

ASPIRATIONS



HONORS COLLEGE

COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

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.



Spring 2022 Honors College Graduates!

Spring Highlights!

As the spring semester began and the temperatures began to warm up, our students and faculty were happy to be back in the building for classes and events.

From incoming freshmen to graduating seniors, we are wonderfully proud of all their accomplishments this semester. We are very happy to announce that Honors student, Sophia Brown, received the university's top award, the Faculty Cup!

Another Honors College student, Jessica DeMarco-Jacobson, was awarded the University System of Georgia's Academic Recognition - which is only awarded to the highest-achieving student at each of the USG's 26 schools.

Academic accolades were not the only focus of the semester, as many of our students participated in honors courses - both in core subjects as well as discussions in our Great Conversations courses. Students this semester had the opportunity to explore the way that the brain is affected by music, to learn about and visit major landmarks along the Civil Rights trail that leads through the Southeast, and see how religions and community are represented in architecture.



2021-2022 Senior Projects and Theses

Samuel Belisle - B.A. History & Geography

Mentor: Dr. Ryan Lynch

Thesis: *A Look at the Past: Rephotography in Person*

Savannah Bridges - B.S. Biology, Concentration Competitive Premedical Studies

Mentor: Dr. Ely Klar

Thesis: *Liver histopathology evaluation as a biomarker of fish health in Largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) from Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery and Chattahoochee River*

Sophia Brown - B.A. History

Mentor: Dr. Stephanie Patterson

Thesis: *The Girls and The Gays Own God: The Christian Right, Queer Community, and Religious Reclamation*

Cassi Caughey - B.S. Earth & Space Science

Mentor: Dr. Troy Keller

Thesis: *Hydrological analysis of *Hymenocallis coronaria* through inundation monitoring*

Meredith Cohen - B.A. Modern Language & Culture (Spanish)

Mentor: Dr. Alice Cook

Thesis: *A Study of Distortion in Translation using "Hombres Necios" by Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz*

Jessica DeMarco-Jacobson - B.A. English Literature

Mentor: Dr. Susan Hrach

Thesis: *Mine Own Country: Christina Rossetti and the Italian Risorgimento*

Samuel Dixon - B.S. in Biology

Mentor: Dr. Clifton Ruehl

Thesis: *The Effects of Ammonium Nitrate on Larval Amphibian Response to Predation Cues and Stimuli*

Carlie Dollar - B.A. Biology

Mentor: Dr. Julie Ballenger

Thesis: *An analysis of the antibacterial properties of the Indian Tulip Tree, *Thespesia populnea*, on clinical isolates of *Acinetobacter baumannii**

Lexi Eubanks - B.M. Music Performance

Mentor: Dr. Andrée Martin

Thesis: *A Comparative Study of Toro Takemitsu's Toward the Sea and Kazuo Fukushima's Mei*

2021-2022 Senior Projects and Theses

Ariadna Gastou - B.A. Theatre

Mentor: Dr. Molly Claassen

Thesis: *An Analysis of Anne of Green Gables Through the Years*

Spencer Gilland - B.A. Communication

Mentor: Dr. Bruce Getz

Thesis: *Media in Modern Business*

Jali Hoehn - B.M. Music Education

Mentor: Dr. Michelle Folta

Thesis: *Diversity in Elementary Music*

Kailey Katzfey - B.A. English Language/Literature

Mentor: Dr. Nick Norwood

Thesis: *A Perspective of Mental Health as Represented in Poetry and Prose*

Nameera Khan - B.S. Biology, Concentration Competitive Premedical Studies

Mentor: Prof. Elizabeth Klar

Thesis: *A Comparison of Liver Histopathological Features Between Spotted Bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*) and Largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) from Lake Oliver*

Maria Paula Loria Valerin - B.M. Music Performance, Harp

Mentor: Dr. Andree Martin

Thesis: *Carlos Salzedo: The Innovator of the Harp*

Katherine Lovern - B.A. English Language/Literature

Mentor: Prof. Natalia Temesgen

Thesis: *What makes a good film adaptation?*

Chelsea Nguyen - B.S. Biology, Concentration Competitive Premedical Studies

Mentor: Dr. Brian Schwartz

Thesis: *The Role of the YHR078W Gene in the Osmotic Stress Response*

Jessica Odum - B.S. Biology, Concentration Competitive Premedical Studies

Mentor: Dr. Katey Hughes

Thesis: *Annotation and Bioinformatic Analysis of Three *Drosophila willistoni* Genes*

