



HONORS COLLEGE  
COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

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# ASPIRATIONS



*Aspirations* is the newsletter of the Columbus State University Honors College, which provides updates, features, and information for alumni, faculty, students, and the community. On behalf of the Honors College staff, we hope you enjoy *Aspirations* and welcome any ideas for future issues.

# *hello, fall!*

It is time for our latest edition of Aspirations! This fall began by welcoming our newest Honors College students with more normalcy than we have seen in the recent past. Our new students have been eager to participate this year and we are looking forward to a great four years with them! Below are pictures from our Honors Induction Ceremony in August, where our newest students were inducted into Honoris Causa.

At the beginning of the semester, we held our induction ceremony for Honoris Causa. Our new students would agree that it went swimmingly...



but no storms could stop such a wonderful time!



The view from the nook.  
Can you hear the thunder?



Cupcakes galore!





In an attempt to resume tradition, we also hosted our annual Welcome Back Picnic in August. This was a wonderful opportunity to see new and familiar faces!







# DAY OF SERVICE:

*August 28th, 2021*

The Honors College came together once again for CSU's annual Day of Service. We had such an overwhelming number of participants that we were split into two groups! Some of our students assisted the Salvation Army Center food pantry, while others visited the Ronald McDonald house & helped with clean up. This was a great opportunity to gather as a group and support our local community!





# STUDY ABROAD IS COMING BACK

## & we have two trips!

Currently, the Honors College is busy spreading the word about our study away & study abroad trips for Spring 2022. We will have a study away trip, in partnership with the History and English department, called *Make Good Trouble*. This group will meet during the spring semester prior to the break, and then take a five day trip to follow in the footsteps of Civil Rights leaders from Selma to Memphis.

There will also be a study abroad trip visiting Quebec, Canada! This trip will observe the similarities and differences between Quebec and Columbus, and is sure to be both interesting and exciting! Students will have the opportunity to tour many of the local museums in both cities, and will travel around the cities by bicycle in an effort to be more sustainable!



**Quebec City, Canada**



**Civil Rights Leaders**







## CSU's Oxford Experience

### VISITING STUDENT PROGRAM



*Explore.*

*Engage.*

*Excel.*

During a semester, or academic year abroad, students will have the opportunity to be immersed in the educational and social life of the University of Oxford. Students accepted into the Visiting Student Program will study a variety of subjects in one-on-one tutorials with Oxford dons at Regent's Park College, St. Catherine's College, or St. Anne's College. This program is designed for self-motivated students who are looking to complete a portion of their major degree requirements in the UK and enjoy the academic life at the university. Students may apply for either one or two semesters.

Tutorials are held at one of CSU's partner colleges at Oxford; lectures are given in the various faculties or departments. Students will reside in the CSU Spencer House with other Columbus State University and Oxford students. Oxford is a bustling city with a rich history and culture dating back to medieval times. The city is only 90 minutes from London and the rest of Europe can be easily reached by air, train, or ferry. Spring semester students will want to take advantage of traveling Europe during the 4 week break between Hilary and Trinity Spring terms.







The Spencer House
Accommodation at the Spencer House
CSU Students at the Spencer House

# Study Abroad Fair



Each year, Honoris Causa hosts a Study Aroud Fair for during September meeting. This gives Honors College students a first glimpse of the amazing study abroad opportunities offered at CSU. This year included representatives for programs to Spain, England, Russia, Quebec, Ireland, and Tunisia.





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**TUNISIA:  
CONTRASTS &  
DISSONANCES**

Tunis & Douz, Tunisia

January-Term

\*\* All students must be 18 or older to participate in study abroad programs.  
 \*You are encouraged to contact the CGE for an advising appointment so a program can be found that suits your needs and academic goals. If you have a pre-existing condition(s), please consult the Center for Accommodation and Access, your physician, or your counselor before applying to a program.



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# Honoris Causa Meetings



This fall, Honoris Causa held meetings completely in-person. Students were able to connect with one another over games, food, and helping the community.





# HOMECOMING



Homecoming Festivites were back this year and the Honors College hosted two events. Our first event was a virtual happy hour on Thursday, October 21st, which brought together alumni from all across the country. We also hosted an in-person event Up on Smoke on Broadway, Friday, October 22nd to watch the Homecoming parade. Everyone at both events seemed to have a great time!





