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# Message From The Dean

Dear Parents, Alumni, and Honors College Fans,

After reaching an enrollment of 300 in the fall, our halls were filled every day with students studying, adding art to our white boards, or dropping by for chocolate to relieve a little stress! The semester flew by with over 20 students enrolled in our senior project courses. It was a true pleasure to meet weekly in our casual “research and writing support groups.” The topics our seniors are working on range from Social Engineering to an analysis of Robin Hood in literature (which caused a lively laugh-filled debate about the merits of “Robin Hood: Men in Tights”). The bonds between our students grow every semester as we watch them work together on service projects and support each other when setbacks happen. What are the odds that two seniors had their computer drives fail in one semester? It’s impossible to capture all the incredible stories in one newsletter, but we found a few to share with you in the hope that you can stay connected to our students, remember the days when you needed stress-relieving chocolate, and appreciate the community of scholars your support has helped us build.

Dr. Cindy Ticknor

P.S. Don’t forget to nominate outstanding alumni for our annual awards ceremony in May!

creative to the core.



CREATE  
YOU



# Honors College Updates

Welcome to the latest *Aspirations!* We are very excited to begin a new year and a new semester. As the spring semester begins, we would like to share some of the events from the fall that makes the Honors College so special.



In the second half of the fall semester, the Honors College kept busy with many events, course activities, plus a little fun mixed in. This past fall, ITDS 1779H was taught in three sections, two on Main Campus and one at RiverPark. All of the sections hosted guest lectures who provided outstanding information pertaining to their personal disciplines, to help to expand our students' knowledge.

The Honors College also hosted successful recruitment breakfasts at both Fall Discovery Days. Everyone seemed to be eager to learn more about the Honors College.

The Honors College was also presented with two awards from the the Annual Day of Service which took place in August. The Honors College won the "Student Participation Award," and the "Faculty/Staff Participation Award." An added benefit was that we all had fun while helping our community!

In October, the Honors College, along with the Office of Military and Adult Learners came together for the annual "On The Table Chat," which brings individuals from all parts to the community together to talk about ways to better the Chattahoochee Valley Area.

To cap off the semester, we had a fun and relaxing night of fellowship, eating, and playing games at our first "Friendsgiving" hosted by Honoris Causa and held at Dr. Ticknor's home.



Mrs. Bridgett Markwood speaks to the ITDS 1779H class on Main Campus

Trophies for Day of Service Awards



"On the Table Chat"

Friendsgiving



# Homecoming 2019



The Honors College celebrated Homecoming this year with some fun activities, despite the rainy days surrounding the event. Honors Causa participated in the fun by "Painting a Paw" and "Painting the Town" during the Homecoming week events, while the Honors College Staff enjoyed visiting with seniors and Alumni at "Up on Smoke" to watch the Homecoming Parade. Honors Causa won the third place award in the parade for their float! Of course, they couldn't have done it without the help of Dr. Ticknor's husband Kirk, who allowed them to use his boat and towed them in the parade.





# WinterFest 2019

WinterFest is an annual CSU Tradition that starts the holiday season off with a flurry of excitement! It is a free holiday event that brings together CSU and the Columbus community to celebrate the season no matter your religion, culture, or traditions. During the event, guests enjoy performances, sweet treats, hot cocoa, crafts, games, real reindeer, and of course Santa.

This year, our Honoris Causa student organization sponsored a craft and game booth to bring joy to children and parents alike. We had so much fun interacting with everyone and look forward to next year!





# Black & White Ceremony



The Annual Black & White Ceremony was held on Tuesday, December 3rd at The Loft on Broadway. We had a wonderful time honoring our students, faculty, and donors. This fall, we awarded Honors College Pins, and six Honors College graduates were recognized and received Honors Cords. We also recognized our Honors College Teaching Fellows and our amazing donors who help make the Honors College a success!



