (both in Marketing) with Dr. Benno Weiner (History) as Second Reader. Lisa evaluated brand preferences of a wide variety of brands and items of Chinese consumers.

Caley Wahl (on right in bottom photo), a Music major, presented on *Multicultural Music Education: Resources & Methods and Their effects on the Classroom as it Applies to Cultural Context and Authenticity*. Caley, along with four other members of her South Africa trip, gave a wonderful performance of an American Shaker hymn *Simple Gifts* and a South African song *Schweelo Eelee Makanana*, complete with culturally-appropriate responses from Caley's Thesis Director and Trip Leader, Dr. Suzi Mills (Music). This pair of cappella performances demonstrated the difference in performing music from different cultures. Caley, Dr. Mills, and Second Reader Dr. Tracy Smith (Education) had a very engaged discussion about how to incorporate culturally-appropriate movements, techniques and skills as a music teacher. Great fun was had by all.

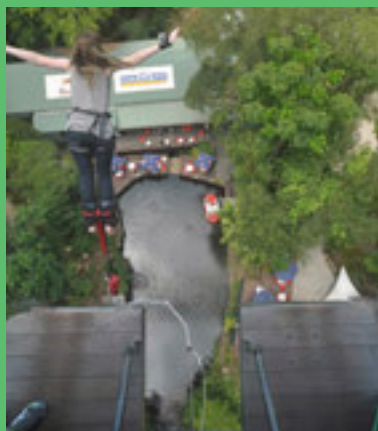




Callie Pruett Takes a Trip “Down Under”

Honors sophomore Callie Pruett traveled to “The Land Down Under” during her fall semester to study at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia. While school was her first priority, Callie got to explore the country on weekends and during her break while enjoying Australia’s much warmer weather. Although Melbourne will always be her favorite place in Australia, a few of her best memories include visiting Steve Irwin’s Australia Zoo; bungee jumping in Cairns; climbing Mount Wellington in Tasmania; touring the Sydney Opera House; scuba diving on the Great Barrier Reef; feeding wild cockatoos in Lorne; taking a trip on the Great Ocean Road; and even jumping the pond to New Zealand!

There were so many wonderful memories Callie could share, but it would take a lifetime to recount. Even beyond just the exciting memories, she counts her cultural awareness as the greatest gain that she received in her study abroad experience. *“Living and adapting to another culture, even one as ‘similar’ to American culture, is something that can never be undervalued. My time in Australia was life changing, to say the least, and my experiences there will stay with me forever. I would highly recommend a study abroad experience to all university students.”*





The Italian Job

Honors students Dean Cates (left in photos) and Andrew Graves (right in photos) spent their fall semester studying in Florence, Italy. Although their coursework focused in the areas of language and culture, it was the whole experience of living in another culture that was really driving the learning experience. Living in Tuscany means eating, of course, taking in cathedrals, and art, art, art. Even an entire semester is not long enough to take it all in. This gorgeous backdrop of Boccaccio's Decameron (top photo) is home to Michelangelo's David, Botticelli's Venus, and the cathedral with Brunelleschi's glorious dome. There is the Sangiovese to sample, along with panzanel-la and crostini toscani at sidewalk cafés along the Arno, pictured here with the Ponte Vecchio behind our peripatetic pair. Dean and Andrew return in the spring semester and have promised to write us a piece on how this experience has influenced them and their career decisions . . . stay tuned!



When Irish Eyes are Smiling

For Fall Break this year the freshmen Chancellor's Scholars went to Dublin for four days as part of their *Voyages* course. This class, specifically designed for the CS students, challenges them to create an itinerary that will help them gain a deeper understanding of their professional goals and place on the planet. The temporal and spatial journey of the class has them researching the myriad opportunities of Eire's capital city and then selecting a reasonable number of experiences to sample that will meet the needs of everyone in the group.