Heidi Parsons - B.S. Criminal Justice

Mentor: Prof. Bridget Downs

Thesis: *A Comparative Study: The Causes of Police Brutality in America and Brazil*

2021-2022 Senior Projects and Theses

Dillon Power - B.A. English Creative Writing

Mentor: Dr. Allen Gee

Thesis: *The Sunflower Search: A College Life Novel*

Sneha Rajeev - B.S. Biology, Concentration in Competitive Premedical Studies

Mentor: Dr. Brian Schwartz

Thesis: *Analysis of the HSP33 Gene Function in Saccharomyce cerevisiae.*

Brianna Sattinger - B.S. Biology, Concentration Competitive Premedical Studies

Mentor: Dr. Lauren King

Thesis: *The Relationship between BfmRS Two Component System and Biofilm Associated Genes in Acinetobacter baumannii*

Dwija Shah - B.S. Biology Concentration Competitive Premedical Studies

Mentor: Dr. Brian Schwartz

Thesis: *Identifying the role of AIM29 in biofilm formation in yeasts*

Ainsley Steeves - B.A. Art & English

Mentor: Professor Mike MaFalls

Thesis: *Transference of Presence, Value and Assigned Role in Objects*

Gabby Story - B.F.A. Theatre Performance

Mentor: Prof. Larry MacDonald

Thesis: *Simple, but Not Easy: The Comparison of the Meisner Technique in Film/Television v. Live Theatre*

Adriana Tenorio-Zelada - B.S. Kinesiology (Summer 2022)

Mentor: Prof. Jose Perez

Thesis: *Exploring the Effects of Previous Injuries on Future Soccer Performance*

Stephanie Thompson - B.S. Earth and Space Science

Mentor: Dr. Clinton Barineau

Thesis: *Quantifying Deformation using Feldspars as a Strain Marker*

Emma Wigington - B.F.A. Theatre Design and Technology

Mentor: Prof. Krystal Kennel

Thesis: *Redrafting the Riverside Theatre Complex's Studio Theatre*

SCHOLASTIC HONORS AWARDS



Interdisciplinary
Studies Award:
Youbin Park



Scholarly Activities in Fine &
Performing Arts Award:
Emma Wigington

Scholarly Activities in
Humanities Award:
Meredith Cohen



Scholarly Activities in
Professional Studies Award:
Suhev Shakya



Scholarly Activities in
Science Award:
Nameera Khan



Scholarly Activities in
Social Science Award:
Sophia Brown

2021-2022 AWARDS CEREMONY

The 2021-2022 Honors College Awards Ceremony was held on Saturday, May 7th at Green Island County Club. This is among the Honors College staff's favorite events of the year, because our graduates are able to show off all of the amazing things they have accomplished over their time at Columbus State University. Donors, fellow students, family, and friends all came together to hear about the research and activities that made CSU and the Honors College a pivotal part of their lives.

This was also a time to say "Thank You" to our Associate Dean of 10 years, Dr. Susan Tomkiewicz, as she steps down to take on a larger role in the Schwob School of Music. Although she will not be the Associate Dean in the fall, she will not be leaving the Honors College completely (thank goodness!), and will still be assisting in other roles.

This fall, we will welcome Dr. Dawn Fraizer as the Interim Associate Dean while Dr. Ryan Lynch is on sabbatical. In spring 2023, Dr. Lynch will join us as the Interim Associate Dean. Dr. Lydia Ray will also be joining us in the fall as the Interim Faculty Fellow in-Residence. We are excited to have everyone join us in these new roles!