# Maya Davis

## Student Spotlight



Maya Davis, a Columbus State University Honors College student, was selected to participate in an internship at the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) this past summer. Maya is majoring in Health Science with a minor in Business and she aspires to be a public health research scientist and health educator after graduation.

Her internship focused on research, while conducting literature reviews and providing research support for her mentors. The main focus of her research was on health disparities. She was excited for this opportunity, because she knew interning would give her much needed experience in her future field. She found this experience to be memorable and remarkable. Maya stated, "it was truly a privilege and an honor." The experience gave her an array of insight for the position she hopes to obtain once completing college.

While Maya had a few challenges, she stated the best part for her was attending the workshops and training where she could interact with those who have worked in this field for 30 or more years there, which she added, was a necessary reality check.

**Her advice:** *"One piece of advice I would give other students – especially Honors students – don't take things so seriously... like... at all. Even after 20+ years in a profession, more people are just faking it till they make it than you may realize (which is also helpful to know if you get imposter syndrome like me sometimes). If you show that you have great passion for something - anything at all, in relation to your work, that will shine through more than anything else. Be loud and proud about what you want to do, even if it feels like no one is watching, because more than likely, someone is."*





# Marc Pierre

## Student Spotlight

Our Honoris Causa RiverPark Vice President Marc Pierre had a wonderful experience at the University of Georgia over the summer. He had the unique opportunity to do medical research as an undergraduate, and from the pride with which he spoke about his work, you could tell that he does not regret it for a second. He and his group were sent to a stroke research center where they worked to find a way to stabilize the hippocampus - a part of the brain connected to learning and memory - outside of a living host. The hope was to do this in order to create models for research. Through their research, Marc's group was able to conclude that it was in fact possible to do so! They established a model through a mouse medium, which is capable of being respecified in a pig medium as well. This major work is sure to help further research of the brain as well as stroke treatment & prevention.

According to Marc, it was an absolutely amazing experience. He commented that getting to see labs that were far bigger than the ones on campus was fascinating, but joked that they were still messy - as if that is a staple of research science. He recalls being able to tour the stables and see all of the live specimens. T

He definitely recommends that fellow students seek out opportunities like this. Marc especially enjoyed getting to meet other students of many different disciplines, who were able to come together for a common goal. Everyone was very invested in the task at hand, which he found very exciting. He is very grateful to have worked with Dr. Frank West, who was a very kind, supportive, and enthusiastic mentor. The supportive lab environment meant a lot to Marc especially.

**His advice:** *"Take the time to ask your professors questions, and even have conversation with them so that you might be able to learn more about what they know."*



# Valencia Coleman



## Alumni Spotlight

*"Being part of the Honors College - if you're interested in grad school, STAY in the Honors College. That was the number one thing that helped with my admission to The Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD). SCAD only has a 40% acceptance rate, and I know a lot others have lower. STAY IN THE HONORS COLLEGE. Talk to Dr. Ticknor, talk to your honors advisor. Talk to them because graduate school expects things the Honors College tells you about. I am currently in my class now, and half my of my class doesn't even know how to do a thesis statement. And I honestly did not learn that through regular undergraduate courses, I learned that through the Honors College. I have a 100 in my current graduate course because of the Honors College. So, I cannot emphasize this enough."*

Valencia Coleman is an information technology apprentice at Aflac who is an alumna of CSU and the Honors College. Valencia attained a Bachelor's in Computer Science and now she is working towards her Master's degree in Interactive Media and Game Development at Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) with a focus on game programming.

During her time at CSU, much of her work consisted of composing programs and games, but also took time to make connections with her professors and explain her desire to help with educational games. This lead her to create an augmented reality education game which taught computational skills. She says that making something that teaches some form of computer science is a good way to venture into the research field as a game programmer. She was fortunate to become involved in research as a freshman and was offered an internship teaching computer science while working on a research project. During senior year she continued research and was and completed her Honors Thesis. It a simulation for businesses about trying to feature aspects of leadership development while playing a game.

While navigating through the typical challenges of college, she was able to continue her research, which lead her to participate in conferences across the country. Her first conference was a Computer Science Conference in Tennessee. She was able to attend a total of three times and won an award with her research presentation.

Valencia knew she wanted to do gaming from a young age, and learned that computer science was a way to to achieve her goals. She obtained a coding book and began coding before college courses, giving her an edge. She found it very fun and challenging,. There is a lot of problem solving involved, but no memorization required. She likes that she is able to follow a form and to see that there were multiple ways to solve the same problem. We wish her to best of luck at SCAD!