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INTERNATIONAL



When Irish Eyes are Smiling (Continued from Page 9)



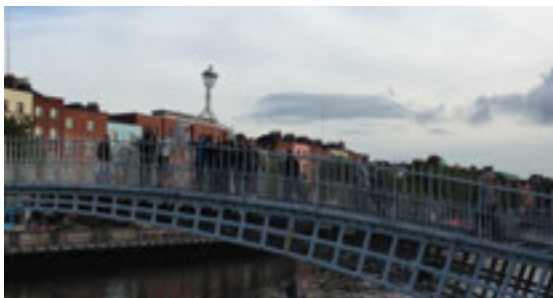
Examples of some of the sites chosen this fall included the Book of Kells exhibit, the National Museum of Ireland, and the Abbey Theater, where they saw the debut of a distinctly Irish play, *The Hanging Gardens*. Students with an interest in the modern history of Ireland and human rights toured Kilmainham Gaol, while others went to the National Gallery of Ireland with its excellent collection of J.B. Yeats art pieces. Everyone was able to take in the breadth of history over the past millennium through the beauty of Christ Church Cathedral, while the scientists in the crowd enjoyed a close-up tour of a biomedical laboratory at Trinity College.



As a modern capital, Dublin provides a lively insight into the global population fluxes that characterize a world city. The swirl of voices on the streets were speaking everything from Russian to Spanish, Mandarin to Urdu, and although it was disappointing not to hear much Erse, or even as many local patrons in the restaurants as expected, the large number of tourists and expats in Temple Bar, where the class stayed, made it feel like a very global experience. Some places were particularly reminiscent of the bar scene in the first *Star Wars* movie.



When asked to list their favorite memories of the trip, students would get dreamy and pause. Their presentations in the second half of the course illustrated how differently they each reacted to the voyage, with some finding the Long Room at Trinity College to be their most moving experience, while others reveled in the wild fun of the Bodhrán class (Irish drumming) that they took one evening. Everyone had food-tasting high on their list, and the rainbow-decorated cityscape seen from the top of the Guinness Storehouse was a magic moment for all.



The shortness and intensity of the adventure gave it a surreal quality, and the general conclusion was that a trip back with a longer stay would be needed to make sure that it was all there, all real. Go raibh maith agat, Baile Átha Cliath, do do warmth agus áilleacht.



Honors Students Help Make Public Art Plan a Reality

For a second year in a row, Honors faculty member Dr. Tom Hansell (Appalachian Studies) partnered students in his *Community-Based Art* Honors seminar course with the Elk Knob Community Heritage Organization (EKCHO) and Watauga Arts Council to create a public art plan for the Elk Knob community. The Honors students helped make the plan a reality by creating custom crafted picnic tables, which were donated to the Sutherland Station of the Creston Volunteer Fire Department and the new Meat Camp Volunteer Fire Department. The tables were crafted to display a map of the area outlined with local quilt patterns. Community members will use the tables as a new community space. The Honors students presented their work at the Appalachian Teaching Conference in Washington, D.C., where they received a positive response and encouragement for next year's project (see story and photos on page 16).

The Elk Knob Community Art Project is sponsored by EKCHO, the Appalachian Teaching project of the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Honors College, and the Center for Appalachian Studies at ASU.



Honors Student Helps to Save Dogs



Katie's Christmas ornaments decorate canine photos at Bistro Roca in Blowing Rock.

Between wrapping up her fall courses and studying for final exams, Honors junior Katie Fals dedicated her time to raise funds for the nonprofit organization, PARTNERS! Canines. With the help of her sisters from the *Chi Omega* fraternity, Katie made 400 Christmas ornaments to display among the many canine photographs in a local Blowing Rock restaurant, Bistro Roca. The money collected from customers who purchased an ornament went to the organization.

Owner and president of PARTNERS! Canines, Melissa Bahleda, will use the proceeds to vaccinate dogs living in high kill shelters locally and in surrounding counties. The dogs will be transported to other shelters in the New England area where they have a greater chance to be adopted. If you want to learn more about PARTNERS! Canines, visit www.partnerscanines.org.