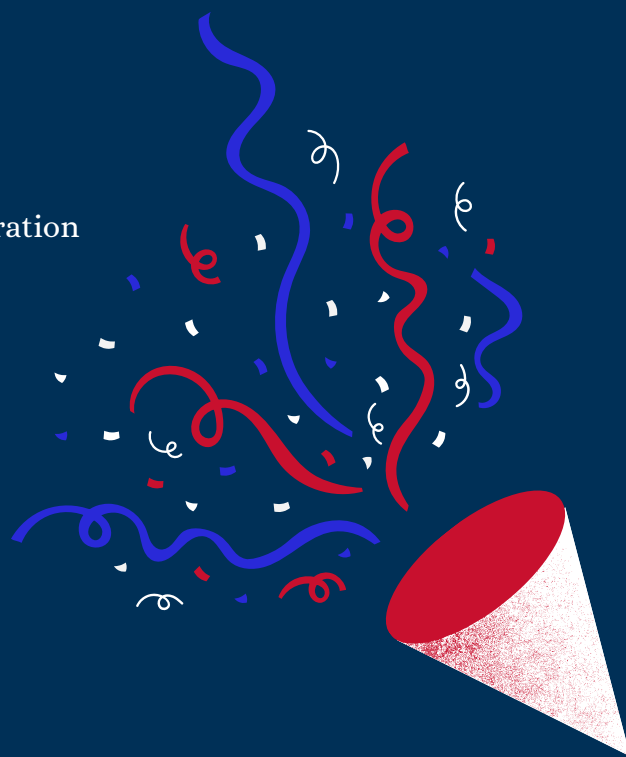


HONORS COLLEGE AWARD WINNERS

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

CONGRATULATIONS

- Sophia Brown won second place at GCHC with her presentation of "The Girls and the Gays Own God: the Christian Right, Queer Community, and Religious Reclamation Through Music" - which was just one of THREE presentations she made this spring.
- Chelsea Nguyen won the George Stanton Award AND Student of Excellence Award from the Department of Biology.
- In the English Department's Carson McCullers Literary Awards, Kailey Katzfey won the 3rd place Sara Ayres Jordan Prize in the Contest of Creative Nonfiction for "Death of a Small Town and the Memories They Hold."
- Jessica DeMarco-Jacobson was selected as the winner of the Phi Kappa Phi award and the USG's Academic Recognition.
- Department Student of Excellence Awards:
 - Kyla Mims - Health Science
 - Adriana Tenorio-Zelada - Kinesiology
 - Heidi Parsons - Criminal Justice
 - Sophia Brown - History
 - Timothy Sabau - Politics, Philosophy, and Public Administration
 - Chelsea Nguyen - Biology + George Stanton
 - Felicity Acosta - Math
 - Suhev Shakya - Computer Science
 - Taylor Mattson - Nursing
- Other Department Awards
 - Alden Mercer - Management Information Systems
 - Jacklyn Brasher - History Secondary Education
 - Jacob Woessner - Cellular & Molecular Biology
- Faculty Cup
 - Sophia Brown - Winner!
 - Taylor Mattson - Finalist
 - Kyla Mims - Finalist



FACULTY AWARDS

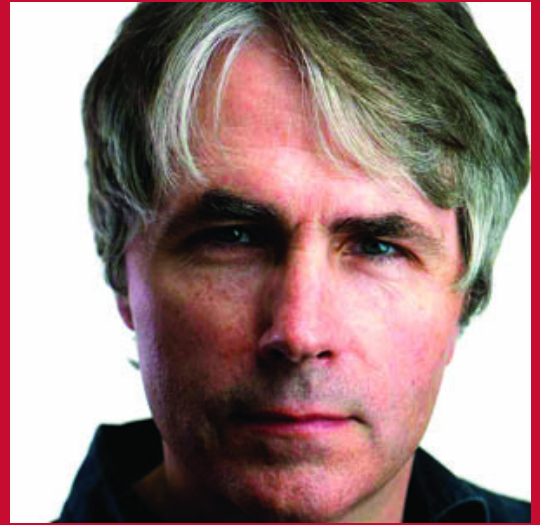
Outstanding Teaching in the Honors College Prof. David Turner



The student who nominated our winner for the Outstanding Teacher Award said: "Though he doesn't teach an Honors class, he has helped me go above and beyond in every aspect of my discipline. He has taken so much time out of his daily life to ensure that we learn to the best of our abilities, even amidst this pandemic. He helps me recognize my potential on and off the stage. For example, in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream,' he came to me with the opportunity to use the skills I had learned in his Dialect class for my role as 'Oberon.' I was shocked and felt that I wasn't prepared, but he encouraged me throughout the entire process and helped me hone this skill that can now be used in my professional career. Throughout these tough times, David has always believed in me, even when I haven't. I appreciate his work more than he could know, and I firmly believe that he deserves this Outstanding Teaching Award."