Dr. Tomkiewicz congratulating our pin recipients



Our Fall 2019 Honors College Graduates



Dr. Ticknor recognizing Dr. Aisha Adams one of our newest Honors College Teaching Fellows



Dr. Ticknor presenting "Grandma" Honors with a Honors College pin



Dr. Ticknor presenting senior Hannah Turner with her pin



Cameron Bean presenting donors Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Howard with Honors College Pins



Dr. Ticknor welcoming everyone to the event





# Honoris Causa

Honoris Causa is the student organization sponsored by the Honors College. Honoris Causa translates into “for the sake of honor” in Latin and characterizes the dedication and leadership exhibited by its members through its many campus, community, and cultural activities. Members in the organization work together on student-generated service projects, advising and shaping the CSU Honors College curriculum, and coordinating academic and social events.



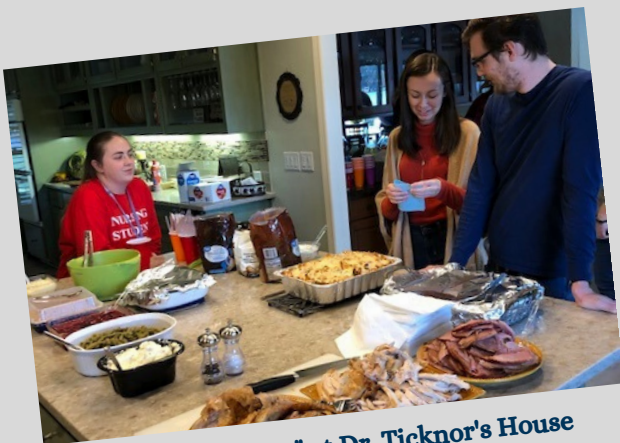
Honoris Causa hosted study hours during finals. The participants had a great time and maybe got some studying in...



Volunteering for Feeding the Valley



Preparing lunch at the Ronald McDonald House



"Friendsgiving" at Dr. Ticknor's House



"Friendsgiving" at Dr. Ticknor's House

# Fall 2019 Senior Projects and Theses



**Taylor Aspinwall - B.A. English Literature & B.A. in History / Minor in Creative Writing**

**Mentor: Dr. Sarah Bowman**

Thesis: *Exhibiting the Holocaust*

Notes: Taylor plans to pursue a Master's in Public History.

**Elizabeth Biggs - B.S. in Applied Mathematics Minors in Economics & Data Analytics**

**Mentor: Dr. Kristin Seamon Lilly**

Thesis: *Potential Correlation Between Financial Crime and Stock Price Fluctuation*

Notes: Elizabeth plans to become an actuary after graduation.

**Amy Crawford - B.A. in English with a Literature Emphasis / Art History Minor**

**Mentor: Dr. Jim Owen**

Thesis: *The Femme Frigle of the Victorian Era*

Notes: Amy will move to Orlando and complete a second Disney College Program as an attractions cast member.

**Erin Chalmers - B.S. Psychology**

**Mentor: Dr. Brant Smith**

Thesis: *Schadenfreude: The Impact of Another's Misfortune on the Mood of College Students*

Notes: Erin plans to apply to graduate school to obtain her Masters in Social Work with a goal of being a licensed clinical social worker.

**Meredith Donovan - B.S. History and Secondary Education**

**Mentor: Dr. Gary Sprayberry**

Thesis: *Social Movements and the FBI: Investigations of the 1950's and 1970's*

Notes: Meredith is teaching full time at Columbus High School.

**Hannah Turner - B.S. in Applied Computer Science/ Mathematics Minor**

**Mentor: Ms. Aurelia Smith**

Thesis: CSUGO: A Mobile Social Media App for the Campus Orientation of International Students at CSU

Notes: Hannah plans to attend Georgia Tech's UI/UX Boot Camp while continuing her work with ASRC Federal Holding Company.