Endless Possibilities for Honors Alumna



So much has happened for Honors alumna Brittany Mauldin Freeman since graduating in 2012. After completing an internship with DHG in Pinehurst, her plans were to seek a graduate degree in accounting at UNC-Wilmington. Before this could happen, however, Brittany was offered a job at BB&T and to enter its Leadership Development Program to graduate with a job in financial management. She accepted the job and began studying for her CPA license in November 2012, a requirement for the position. Because she graduated from ASU with 150 credit hours and held summer internship positions as an undergraduate, Brittany met the requirements for the CPA license. In her first attempt, Brittany passed all four parts just in time to be married to her high school sweetheart in June 2013. She subsequently received her certificate and obtained a position as a Treasury Analyst for Branch Banking and Trust Company.



Brittany's dream to get her Ph.D. has now kicked into overdrive, and she applied to ECU's distance learning program to earn an MBA with a concentration in finance, beginning in the Spring 2014 semester. *"Accounting has provided me a background on how to report a company's resources and I am now ready to see strategic approaches to investing these resources as well as grow skills applicable to all businesses. Having this degree will assist me in my current position as well as set me up for the ability to have various perspectives while I get my Ph.D. and teach in the future."* Brittany looks forward to having this degree to help strengthen her accounting knowledge and show her a different perspective in business.

"None of this would have been possible without the foundation and knowledge I obtained at ASU. I believe this shows how strong ASU's undergraduate accounting program is and how well the College of Business Honors program and the Honors College helped prepare me for the future!"

Calling All Honors Alumni . . .

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

Current students, prospective students, parents, and all of us in Honors are thrilled to hear about the fascinating journeys our alumni take after graduating from the Honors College. Please send us your stories and photographs! Whether you have traveled, you are continuing your education, or you just landed your first job, we would love to hear from you. Email the Honors College at honors@appstate.edu and tell us all about it so we can showcase your experience!





Honors Alumna Cori Rogers Thrives in Medical School



Cori Rogers (left) attends Health Fair with fellow medical student.

*"While I always knew that my undergraduate education at ASU was preparing me for the future, I never appreciated how much it would exceed my expectations." Honors alumna Cori Rogers is now a second year medical student at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine. "I've done very well balancing the demands of school and life thanks to the lessons I learned from faculty and fellow students at ASU." The courses Cori took as an undergraduate here at ASU, such as *Immunology, Human Systems Physiology, and Cell Biology*, formed a vital foundation for her transition into medical school, but not solely based on what she learned from the books.*

"The learning atmosphere in both the Honors College and the Biology Department went well beyond just memorizing facts. It encouraged purposeful thinking and asking the 'why' behind the 'what.' This type of critical thinking is the bread and butter of scientific and medical education. Those of my colleagues who focused on memorization throughout college have had difficulty adjusting to a new way of thinking. Completing basic science research at ASU and creating and defending an Honors Thesis helped teach me to never accept things at face value when there was much more to know. In labs that were associated with the biology and chemistry courses I took, we performed hands-on experiments and procedures that are often mentioned in my current studies in medical school. Being able to have not only seen, but completed the tests and assays that are discussed in my medical school courses, gives me a better understanding on the concepts behind the science."

Extracurricular involvement kept Cori very busy during her time at ASU. Juggling school along with other outside obligations pushed her to increase her capacity and become a more effective time manager, which is still incredibly useful to her. *"Overall, I give ASU much of my thanks for the success I have enjoyed in medical school thus far. From helping me get accepted to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Pediatric Oncology Education program in 2010 and 2011, to discovering my new home here at UTHSC, I give ASU and the Honors College my most sincere thanks. I love my alma mater and it's always great to be a Mountaineer!"*



CONFERENCES

Appalachian's Honors College Hosts Annual NCHA Conference in Fall 2013

On October 4th and 5th, the Honors College hosted the annual North Carolina Honors Association (NCHA) conference. This professional organization of faculty, administrators, and students is dedicated to the promotion and advancement of undergraduate Honors education. NCHA creates an intellectual and administrative network of resources aimed to help our region's Honors programs grow and thrive through the dissemination and sharing of information and best practices statewide. Students, faculty, and administrators who are a part of Honors programs from universities and community colleges across the state attended the event to share ideas about how to continually improve the experiences of Honors students in North Carolina.