FACULTY AWARDS

Honors College Faculty Mentorship Award Prof. Larry McDonald



The student who nominated our winner for the Outstanding Mentor Award said he is the "kindest, most honest, and most real person that I have ever met. Throughout my time here, he has been more than a teacher - he's been a bright light in these dark times. When the pandemic hit, I was at a loss. I felt that I was failing in all aspects of my life, but he strongly disagreed. He has always seen my potential and has encouraged me to see it too. In a society where I, a woman of color, am often silenced, he allowed me to have a voice. He has always guided me, but has never overshadowed my spirit. His soul is warm and his life advice is different from any that I have ever heard." The student is very grateful to have had his support while writing their senior project, as he was always open to questions and has a wealth of resources to pull from. To conclude their nomination, they said, "I have learned so much from him about theatre and about life, and I will be forever grateful for him. He sees his students as human beings: We are flawed, but we will always grow and change. I appreciate him for showing me how I can grow here at CSU and beyond. He is an outstanding mentor, and I hope that many students will continue to see him the way I do. If anyone deserves this award, it is 100% Larry McDonald."

WHAT'S NEXT FOR OUR STUDENTS?

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

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- Dwija Shah was accepted to several dental schools - Pittsburgh, the Dental College of Georgia, Rutgers (NJ), Buffalo (NY), and the University of Pennsylvania. She will be joining the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine this fall.
- Sierra Barlow was accepted into the University of Florida's Department of Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, where she will pursue her master's degree.
- Timothy Sabau was recently promoted to Associate Director of the Curriculum Department at the Institute for Youth in Policy. He is working with a group of students to build a depolarizing K-12 curriculum through teaching students a nonpartisan, discourse-based take on civics. They hope to roll out workshops in the next school year.
- Lucy Clarke will spend 4 weeks this summer studying abroad with "USG Goes Global" in the United Kingdom.
- Carlie Dollar was accepted with a full ride scholarship to the University of South Alabama and Old Dominion University. She will be attending the University of South Alabama this fall to pursue a PhD in Basic Medical Science.
- Sophia Brown was admitted to several graduate schools. She was awarded a teaching assistantship at UNC Chapel Hill through their Global Studies program, where she will study climate-related migration starting this fall.
- Molly Foster was chosen as a Student Editor for the new CSU Press, run by Dr. Allen Gee.
- Tasya Diaz will begin an internship with the software company Togetherwork this summer.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR OUR STUDENTS?

- Chelsea Nguyen was admitted to two biomedical PhD programs - UAB and Morehouse - and will attend UAB's Biomedical Science PhD program under genetics, genomics, and bioinformatics track. She was one of 12 candidates.
- Maria Paula Valerin has been accepted to the Frost School of Music in Miami, Florida, with a full ride scholarship to pursue a master's degree in Harp performance with Dr. Laura Sherman.
- Mary Claire Buchanan was accepted into the study abroad young artist program with the Festival of International Opera in Urbania, Italy.
- Samuel Dixon has been accepted to Nova Southeastern University for an MS in Anesthesia.
- Kailey Katzfey was accepted into the University of Denver Publishing Institute Summer Course, the Summer Publishing Institute at New York University, and the Columbia Publishing Course in New York. She has decided to attend the Denver Publishing Institute program this summer.
- Felicity Acosta was accepted to study math at the University of Oxford this fall.
- Nicole Kincaid has been accepted to study abroad at the University of Oslo - International Summer School in Oslo, Norway for 6 weeks this summer. She has received the GRSP scholarship for this purpose. She is very much looking forward to studying gender equality in the Nordic countries.

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Congratulations to all of our students who are pursuing graduate degrees and to those beginning their study abroad careers. We are proud of each of you!

ALUMNI NOTES

Ashlyn Dewberry is doing wonderfully at UGA Law: though she felt like she was struggling to keep up, she was ranked 15 out of 200 at the end of her first semester in the fall.

Here's what she had to say: "Yes, 1L Fall (law school's infamous first semester) was a very challenging experience. I felt pretty inadequate a lot of the time; my classmates are really intelligent, well-spoken people. I came to find out, insecurity is a pretty common feeling among new law students, and even the most confident probably feel a little intimidated at some point.

Regardless, I just kept plugging away with my work. By the time exams came around (you take one, typically 4-hour exam for each class, and the grade you receive constitutes your entire grade in that class for the semester), I knew I would be OK with whatever the outcome might be, because I had given it my all. When grades came back, I ended up ranking in the top 10% of the class or, put another way, tied for 14th place amongst 196 students.



I'll be interning in Columbus this summer in the chambers of the Honorable Clay D. Land, United States District Court Judge for the Middle District of Georgia. I'm looking forward to returning to Columbus and seeing some of my family and CSU friends while I'm there! I'm really grateful for all the support the Honors College continues to give me, and I'm so proud that I get to represent the College, as well as CSU at large, at my new school.



