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 we welcome any ideas for future issues.



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Another year is complete! As the years pass, each one has had its share of struggles, but everyone knows: this has been one for the books. After a year of uncertainty, Columbus State University and the Honors College have overcome countless challenges, all while still upholding our core values and traditions.

The Honors College is still strong and we proved that by interviewing over 60 students for our Presidential, Tower, and University Scholarships. Interview Day was very different this year as we transformed it into a virtual event, but it was successful, and we are proud to announce that Matthew Woods, a senior at Columbus High School, has accepted the Presidential Scholarship. Matthew will join us in the fall and plans to study political science. The pool of students interviewing for scholarships was outstanding, and we are excited to have them as members of the Honors College to help them achieve their full potential.



Broader



Deeper



Better



2020-2021 Senior Projects and Theses

Abigail Abernathy - B.S. Biology, Concentration Competitive Premedical Studies Mentor: Dr. Ely Klar

Thesis: Comparison of Histological Techniques to Determine Intersex Prevalence and Severity in Testes of Largemouth bass (Micropterus salmoides) and Spotted Bass (Micropterus punctulatus) from the Chattachoochee River, U.S.A.

Micah Arnholt -Mentor: Dr. Brad Huff

Thesis: The Application of Space SyntaTheory and Depthmap Technology tp Problems of Race and Income Inequality in Midtown,
Columbus, GA

Joshua Butler -Mentor: Dr. Michelle Fota

Thesis: *Utilizing the Dalcroze Method in the*Secondary Choral Classroom

Stephanie Clarke - B.S. Psychology with Minor in Biomedical Sciences Mentor: Dr. Diana Riser

Thesis: Electrocortical Correlates of Emotion
Processing in Resilient and Non-Resilient
Individuals

Ashlyn Dewberry - B.A. Political Science with Minor in Music

Mentor: Dr. Daewoo Lee and Dr. Ryan Lynch

Thesis: A Tale of Two Pandemics: A

Comparative Analysis of the U.S.

Government Response to the 1918 Influenza

and COVID-19

Vivian Duncan - B.A. English Language/Literature Professional Writing Mentor: Professor Joseph Miller

Thesis: Encountering Alterity: A Journalist's Role

Cortland Ellis - B.F.A. Theatre with a Minor in Communication

Mentor: Dr. Bruce Getz and Professor Brenda Ito

Thesis: Staying in the Moment: Acting Methods Through Video for the Novice and Veteran Actor

Shannon Eshman - E.D.S. Special Education Mentor: Dr. Kalynn Hall-Pistorio

Thesis: Literacy Based Behavioral
Interventions: A Review of the Literature

Domenica Fertal - B.S. Chemistry ACS Professional Track Mentor: Dr. Anil Banerjee

Thesis: Synthesis and Activity of Supported Palladium Catalysts for Methane Combustion

Macy Frazier - B.F.A Theatre Performance Mentor: Mr. David Turner

Thesis: Teaching the Bard: A Series of Lesson Plans dedicated to Engaging High School Students with Shakespeare

Bailey Gaines - B.A. English Language/Literature Mentor: Dr. Shannon Godlove

Thesis: Multiplicity and Becoming Human:
Marian and Guy of Gisborne in Postmodern
Television Adaptations of the Robin Hood
Legend

Meenal Joshi - B.S. Biology, Concentration Competitive Premedical Studies Mentor: Dr. Ely Klar

Thesis: Background Levels of Intersex in Largemouth Bass (Micropterus Salmoides) Revealed Through Histological Evaluation of Gonadal Tissue From the Three Interconnected Waterbodies

2020-2021 Senior Projects and Theses

Brenna Kincaid - B.S. Biology, Concentration Competitive Premedical Studies Mentor: Dr. Katey Hughes