The event began on Friday evening with a reception, and on Saturday students and faculty presented research and posters on many different topics, which included "The Power of Group Dynamics in Musical Ensembles," "Raising Cultural Awareness Via Food," "Developing a Beehive Surveying System," and "Building Mentoring Networks Through Freshmen Seminars." Lunch included table topics on a number of different issues affecting Honors, which was followed by a business meeting for faculty and administrators and a student meeting that discussed the Honors student organization role. The conference concluded with a final session in which students reported on the ideas presented during their meeting, and the announcement of the Honors College's very own Dr. Leslie Sargent Jones as NCHA President for 2013-14.

The Honors College received high praise from all who attended for making the event a successful and productive collaboration of ideas to improve and expand the Honors mission statewide.

(Conference highlights continued on Page 15)



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NCHA Conference Highlights *(Continued from Page 14)*

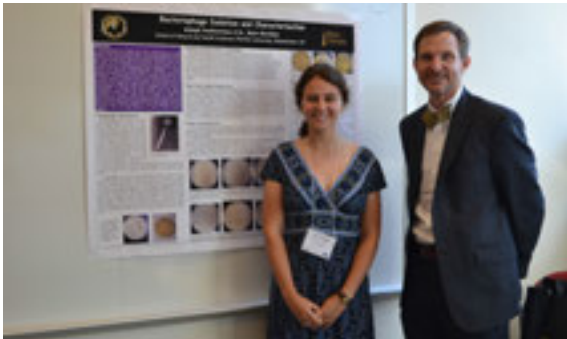
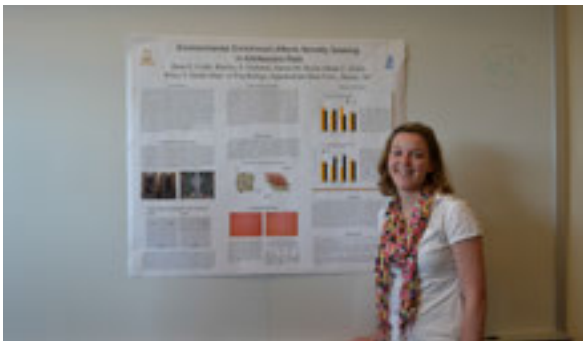


UNC-Wilmington



Winston-Salem University

Posters and Presentations



Left: Honors College Director, Dr. Leslie Sargent Jones, voted as President of NCHA for 2013-2014.





CONFERENCES

Honors Students Participate at SNURCS



Five Honors students were among 48 other ASU undergraduate students who attended the 9th Annual State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium (SNURCS) held at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte on November 16th. ASU joined 34 other North Carolina academic institutions at the symposium where students presented their research in multiple different formats, including posters and exhibits.

Honors senior Brian Clee (pictured far left in photo), presented his work, *Creating a Public Transit iPhone App (AsUBus)*. His mentor was Dr. Rahman Tashakkori (Computer Science).

Brian is a Computer Science major and discussed the process he went through in applying the course materials he learned in a computer science elective and implementing them in a real world application with working results. "I really enjoyed my time at the conference. The questions I received were particularly fun to answer and I felt that my presentation went over really well; I even received numerous contacts from schools around North Carolina in response to my presentation!"

Other Honors students who presented at the symposium included:

Corbin Ester (junior Chemistry major): *Novel cobaloximes as electrocatalysts for hydrogen production*. Mentor: Dr. Dale Wheeler (Chemistry).

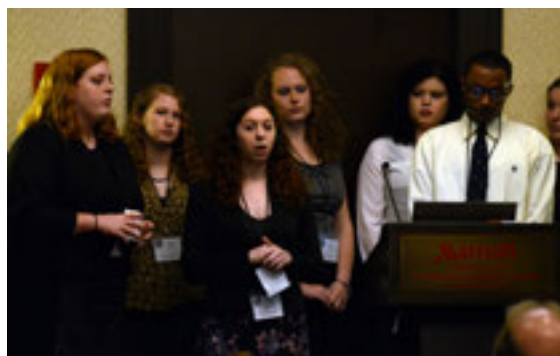
Chirayu Patel (senior Biology major): *The Use of Vesicular Stomatitis Virus and Natural Products for the Treatment of Cervical Cancer*. Mentor: Dr. Maryam Ahmed (Biology).

Dawn Woodard (senior Mathematics major): *An Uncertainty Metric for Anthropogenic CO₂ Emissions from Point Sources*. Mentor: Dr. Eric Marland (Mathematics).

A fifth Honors student, Jacob Pawlik (sophomore Chemistry major), also attended the symposium.

Honors Students Present in Washington D.C.

Honors students in Dr. Tom Hansell's *Community-Based Art* Honors seminar course presented their work on creating a public art plan for the Elk Knob community at the Appalachian Teaching Conference in Washington D.C. See full story on Page 11.



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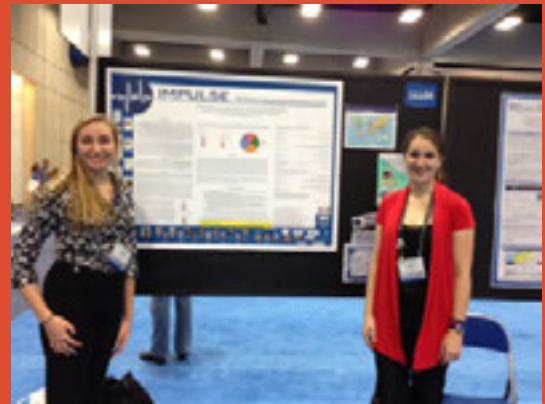
Society for Neuroscience 2013

By Kyle Sasser, Honors sophomore

Appalachian's editorial team for the journal *IMPULSE* traveled to San Diego, CA, to attend the Society for Neuroscience's (SfN) annual meeting for 2013. Composed of students Dana Cobb, Alison Rossi, Corbin Ester, Kyle Sasser, Danielle Russell, and Dawn Woodard, the team presented a poster on the educational and experiential benefits the journal has provided to past reviewers, authors, and editors. Presenting over three floor sessions, members introduced the study's findings while simultaneously educating attendees about the journal and recruiting interested undergraduates.

The team also presented at the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience's (FUN) concurrent annual meeting. Here, members reviewed the work of other undergraduate students while continuing to promote *IMPULSE* and present the poster to this targeted group.

Also in attendance were editorial members from several of the journal's other reviewer training sites. The Associate Editors Simone Dixon from Furman University and Sara Kimmich from the University of California, San Diego, as well as Publicity Editor Jake Westerberg from St. Olaf College, all assisted in representing the journal both at SfN and the FUN meeting.



Honors Faculty, Staff, and Students Present at NCHC in New Orleans

Honors College staff and students let the good times roll in New Orleans to present at the 2013 National Collegiate Honors Council's (NCHC) annual conference.

Five Honors students gave presentations about their opportunities through the Honors College. Sophomore Justin Davis (pictured left) presented a video he made as part of the NCHC Portz grant for service along with Dr. Dale Wheeler (see story on Page 18), while senior Josh Carr (pictured right) presented with Dr. Angela Mead on *Recruiting Current Students into Honors: A Case Study*. The Honors College at ASU



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CONFERENCES



Honors Staff and Students Present at NCHC

(Continued from Page 17)

currently actively recruits students in their freshman and sophomore year who are high achieving but are not in the Honors College. Their presentation described the process while Josh discussed his views as an internal admitted student. Dr. Mead was also invited to serve on a “Developing in Honors” roundtable discussion on the topic of *Honors Advising Beyond Course Selection*.

In the group shot on right, seniors Miranda Cook (top left), Alex Dezii (top right), and Caleb Yelton (bottom left) are shown here talking about their Honors international experiences in Mexico, India, and South Africa during the summer of 2013. All students were introduced by Dr. Jones (bottom right). The title of their presentation was *International Internships for Pre-Health Majors: A New Model*. Pictured below, the group describes the opportunities offered by the Honors College to study and intern in these foreign countries.



Dr. Jones was also invited to be a member of a “Developing in Honors” roundtable discussion on the topic *Making the Transition from Honors Program to Honors College*. She was also a member of the newsletter review committee based upon receiving a top award last year for our newsletter, the *Laurus Honorum*.