Former Honoris Causa Vice-President, Shannon Eshman: was accepted to her dream school - Vanderbilt's Peabody College this fall with Peabody Honors Scholarship (65% of tuition). She will earn a master's degree in "high incidence disabilities with an emphasis in reading disabilities" and plans to participate in research pertaining to the identification & prevalence of reading disabilities in populations of students learning English as a second language and interventions that best support them. She is really grateful to CSU for helping her set up for success and is especially thankful to Dr. Pistorio, Dr. Ticknor, and Dr. Lynch at CSU who supported her during the whole process.

HONS 3555 - Make Good Trouble: A Civil Rights Odyssey

Led by Drs. Gary Sprayberry and Courtney George, this cross-disciplinary seminar allowed students to go on a four-day trip to explore the history of the mid- 20th century south through Atlanta, Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi.



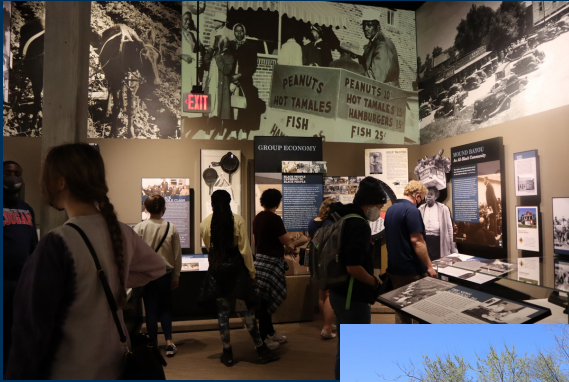
In a spring semester version of "Honors 3555: Great Conversations," 15 students visited significant Civil Rights museums, memorials, and spaces across Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee. The course was titled, "Make Good Trouble: A Southern Civil Rights Odyssey," taking its name from the famous words of the late, great activist and Georgia senator, John Lewis.

For this inaugural course, students from a variety of academic disciplines came together to study History, Literature, Music, and Podcast Production with professors Gary Sprayberry (History & Geography), Courtney George (English), and Matthew McCabe (Schwob School of Music). Professors Jordan Brasher (History & Geography) and Sharon Renner (Health Science) also accompanied the group on their travels. Brasher and Renner will teach the next iteration of the course, which will be offered annually by the Honors College, and will utilize different academic disciplines each year.

Before traveling over spring break, students studied the mid-20th century Civil Rights Movement in class meetings. While the majority of travel took place over the week-long spring break, students also participated in individual day trips to explore sites in Montgomery, Alabama and Columbus, Georgia. The class kept a visual diary on the social media site Instagram (@makegoodtroublesu). During the second half of the semester, after the spring break travel, students created a podcast about their experiences to be released at a later date.

This course was sponsored by a National Collegiate Honors College Portz Grant obtained by the Honors College. The grant provided funding for the spring break trip and for podcasting equipment. Further support for travel was provided by CSU's Faculty Center for Teaching & Learning, as well as the Center for Experiential Learning. - Dr. Courtney George

HONS 3555 - Make Good Trouble: A Civil Rights Odyssey, cont.



If you are interested in sponsoring this trip next spring to allow more students to have this experience, please contact the Honors College!

While on the Make Good Trouble trip, I had a multitude of experiences. I stood in the courtroom where the Emmett Till murder case took place, I looked through the motel windows where Martin Luther King Jr. was shot, and I walked across the Edmund Pettus bridge where Bloody Sunday took place.

The trip was an eye-opening experience all by itself. I learned about the "I am a Man" movement, where hundreds of black sanitation workers protested about the deadly and unsafe working conditions that they dealt with. I learned about education during the Civil Rights Movement, which I discussed in our final project podcast with Bailey Melton. We discussed the unequal pay between black and white school teachers and other controversial topics during the time.

Like all courses that travel or are being taught for the first time, we ran into our challenges along the way; however, that didn't stop me from learning about my history as an African American and taking advantage of what the trip had to offer. I hope other Columbus State students will take part in this class or courses like it for years to come.

- Mariah Lewis, Student

From Selma to Memphis during Spring Break we went on a mission to "Make Good Trouble." I felt like I was walking through a time capsule and getting a whole new perspective on the Civil Rights Movement. The best experiences throughout the trips were always unexpected. For example, when we went to Brown Chapel AME and a woman spoke about her firsthand account with Bloody Sunday, or standing at Jackson State University and a random visitor coming up telling us she lived through it, to running into a friend of James Meredith.