Thesis: Encountering Alterity: A Journalist's Role

Taylor Lewis - B.S. Biology, Pre-Veterinary Studies Mentor: Dr. Lauren King

Thesis: Biofilm Formation in Bacterial Isolates of Canine otitis externa

ZiJie "Jerry" Lin - B.S. Chemistry ACS Professional Track, Mentor: Dr. Kerri Taylor

Thesis: Structure-Activity Relationships of N'N'-Bis-Substituted Triazolium Salts as Potential Ati-Tumor/Antimicrobial Agents

Molli McGinnis - B.M. Music Education Instrumental

Mentor: Dr. Michelle Folta

Thesis: Using Principles of the Alexander
Technique to Preserve Children's Natural
Movement Into Adolescence: Lessons for 4th &
5th Grades

Jennifer Musgrove - B.A. Theatre Mentor: Ms. Krystal Kennal

Thesis: The Importance of Theatre and the Arts for the Homeschooling Student

Elijah Neundorfer- B.S. Computer Science, Cyber Security Focus Mentor: Dr. Alfredo Perez

Thesis: Clearcommprivacy: A Software Template to Communicate App Privacy Behavior in Android

Erin Perry- B.S. Biology Mentor: Dr. Kevin Burgess

Thesis: Taxonomic Diversity and Genetic Identification of Andean montane Forest Orchids

Grace Pippas - B.A. Communication, Communication Studies Concentration Mentor: Professor Nat Temesgen

Thesis: Christianity and the Hero Archetype:
The Use of Narrative as a Framework of
Meaning

Kathleen Rhinebolt - B.S. Psychology Mentor: Dr. Brandt Smith

Thesis: Jury Decision-Making: Observing Jury Response to the Progression of Violence in Make vs Female Veterans with PTSD

Caitlin Schwartz - B.S.E.D. Theatre Education Mentor: Professor Brenda Ito

Thesis: How to Build a Successful High School
Theatre Program

Tatseyana Taylor - B.B.A. Management Information Systems Mentor: Ms. Aurelia Smith

Thesis: An Internship Management System for Columbus State University

Lyndi Whetzel - B.S.N. Nursing Mentor: Dr. Cheryl Smith

Thesis: The Effect of Gender Bias on the Nurse Anesthetist's Management of Post-Operative Pain

SCHOLASTIC HONORS AWARDS



Interdisciplinary Studies Award: Les Anderson



Scholarly Activities in Fine & Performing Arts Award:

Molli McGinnis

Scholarly Activities in Humanities Award: *Jessica DeMarco-Jacobson*



Scholarly Activities in Professional Studies Award: Elijah Neundorfer



Scholarly Activities in Science Award: *Meenal Joshi*



Scholarly Activities in Social Science Award: Ashlyn Dewberry

2020-2021 AWARDS CEREMONY



2020-2021 Graduating Class



Stephanie Clarke & Grace Pippas



Dean Cindy Ticknor



Meenal Joshi & Family



Carlie Dollar with award winner Dr. Katey Hughes



Carlie Dollar with award winner Dr. Ryan Lynch

Carlie Dollar with award winner Dr. Susan Tomkiewicz

HONORS COLLEGE AWARD WINNERS

Honors College students have done some amazing things this year and we are proud of every one of them. Here are some of the highlights!

Honors College Student winners of the English Department's Carson McCullers Literary Awards:

- · Sara Ayres Jordan Prize for Creative Nonfiction ~ 1st Place Vivian Duncan for "Oxford Pre-Pandemic"
- · Sara Ayres Jordan Prize for Poetry ~ 2nd Place <u>Jessica DeMarco-Jacobson</u> for "From Lavinia to Creusa"
- · Naartjie Multimedia Prize in Expository Essay ~ 2nd Place Cynthia Short for "Exposed: Media and Opinion"
- · Screenwriting Award ~ 2nd Place <u>Les Anderson</u> for "Little Victories"
- · Playwriting Award ~ 2nd Place <u>Katherine Lovern</u> for "Phoenix"