# Andrea Dorbu

## Alumni Spotlight

Andrea Dorbu graduated from Columbus State University in Spring 2020 and graduated this August from Emory University with a Master's in Public Health and a concentration in Healthcare Management. Currently, she is a research associate at the Laboratory for Innovation Science at Harvard. She mainly supports ongoing innovation research projects in the lab, course planning activities, and interdisciplinary work. Since acquiring her position at Harvard, Andrea has had the opportunity to move up to Boston, and she is loving it so far. There seems to always be something happening in the city! By choosing not to bring her car with her, Andrea has chosen a more eco-friendly route and takes buses and trains or walks - and is avoiding the wildly high parking prices while she's at it.



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Andrea's time with the Honors College was very beneficial - she says that her experiences here are what helped build up the stepping stones for her next phases of life and allowed her to get accepted into Emory's graduate school. One of the most important experiences for Andrea was working as the Student Director for Tower Day since her freshman year. It helped her to acclimate to the research environment, and it certainly influenced her decision to continue as a research assistant at Emory.

As for advice for Honors College students, Andrea encourages students to approach everything with an open mind. You never know what opportunities may be available to you, but it is important to take time to discover and explore the things you might be interested in. She highly recommends starting early - it's better not to wait to find a way to Create You!



# HONS 3555: Poverty and Progress: Rhetoric of Storytelling in Public Policy:

## Course Spotlight

Each semester, the HONS 3555H course, Great Conversations, is a hit with Honors College students. Fall 2021's feature - *Poverty and Progress: Rhetoric of Storytelling in Public Policy*, taught by Political Science professor, Dr. Daewoo Lee and English professor, Dr. Patrick Jackson, is no exception. It has a very unique class layout, which draws from the diverse perspectives of its students as well as the opinions of the professors. Dr. Jackson is a fan of the genuinely great conversations that happen during the class, and even afterward!

The title of the class becomes a bit ironic when you consider the content. Dr. Jackson explained that when they were planning the course, they wanted a title that would be accurate to the course, but also very marketable and appealing to students. He went on to explain a few of the key points in class, such as the importance of the package and its marketing, as opposed to the content itself. He argued that the most successful political policy usually appears to have the strongest rhetoric as well.

Dr. Lee found that the large majority of the class had a more progressive mindset, and enjoyed playing the devil's advocate when he presented his information to spark students into discussion. Since the professors presented their topics on different days, Dr. Jackson joked that it's almost like taking two separate classes. They both agree that the class was something of a reality check! Dr. Jackson's lectures often reflected on how poverty is depicted both onscreen and on the page, and Dr. Lee helped to highlight those parallels with policies and ideas.

Overall, the very diverse class was well-rounded and skilled at handling controversial and contentious issues. While most of the class had access in general to the resources they needed, Dr. Jackson noted that some students do come from places similar to the conditions they speak on in the class.

Dr. Lee and Dr. Jackson both enjoyed teaching the class, and now that it is coming to a close, are excited to see the outcomes of the term project. Dr. Lee intends for it to be very flexible and exploratory. Rather than following the guidelines given by the professors, he wants the students to have a handle on what they will do. They have the freedom to write short stories, term papers, or even create presentations to show what they have discovered!





# Honors Academic Enhancement: Dr. Ryan Lynch



Dr. Ryan Lynch is an Associate Professor, Honors College Faculty Fellow in-Residence, and the Graduate Program Coordinator of the Department of History and Geography. He is teaching two courses on 9/11: a History course regarding the history that led up to the attacks, and an Honors Enrichment course on how the attacks are remembered. The latter actually has a series of events such as lectures, a film series, and many events related to September 11th. It allows for flexibility for students' times so they can partake in their interests. There has been a lot of positive feedback for the course.

A major key point was the timespan of the event. As a historian, he suggested the 20 year rule; which means it is typically more difficult to reflect on events that happened more recently than twenty years ago. This is due to the fact that people are still trying to go through the fallout, and the "dust" still hasn't quite settled.

The idea is not just to understand what happened during the attacks, but also how it has affected America today, such as domestic decisions and foreign policy. It's also to get students to understand WHY September 11th happened, and the importance of carrying on the legacy and memory of the people lost in the attacks.

- **Honors:**
  - **HONS 3000: Remembering 9/11**
- **History:**
  - **HIST 3555: September 11th, 2001**



## *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!



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