**Charlene Ubah - B.S. in Biology**

**Mentor: Dr. Brian Schwartz**

Thesis: *The Effects of Potassium Benzoate on Early Zebrafish Development*

Notes: Charlene's plan after graduation is to attend an optometry school in 2021 to become an optometrist. In her year off, she will either be working in an optometrist's office or shadowing to increase her work experience.





# Alumni Notes

## SAVE THE DATE!

### *Honors College Annual Awards Ceremony & Reception*

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE  
OUR MAY GRADUATES AND HONOR THE FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI,  
AND BENEFACTORS WHO SUPPORT US

GREEN ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB - BALL ROOM

MAY 9, 2020

COCKTAILS BEGIN AT 6:00 PM WITH THE CEREMONY AT 6:30 PM  
AND A RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



We would love to hear from you! Please send us your life and career updates, so we can show everyone how proud we are of our alumni.

Email us at:

[honors@columbusstate.edu](mailto:honors@columbusstate.edu)

Thanks to our seniors and alumni who came out to enjoy the Columbus State Homecoming Parade with us in October! Alumni are also invited to attend our Annual Honors College Banquet, which will be held on Saturday, May 9th at 6:00 PM.

Each year we present alumni awards for Community Impact and Global Impact. We know our Honors College Alumni are doing great things right here in our community and around the world, and we are hoping you can nominate one of them for these amazing awards. Please see the criteria for each of the awards below, and submit your nominations to by March 1st to Kristi Rehrauer at [rehrauer\\_kristi@columbusstate.edu](mailto:rehrauer_kristi@columbusstate.edu). Nominees will be asked to submit their CV upon nomination for our committee to review.

### *Criteria for Alumni Community Impact Award*

- The nominee must hold a bachelor's degree from Columbus State University and have completed the requirements of the Honors Program or Honors College.
- The nominee must have distinguished himself or herself in his or her professional or personal life by demonstrating through and/or research focus on the the Chattahoochee Valley Region.
- The nominee would demonstrate the ability to have disregard for the impossible when it comes to their research, action, and/or advocacy.
- The nominee must have exemplified high moral character and integrity and be held in high esteem by his/her fellow alumni.

### *Criteria for Alumni Regional Impact Award*

- The nominee must hold a bachelor's degree from Columbus State University and have completed the requirements of the Honors Program or Honors College.
- The nominee must have distinguished himself or herself in his or her professional or personal life by demonstrating through and/or research focus on the the Global or Regional Level.
- The nominee would demonstrate the ability to have disregard for the impossible when it comes to their research, action, and/or advocacy.
- The nominee must have exemplified high moral character and integrity and be held in high esteem by his/her fellow alumni.

# Faculty Focus

## Dr. Nathan Combes

Dr. Nathan Combes is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Politics, Philosophy, and Public Administration. Dr. Combes' research focuses on African politics and pedagogy in political science, and his teaching additionally focuses on American government and research methodology. Dr. Combes arrived at CSU in Fall 2016, having recently earned his Ph.D. in political science at the University of California, San Diego.

The course Dr. Combes teaches most frequently at CSU is American Government. When asked what his favorite part about teaching that class is, he responded:

“The diversity of students at CSU. American Government is required of all students, so our classes have students from every major and a diversity of backgrounds. Being that our current political environment and media sources are so polarized, it is invaluable to our students to hear from those who think differently from them.”



While American Government is what Dr. Combes teaches most frequently, his favorite courses to teach are focused on research methodology:

Dr. Combes has taught Honors American Government multiple times, and will be teaching an Honors Global Perspectives course in Spring 2020. He says that intellectual conversations are his favorite part of teaching for the Honors College:

“Teaching in the Honors College at CSU is both a great honor and really fun. The students are intellectually curious and engaged, and class sizes are set perfectly to foster great conversations. I really learn a lot from our students.”

“Pretty much everyone I meet is surprised to hear how much math and statistics are involved in political science these days. The reality is that most fields are incorporating vastly increased amounts of data into their decision-making; largely because access to data and computing power has expanded so rapidly. I love teaching research methods (especially those focusing on quantitative research methods) because the skills are so sought after in the current job market. Particularly when it comes to students in the social sciences, the ability to interpret quantitative results into human outcomes is extremely employable.”