CONGRATULATIONS

- <u>Abigail Abernathy</u> was selected as the Phi Kappa Phi Student of the Year and won the Cellular & Molecular Biology Award.
- Meenal Joshi won BOTH the Student of Excellence Award in Biology and the George Stanton Biology Award.
 - Department Student Excellence Awards were:
 - Sam Belisle: Geography
 - Stephanie Clarke: Psychology
 - Shannon Eshman: Education
 - <u>Jerry Lin</u>: Chemistry
 - Stephanie Thompson: Geology
 - o Jessica DeMarco-Jacobson: English
- Other Department Awards:
 - Shannon Eshman: Special Education
 - · Taylor Lewis: Organismic Biology
 - Elijah Neundorfer: Cybersecurity
 - o <u>Dillon Power</u>: Creative Writing
 - Elise Rhinebolt: Psychology Academic Achievement
 - o Gabrielle Story Theatre Arts: Performance
 - Tatseyana Taylor: Management Information Systems
 - Emma Wigington: Theater Arts: Design & Tech
- Faculty Cup
 - <u>Jessica DeMarco Jacobson</u> Winner!
 - Micah Arnholt Runner Up
 - Stephanie Clark Runner Up



FACULTY AWARDS

Outstanding Teaching in the Honors College Dr. Susan Tomkiewicz

The student who nominated her stated, "I would like to nominate her because last semester when my best friend died she was more than loving and supportive. She checked on me and helped communicate with other people about what I needed. She is a big reason why I'm still in college. I would have dropped out if it wasn't for her care."



w t a al

Faculty Mentoring Award Honors College Dr. Ryan Lynch

One student stated: "He was extremely helpful in determining what I wanted out of the honors program at CSU. Gives tons of great advice and treats everyone with respect. He always wishes the best out of students and pushes them to do better!" and another said "he is my advisor, but I also had a chance to sit in on a seminar with him in my ITDS class. He has a lot of knowledge to offer, and he's really concerned about his students, which is welcoming."

Faculty Mentoring Award Honors College Dr. Kathleen Hughes

Her nomination stated, "she has helped me so much throughout the past 4 years!! She has dealt with all of my questions and concerns regardless of how dumb they may seem sometimes. She helped me so much throughout the whole medical school application process and comforted me when I was stressed or worried about not getting accepted. She is an amazing teacher and even better mentor because of how much she truly cares about our success! She has found so many opportunities for pre-med students and I do not think that I would be where I am today without her help and guidance. I think she would be very deserving of this award!"



WHAT'S NEXT FOR OUR STUDENTS

Our students are going places this summer and in the future!

• <u>Marc Pierre</u> was selected for a summer research internship in neuroscience at UGA

- Chelsea Nguyen was elected as President of Beta Beta Beta for next year
- Sam Dixon was just elected as VP of Beta Beta Beta for next year
- On RiverPark, <u>Ainsley Steeves</u> was selected The Young Artist in Residency Program Award for Mildred's Lane in Pennsylvania and it looks totally cool!
- Kyla Mims was selected for early admission to VCOMM
- Sam Belisle was selected for a GIS position at Columbus Water Works
- <u>Ashlyn Dewberry</u> was entertaining several law school offers and has decided to attend UGA who made a generous offer
- <u>Nameera Khan</u> was just selected for early admission for med school at VCOMM
- <u>Domenica Fertal</u> has been admitted to graduate school at Lehigh University in the fall to study chemistry. That first author paper she published landed a great offer!
- <u>Jerry Lin</u> has been admitted to graduate school at Indiana University in the fall to study chemistry Our Goldwater Award winner strikes big!
- Taylor Lewis was accepted to UGA's Veterinary Program
- Abigail Abernathy will be entering medical school at Augusta University
- Meenal Joshi will be entering medical school at Mercer University
- Brenna Kincaid will be entering medical school at The Medical School of GA.
- <u>Grace Pippas</u> was admitted to Pepperdine University with a full scholarship to study public policy

Congratulations to all of our students who are pursuing graduate degrees and to those beginning their careers in the classroom, the theatre, and in business. We are proud of each you!