It was memories like these that have changed my entire life. This was a trip of such heavy history, like visiting the Emmett Till site at Bryant's Grocery store, the courthouse, seeing the Jet magazine cover... seeing where MLK was assassinated.

It is an experience that I would encourage everyone to be a part of. What better way to experience history than to follow the steps of others? We were also able to experience blues [music] clubs, and I distinctly remember one of my friends turning to me and saying, "I never thought I was a blues fan until now."

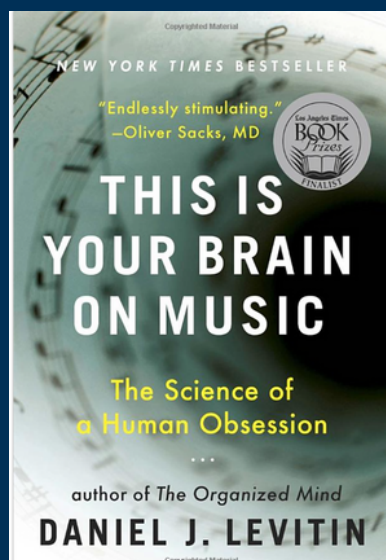
In our podcast, we discussed the under-representation of women of the movement. I remember one of the people saying, "I saw Ike, but I didn't see Tina." That is a statement that stood out to me the most because it held true.

History surrounds us and I think many people would find it shocking how many people have their own stories to share.

-Heidi Parsons, Student



HONS 3555 - Your Brain on Music



The Spring 2022 HONS 3555 course "Your Brain on Music" was co-taught by Drs. Lauren King and Reba Wissner for the first five weeks and Dr. Reba Wissner for the remainder of the semester. In the course, students examined topics related to anatomy, biology, physiology, psychology, and music.

During the course there were specialist guest speakers, including music therapists Emily Pivovarnik and Erica Gibbons, who spoke on music therapy at the beginning and end of life. Dr. Joshua May, Assistant Professor of Voice and Opera Director in the Schwob School of Music, also spoke on the anatomy of the human voice.

HONS 3010 - Houses of Worship

After Spring Break, our students participated in a field trip based enrichment course entitled "Houses of Worship" with Honors Faculty Fellow in-Residence, Dr. Ryan Lynch. In this course, students learned about sacred spaces and religious traditions in the Columbus area by traveling to a mix of churches, temples, and synagogues to meet with religious leaders, talk about the architecture of worship spaces, and to learn more about the religious traditions that we find in the Chattahoochee Valley.

About the course, Dr. Lynch said: "A major part of what I wanted to do with our students was to give them an opportunity to enter into these religious spaces of worship that they might drive by regularly. Because if you are not a member of that community, what reason would you typically have for entering? Religion plays such an important role to many in the American South, and Columbus is no exception. It's my belief that our students can discover so much more about our community while they are here in Columbus by learning about the things that are important to their neighbors."



HONORIS CAUSA

Honoris Causa, the Honors College student organization, had a busy and productive spring! Honoris Causa members began a new tradition this year with their "Campfire Conversations" series. This event brings together Honors College students in a very informal atmosphere to discuss what is going right in the Honors College and things that could improve. They plan to continue this each semester.

Honoris Causa students also helped volunteer with the Columbus Road Runners, Feeding the Valley, and Oxbow Meadows. They also helped with the Honors College 2022 Presidential Interview Day, where the 2022-2023 scholarship recipients were chosen. The members assisted in making sure the incoming students were comfortable and at ease.

Other events included bowling, an ice cream social, the end of the year picnic, study hours, kickball with Servant Leadership, and - of course! - the monthly meetings.



LAUREATE SOCIETY

The success of the Honors College wouldn't be possible without the Laureate Society. This society consists of individuals who believe in our students and have made contributions to support and encourage them to dream great dreams and aspire to greatness.



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 Hargrove
Tim and Mariana Money
Frank and Debbie Moody
Torrey and Laura Wiley
Dr. Karen Laska and John Laska
Richard Ussery
Kirk and Cindy Ticknor
Jim and Nancy Buntin
Sharon Caldwell
Allen and Tracy Pettis
Howell and Mary Hollis
Patti Carreker
Tony and Mary Jane Link
Bill and Zada Feighner
Charles and Peggy Batastini
Bill and Susan Brogdon

Jimmy and Ruth Yancey
John and Linda Shinkle
Janet Davis
Gary and Kathy Allen
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
Bob and Marion Behar
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
Michael and Shara Smith
Kevin Stanford
Mark and Rashmi Hudson

*Many
Thanks*

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!



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