During the five-day conference, the group had the chance to explore New Orleans with NCHC’s Town as Text©. They also enjoyed fresh beignets in piles of powdered sugar, chicory coffee, and great Cajun and seafood dishes. They were able to reconnect with former Honors College associate director, Dr. Michael Lane, who attended in his new position as Honors Director at the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore.

While they all had a good time exploring Bourbon Street and the French Quarter, the group was there primarily to learn about new innovations in Honors education and to meet others who work in Honors education. It was a great time for making new friends and connections, and visiting a fascinating city with a great history.

PORTZ Grant Video Documentary Presented at NCHC Conference

In March 2013, AIM High executed its service commitment based upon a PORTZ Grant award received earlier in the year by Dr. Dale Wheeler. The goals of the project were aimed to provide nutritious food for working families in need throughout Watauga County. The students’ work included planting fruit trees, constructing raised garden beds, incorporating compost, and planting seeds that would yield fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the summer and fall to provide future harvests for these families.

Honors sophomore Justin Davis (pictured on Page 17) created and produced the video documentary for the PORTZ Grant, entitled *Appalachian Fresh Produce for Those in Need*, and presented it with Dr. Wheeler at the 2013 NCHC annual conference in New Orleans in November. The video presentation documents AIM High’s community service project in March 2013. [Click here](#) to access the video posted on our website.



Jenna Hambleton Completes Rewarding Internship at the Conservator's Center

In Summer 2013, Honors sophomore Jenna Hambleton was among a handful of dedicated individuals to participate in a six-week internship program at the Conservator's Center in Mebane, NC. The Center is a last resort for many animals that were once fancy pets, rescued, or unlucky enough to be part of breeding operations so that people could have their exotic pets. The animals included lions, tigers, binturongs, genets, and kinkajous, and Jenna worked hard all day to attend to their needs.

Jenna's days began preparing food for large cats, wolves, and a variety of smaller carnivores and omnivores. She first cleaned the enclosures, then placed food and moved around toys, logs, and other items to enrich the animals' everyday lives. Interns were allowed to enter enclosures only after keepers shifted out dangerous animals, checked multiple times, and deemed them safe to enter. No one entered enclosures with dangerous animals. The remainder of her days were spent preparing for the following day, and once a week she joined other interns to attend a class ranging in topics from nutrition to target training.

The Conservator Center's mission includes education, conservation, and protecting animals. Each animal at the center lives a very happy and contented life due to all of the hard work from staff, interns, and the generous donations from their many supporters. Jenna gained knowledge and experiences she will never forget, and many interns return to volunteer regularly.

If you are interested in visiting or knowing more about the Conservator's Center, you can visit their website at www.conservatorscenter.org.



Left: Jenna target trains with Arthur Tiger under the supervision of one of the Conservator's Center's trained professional keepers.



WATCH FOR OUR SPRING 2014 ISSUE OF THE LAURUS HONORUM!



Dr. Heather Waldroup is New Associate Director of the Honors College



The Honors College is excited to announce Dr. Heather Waldroup (pictured here in Patagonia) will be joining us as the new Associate Director beginning in the Spring 2014 semester. Dr. Waldroup is an Associate Professor in the Department of Art and is also a faculty member in Global Studies. She has served students at Appalachian since arriving here in 2004.

Dr. Waldroup earned her Ph.D. from the interdisciplinary History of Consciousness Program at the University of California in 2004. Her research considers the intersections of modernity, imperialism, and the practice of collecting in the South Pacific, with a focus on colonial-era photography and contemporary museum practice. Her scholarly record includes a number of articles in peer-reviewed journals and curatorial projects, including the first solo exhibition by a Pacific Islander artist in Western North Carolina. Her book manuscript, *Collecting the American Pacific: Photography and Empire, 1860-1920*, is under contract with University of Hawai'i Press.

Dr. Waldroup has taught a variety of undergraduate art history courses, including Honors courses, and she has directed several Honors Theses. Dr. Waldroup will be advising Honors students who are pursuing majors in the fine arts and foreign languages. The Honors College looks forward to having Dr. Waldroup's demonstrated dedication and experience help serve our Honors students in 2014 and the years ahead!

The Honors College Newsletter

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