ALUMNI NOTES

Alumni & Student Videos raised \$10,000!

Earlier in the spring we called on students and alumni to create short video testimonials that Honors College could use to present what we do to the CSU Board of Trustees meeting. Our video editor combined many of them into a <u>5-minute jazzy presentation</u> that demonstrated the many majors and leadership roles our students have on campus, and the impact of the Honors College on their education. After showing the video, the Honors College received a donation of \$10,000!!

Thank you to all who contributed videos this year! You made a difference!

Alex Acton Jessica DeMarco-Jacobson Kyla Mims

Joshua Butler Hannah Dickerson Elijah Neundorfer

Kat Cannella Shannon Eshman Ekta Parab Jonica Carlton Harshal Joshi Jeannie Patrick

Stephanie Clarke Meenal Joshi Dr. Bolivia Pereira-Hurtado

Amber Colberg Nameera Khan Tyler Sierra

Valencia Coleman Dr. Daewoo Lee Maryah Thompson Melora Cybul Mariah Lewis Adiamoabsi Udo

Dr. Ryan Lynch

Even if you didn't make the 5 minute video, we now have great videos to help us recruit and show to donors in the future. Thank you for taking the time to help the Honors College!

Our Alumni Are Doing Great Things!



Meredith Donovon ('19) is currently enrolled in the Social Science Education Masters Program at Columbus State University





Charlene Ubah ('19) was accepted to Indiana University School of Optometry

Samantha Jo Worthy ('14) recently graduated with her Ph.D. from The University of Maryland - College Park

Amy Melton ('17) has been accepted into the Master's program of Music and Human Learning at the University of Texas, Austin.

HONS 3555

CONTROVERSIES IN SCIENCE: FACT VS FICTION

Honors College Faculty Fellows Dr. Aisha Adams and Dr. Lauren King taught HONS 3555 this spring. Great Conversations courses combine professors from two different disciplines to discuss topics from their perspective, and Dr. Adams and Dr. King utilized their expertise from the fields of psychology and biology when designing this course focusing on the role of misinformation in science and how it can be combated.

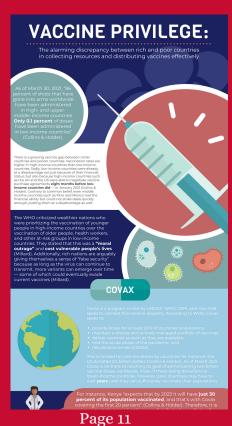




Students started by building a toolbox to evaluate seemingly controversial issues in science using the scientific method, identification of stakeholders and nuance, establishing context, and more. They then identified topics they wished to research more thoroughly such as climate change, vaccines, animal research, and GMOs, and discussed in a debate-style format. Evidence was evaluated for each side and complexities elucidated such as why people are susceptible to misinformation and how to address arguments that are not supported by scientific evidence. As their final project, students designed proscience "propaganda" in the form of a non-disposable product intended to be disseminated to the general public to combat misinformation including infographics, podcasts, cartoons, interactive games, and tiktoks.

Overall, Drs. Adams and King thoroughly enjoyed teaching the course, and were very impressed with the debates and the final products. In the face of a challenging online format, the group really progressed and grew together over the course of the semester.







HONS 3020 PERSONAL ENRICHMENT: PANDEMIC SELF CARE

This course, taught by Psychology professor and Honors College Faculty Fellow, Dr. Aisha Adams, used research based techniques to improve quality of life with a focus on self care.

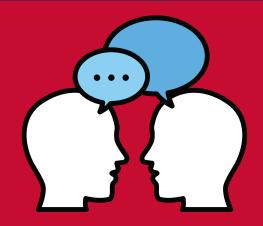
Kristen Williams, who is a sophomore psychology major who missed taking courses in person, explained how the course helped her tackle online courses and connect with other students. "The topics.... the topics we discussed in this class were managing stress during tough times like this, we also used multiple mind, body, and spirit tasks to help us de-stress such as making daily planners to help get us organized, doing reality checks, and even writing a journal entry on self-compassion. We also did a yoga activity to give our minds a break. The main thing I enjoyed most about this class was being able to talk to other people about situations that were stressful throughout the semester and outside of class.

"The main goal of the class was to research and create healthy habits and stress management systems, and we researched a new section of topics every week. For instance, some weeks we looked at environmental factors that affect stress levels, such as a cluttered room, while other weeks we looked at more physiological forms of stress relief, such as exercise and yoga. The most enjoyable part of the class was that we tried out each topic we discussed every week, so every week we would have a new set of stress-relief exercises to see if they worked for us. We also wrote a journal every week discussing what we did, what worked and what didn't. The only major COVIDrelated issue I noticed was the week we covered yoga, we had to do it online, so it wasn't as enjoyable as it could have been. Overall the class was enjoyable, and I believe I'd take a more general self-care class in the future, if it were offered."

-Anonymous

"At the end of the hectic week, I always had my Self-Care class to look forward to! In the course, we discussed practical applications of self-care such as yoga, drinking more water, and a "Not to-do list", where we wrote things we found ourselves doing, which were unproductive yet stress-provoking. Yet the main idea I took from this class, which is quite useful, is a new interpretation of self-care as a means to achieve my goals, not as an excuse to be lazy as I had before. The instructor was very in-tune with the students, even over Zoom, and my fellow students were all lovely to one another in support and suggestion. Great class!"

-Anonymous



"Having this class at the end of every week made sure that I spent time on myself. It was a great chance to try new things to see what works best for me. We were all a support group for each other, and had a great time."

-Anonymous

HONORIS CAUSA

This semester, our students began to slowly host activities safely in person. All of the events and meetings were socially distanced and brought out students together for fun and servant leadership outside of classes.



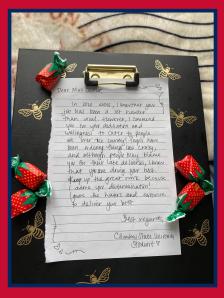
Students participated in Clean-Up Columbus

Getting prepped for the popular "Among Us" Game



Students participated in Clean-Up Columbus





"Thank a Mail Carrier"



Students hanging out with Dean Ticknor during StayCation

One player down during "Among Us"

LAUREATE SOCIETY

The Honors College wouldn't be possible without the Laureate Society. That's the society of individuals who have given funds to support our students and help them dream great dreams and reach their aspirations.

Jimmy and Ruth Yancey John and Linda Shinkle Janet Davis Gary and Kathy Allen Charles and Peggy Batastini Larry and Patty Cardin Susan Dolan Paul Holmer-Monte Kat Cannella Mike and Linda Sawyer Laura Pate Edgar and Donna Hughston Jack and Libbie Key Dominador and Genie Manio Dr. Robert and Linda Patton Dr. Franklin Star Teresa Himes Stephen and Sandy Lewack Dr. Clark and Barbara Gillett Mike and Geri Regnier Patty Taylor Dr. Eric Spears Richard and Jennifer Joyner Kenneth and Melinda Robbins

Bruce and June Howard Marc Olivie and Marleen De Bode Gregory and Pam Siddall Thad and Allison Estes Kelsey and Barbara Kennon Vincent and Dian Naman **Beverly Davis** Mrs. Richard Hallock William Reaves Diane Dana and Mike Goodman John and Sis Hargrove Tim and Mariana Money Frank and Debbie Moody Torrey and Laura Wiley Dr. Karen Laska and John Laska Richard Usserv Kirk and Cindy Ticknor Jim and Nancy Buntin Sharon Caldwell Allen and Tracy Pettis Howell and Mary Hollis John Rogers Russ and Patti Carreker Tony and Mary Jane Link



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

We would love your suggestions!