Samuel Belisle is the student spotlight for our Spring edition of *Aspirations*! Samuel is a Junior working on a BA in History with a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Certificate and has been active in the Honors College since enrolling at CSU. His main focus is on how GIS can be applied in the field of history to understand and portray historical questions within their geographic context. A desire to find where his academic pursuits meet working outdoors and the community around him is what brought Samuel to his career aspiration of either working in museums or the National Parks System.

This interest in National Parks and museum work attracted Samuel to the *Partners in the Parks Program* run by the National Collegiate Honors Council. A program designed to bring Honors students together from across the nation in research, career, and personal development opportunities. Samuel was able to travel to Bryce Canyon Utah to explore opportunities in the National Parks. Working with Dr. Kelly Goonan from Southern Utah University, the program consisted of a week of camping and hiking, collaboration on a conservation project with Eric Vasquez, the Biological Sciences Technician at Bryce Canyon, and discussions with various park rangers in interpretation, and law enforcement roles within the park. Samuel was delighted to find that GIS skills are regularly used in any application throughout the park.

Samuel also has a love of road tripping and seeing the world, something this trip provided an excellent opportunity for. While the Partners in the Parks program itself took place in Utah, Samuel was also able to spend a week beforehand driving out and exploring Arizona as well as two weeks after traveling around the rest of Utah and Colorado. This also provided the opportunity to tour and explore post-graduate opportunities in those areas.



Samuel's other involvements include a working at the CSU Archives and Special Collections, as well as working as a Community Advisor with Residence Life, two jobs that have continued to strengthen his career prospects and involvement on campus. He would especially like to thank Dr. Ryan Lynch for his help in getting Samuel both of these positions as well as the Honors College and Laura Pate for their help in getting Samuel in to the amazing opportunity of *Partners in the Parks*. It is a program Samuel suggests to everyone.

# Student Spotlight

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## Samuel Belisle



# *What Honors Means to me...*

We asked some of our current Honors Causa members what the Honors College means to them.

We loved what they had to say!

*Honors means pushing  
for creativity*

*When I think of Honors, I think of a  
community of hard working,  
determined, and creative individuals.*

*Honors encourages  
me to push myself*

*The Honors College is an  
amazing opportunity for  
me to grow academically  
as a student, build  
relationships with  
amazing people, and  
grow overall as a person!  
I am honored to be a part  
of such a prestigious  
program and can't wait  
to start my journey as an  
Honors College Student!*

*Diversity.  
Challenging, yet fun.*

*To me, this is an excellent  
opportunity to do things other  
than just studies, but related to  
study and development of your  
own self. It helps you get better  
ideas about the things you can  
actually do, which you might  
never have thought of doing. I'm  
glad I joined.*

*A wonderful & enlightening  
experience full of exciting challenges,  
leadership, excellent professors, &  
thought provoking courses that make  
for an unforgettable and outstanding  
educational experience. (P.S. - The  
Dean is always nice, approachable, and  
willing to share her plethora of info!)*



## Honors College Vision

The Honors College will make Columbus State University a first choice institution for students who strive to succeed by championing innovative instruction, undergraduate research, and interdisciplinary studies.

## Honors College Mission

Our dual mission provides an innovatively delivered curriculum for high achieving students and advances the intellectual growth and recognition of the university. Our college challenges a diverse community of students to individualize their academic experiences, while serving as an institutional champion for undergraduate research, interdisciplinary studies, and creative instruction.



Do you have a student or faculty member you would like to spotlight? Or just have a suggestion for an upcoming edition of *Aspirations*?

Please send us an email at  
[honors@columbusstate.edu](mailto:honors@columbusstate.edu)  
We would love your suggestions!



**HONORS COLLEGE**  
COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY