

# *Aspirations*

Spring 2023

Volume 7

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*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.



HONORS COLLEGE  
COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

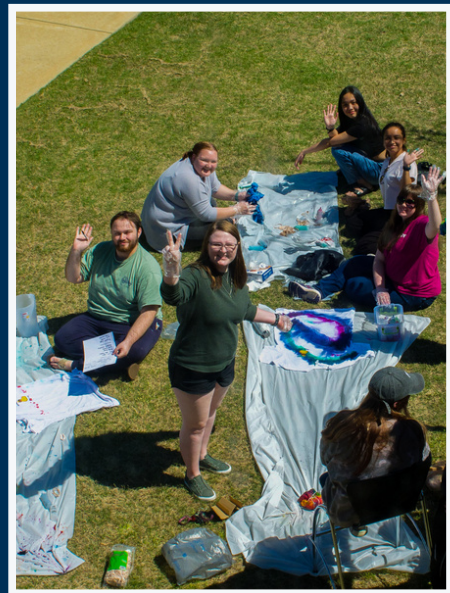
# Spring Highlights

As flowers bloomed all across campus, our students were busy turning a new leaf! We are proud of this semester's accomplishments by our students - whether they were only just beginning or preparing to find a new place to grow.

This semester's courses explored many topics - with lots of connections to cultural significance. Before the spring semester even began during the J-term, 18 students in HONS 3555 had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to go directly to the source to study the effect of health disparities on Black communities, which culminated in a trip to NOLA to study the lasting impact of Hurricane Katrina. The spring semester HONS 3555 had a focus on the intersection of jazz and politics during the Civil Rights Era. Other courses this semester involved a deep dive into international politics and an analysis of the recent resurfacing of many politicians 'caught' wearing Blackface.



Students enjoy conversation and food at a monthly meeting!



Students wave to our photographer, Tyler Sierra, in the window while they tie-dye!

# 2022-2023 Senior Projects and Theses

**Les Anderson - B.A. Communication (Film Production)**

**Mentor: Prof. Christopher Robinson**

*Thesis: Mise en Scène: Healing through a Cinematic Lens*

**Ian Becerra - B.S. Chemistry**

**Mentor: Dr. Jonathan Meyers**

*Thesis: The Design and Activity of Novel Antimicrobial Hairpin Peptides*

**Maya Davis - B.S. Health Science**

**Mentor: Dr. Meshack Achore**

*Thesis: Food Justice and Public Health: A Systematic Literature Review of Food Insecurity Prevalence Among Black and Indigenous Populations Before and During COVID-19*

**Kaylee Day - B.B.A. Accounting**

**Mentor: Dr. Joshua Brooks**

*Thesis: The Anatomy of Accounting Fraud*

**Tasya Diaz - B.B.A. Accounting**

**Mentor: Dr. Charles Boster**

*Thesis: The Effects of Artificial Intelligence on Accounting Jobs*

**Bradley DeFore - B.S. Computer Science Cybersecurity**

**Mentor: Dr. Yesem Peker**

*Thesis: Quantum Computers and Their Effects on Cybersecurity*

**Hannah Dickerson - B.A. Music Education**

**Mentor: Dr. Michelle Folta**

*Thesis: Music, Not Mayhem: Using Music to Transition in the General Education Elementary Classroom*

**Sabrina Fisher - B.S. Earth and Space Science (Geology)**

**Mentor: Dr. Clinton Barineau**

*Thesis: Tectonic Significance of the Western Blue Ridge Marble Hill Hornblende Schist, Southern Appalachians (USA)*



# 2022-2023 Senior Projects and Theses

**Molly Foster - B.A. English (Creative Writing)**

**Mentor: Dr. Allen Gee**

Thesis: *Letting Fantasy Flourish: A Deeper Appreciation Into the Art of Genre Fiction by Crafting My Own Fantasy Novel, "Destiny's Call: Rise of the Wolf"*

**Nicole Kincaid - B.A. Political Science**

**Mentor: Dr. Tesa Leonce**

Thesis: *Comparative Healthcare Analysis: The Application of Swedish Healthcare Funding Model in United States*

**Kayleen Linge - B.S. Mathematics & Earth and Space Sciences**

**Mentor: Dr. Rosa Williams**

Thesis: *Identifying Supernova Remnants*

**Keenan Pasqua - B.F.A. Theatre Performance**

**Mentor: Prof. Larry McDonald**

Thesis: *Contemporary Technique in a Classical Test: Applying the Meisner Acting Technique to Shakespearean and Contemporary Text*

**Rick Rodgers - B.S. Interdisciplinary Studies**

**Mentor: Dr. Gary Sprayberry**

Thesis: *The Chattahoochee River Valley Story: From Columns of Smoke in 1865 to Whitewater Rafting*

**Timothy Sabau - B.S. in Political Science**

**Mentor: Dr. Daewoo Lee**

Thesis: *Sino-American Competition in the Field of Artificial Intelligence*

**Kaitlyn Shepherd - B.S. in Kinesiology**

**Mentor: Dr. Kate Early**

Thesis: *Gender Disparity in ACL Injury*

**Destinee Williams - B.A. English (Professional Writing)**

**Mentor: Dr. Judith Livingston**

Thesis: *By Women and About Women: Analyzing the context of 19th-century literature centering women*



# Scholastic Honors Awards



Interdisciplinary Studies  
Award  
**Sonya Mahon**



Scholarly Activities in  
Humanities Award  
**Destinee Williams**



Scholarly Activities in  
Professional Studies Award  
**Kaylee Day**



Scholarly Activities in Fine  
Performing Arts Award  
**Keenan Pasqua**



Scholarly Activities in  
Science Award  
**Sabrina Fisher**



Scholarly Activities in  
Social Science Award  
**Timothy Sabau**

# 2022-2023 Awards Ceremony

The 18th Annual Honors College Award Ceremony took place on Saturday, May 6th at the Green Island Country Club. This is a special event we host to ensure our graduating Honors students are given an opportunity to display just some of the fruits of their labor at Columbus State University. This was a congregation of students, donors, family, and friends who came by to learn about and celebrate the research and activities being pursued by CSU honor students.

During this ceremony, each graduating student provided a brief discussion of the contents of their thesis while thanking those who helped support them.



# Honors Student Accolades

Honors Students have continued to produce exemplary work, and are being justly rewarded. Here are just some of the highlights.

- Kaitlyn Shepherd was Columbus State University's honoree for this year's Board of Regents Academic Recognition for the University System.
- Sabrina Fisher, Mary Buchanan, and Bailey Melton have all been accepted as visiting students at the University of Oxford this Fall, with Ms. Reid and Mrs. Rehrauer joining them as site directors.
- Elise Snow won an Award of Excellence for her Poster Presentation at Tower Day.
- Cassidy Fine and her partner won an award of Excellence for their Virtual Presentation at Tower Day.
- Mitdalia Alonso won the Highest Recognition Award for her Poster Presentation at Tower Day.
- Felicity Acosta recently came back from her time abroad at Oxford and had this to say about her experience:
  - "I went to Oxford for a semester and studied pure math, and what I learned is that there is always going to be more to learn, and you can also grow as a student. It was challenging and it taught me to have more self-motivation in my academics and research."

## *Congratulations*



# Faculty Awards

## Outstanding Teaching In the Honors College Award Winner

**Dr. Jordan VanHemert**



“He went above and beyond in teaching his honors class. He set a high standard for what it means to be an effective teacher at Columbus State University. His method of delivering information differed from what I was used to, but it really helped me. He is truly an outstanding teacher! He is an amazing professor who is both engaging and interesting. Not only does he try to connect to his students on their own level, but he does his best to understand and help us through college. He has worked tirelessly during his brief period at CSU to educate our students on topics most others are afraid of. He is a very kind professor and his 'UnGrading' theorem is a fascinating new approach to learning - especially within the Honors College. He truly changed my perspective on jazz music and its ties to African American history and society. Also, he is a very kindhearted person who genuinely cares about his students' well-being and helps them to think critically and creatively. I wish to nominate him because he is both a phenomenal musician and teacher. I feel he deserves this award more than any other. He has been my absolute favorite professor this year.”

# Faculty Awards



## Outstanding Mentor In the Honors College Award

**Dr. Chandler Padgett**

"She is an outstanding mentor because she has stood by me and helped me evolve, not only academically, but in my honors progression since I entered nursing school. I used to be concerned about how I would finish honors after entering nursing full-throttle. However, she took me under her wing and was excited about how I could expand my Nursing school experience with Honors. She started as my assigned Junior level nursing mentor, but shortly after, moved up to the graduate level, in which she was no longer teaching on the Junior level. However, that didn't hinder her from remaining as my mentor, helping me complete two Honors contracts, developing my Senior thesis, and promising to continue her mentorship with me even after college. She has always supported my ideas, encouraged me when I was overwhelmed, and guided me when I felt uneasy or undecided. She has even participated in offering other healthcare majors advice on how to navigate nursing through my organization the Future African American Healthcare Professionals Society because is always so eager to help students thrive in any way she can. She is an outstanding mentor and deserves this award."



# Our Own Boren Scholar



- Junior History major Bailey Melton also studied abroad through the **Boren Scholarship** during the Fall - CSU's first ever Boren recipient! This scholarship awards up to \$25,000 for a semester to study a critical language in a different country, with a service commitment to the Federal government following graduation. We asked her a few questions about the process.

## *- What is the application process like?*

"The application is pretty long. There are two essays that you have to write in addition to a detailed budget and study plan. You also need to coordinate letters of recommendation and official paperwork showing you're a university student and you've been accepted into study abroad programs in your host country. CSU's study abroad office, the Center for Global Engagement, is a great resource where you will get a lot of assistance when you're in the process of filling out your application and after you have been notified that you are a recipient. My best advice for the application process is to start early!"

## *- Where did you travel to? What did you study? What inspired you?*

"I studied the Arabic language for 6 months in Amman, Jordan. I always knew I wanted to study abroad and I ended up studying Arabic for a year before I left for Jordan because I was always interested in Middle Eastern history. Arabic has always seemed like a really interesting, challenging, and beautiful language."

## *- How has this contributed to your college experience? How did the Honors College help you prepare?*

"This study abroad opportunity was an amazing experience that gave me the confidence to pretty much completely change what I wanted to study in graduate school. From more advanced classes to amazing honors professors/mentors, the Honors College played a significant role in preparing me for the rigorous academic experience of completing a full language and cultural immersion."



# More from our Boren Scholar

*- Is there a community for students that receive the scholarship, so that you can connect with others?*

"Regarding on-campus, we now have multiple students who have received this prestigious scholarship and we would love to get together to discuss and connect with other recipients.

Now for a larger community of recipients, Boren actually conducts multiple country-specific briefs before recipients leave the country. At these events (either in-person or virtually), you get to connect with other recipients who have similar interests AND are going to the same country around the same time as you. Personally, I ended up becoming a part of a WhatsApp group that I am still a part of, and we use it to not only relay information and tips about living in Jordan, but also to ask each other for advice on Boren processes that take place during and after our time in Jordan. While in Jordan, I got to meet up and hang out with other 'Borens' and ask for advice for living and studying in Jordan. Other Boren recipients are really your best resource when you have questions about the scholarship or the requirements because someone else has probably already dealt with the same issue.



Bailey Melton at the famous site of Petra in Jordan

# HONS 3000s

## HONS 3020 - The Art of Card Games

Hosted by Dean Ticknor, honors students met weekly on Friday to learn about cards. This included developing an understanding of games such as Spades, Hearts, Murder, Bridge, and Pounce (the favorite of the class!). Not only did they learn about these games, they also honed their skill of logic while socializing with peers. Even after class meetings came to a close, students still came by Dr. Ticknor's office for a deck of cards.



## HONS 3355 - The Jazz and Politics of the Civil Rights Movement



Civil rights era protest

This spring, students had the opportunity to explore an interesting intersection - jazz and political movements during the Civil Rights era. As with all HONS 3555 courses, the course was co-taught, by jazz professor Dr. Jordan VanHemert, and political science professor Dr. Daewoo Lee. After spring break, Dr. VanHemert gave a majority of the lectures, as Dr. Lee was on paternity leave following the birth of his daughter (congratulations, Dr. Lee!). This class began with the roots of jazz and grew all the way into its many vibrant genres, while students enjoyed reading historic statutes and listening to musical samples.

The class enjoyed many informative documentaries as well as a visiting lecture from Dr. Tammy Kernodle on the evolution of hymnals into protest songs during the marches of the '60s.



# HONS 3555: The Evolution of Health and Health Disparities: A Civil Rights Odyssey



A group of 18 honors students were shepherded by Dr. Sharon Welburn and Dr. Caroline Newhall through various sites across Atlanta, Tuskegee, Montgomery, and New Orleans. At these sites, students expanded their perspectives and discovered health disparities such as HeLa cells and the "Mothers of Gynecology."

This special Jan term Honors offering took this group of honors students to multiple states, where they engaged with sites that centered around the course topic of health disparities in relation to Civil Rights.

One of the core aspects of the Hons 3555 courses is their emphasis on cross-disciplinary learning, and this offering was no different. Students were able to approach the topic of Health Disparities through two different lenses, thanks to the different specialties of the professors. Dr. Welburn provided students with a perspective from the sphere of Epidemiology thanks to her Ph.D. in the respective field. Dr. Newhall provided students with a completely different perspective, thanks to her Ph.D. in 19th-century History. Together, they were able to offer unique insights, due to their cross-discipline approach.

Prior to the shorter one-day trips and the longer four-day trip to New Orleans, the class congregated in the classroom and developed the fundamentals and context necessary to fully appreciate the destinations they would later visit. Speaking of which, the class visited Atlanta, Tuskegee, and Atlanta again for all of their one-day trips. Then, for their large four-day trip, they started with a visit to Montgomery, Alabama, and then the rest of the three days were spent in New Orleans. In these cities, students took many pictures and wrote reflections on their experiences at each site.

Overall, the students tackled the topics of the "Mothers of Gynecology;" the unconsented experiments of Dr. Sims on enslaved women; Henrietta Lacks and the messy medical history surrounding her cancer cells; the horrors of the Tuskegee Syphilis Trials; and finally, they examined Hurricane Katrina and its socioeconomic inequalities.



# HONS 3555: The Evolution of Health and Health Disparities: A Civil Rights Odyssey - Part 2

## Student Stories

What did you find most fascinating from the things you learned?

"When we visited the Whitney plantation in Louisiana, we were able to understand the architecture better, since it reflected the reality of plantations being a place of business. Nothing had any polish or glisten; in being from Atlanta, the plantation we visited helped highlight how they were places of business. It was kind of scary and reflected the horrors of slavery, from the conditions of the shacks to even the overseers having rundown houses. The big house itself was very ugly to me. Slavery is not pretty, and the trip solidified that."

- Kennedy Buckner (English Major, African American Studies Minor)



Photo Credit: Elise Snow



Photo Credit: Sam Kimball

What location did you enjoy the most? What were some of the things you took away from there?

"My favorite location was the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama. The museum exposed us to a lot of new and intriguing information. This was done by an interactive and flowing screen, which was a reprieve from the standard and life-draining text on the wall. Also, the museum didn't just stop at slavery, but instead showed how after one oppressive system ended came a new one in the form of mass incarceration. Overall, I learned stories of old and gained a new perspective on life as the mundane troubles that I face are small and insignificant compared to the troubles of my forebearers."

-Justin Jessie (Computer Science Major)

What was your favorite place visited, and what resonated with you?

"My favorite place I visited was probably in Montgomery, at the Mothers of Gynecology Museum. It shed light on and gave a different perspective from what may be taught in school about the history of gynecology. I was completely unaware of Betsy, Anarcha, Lucy, and plenty of other women who unwillingly gave up themselves for the advancement of gynecology, which has led [the field] to where it is today. The woman who created the museum expressed this history with art and were very passionate, which was an awesome experience to show how important this was. I'm very thankful I was able to go with the class after learning this."

- Felicity Acosta (Pure Mathematics Major, Data Science / Comp Sci Minor)



Photo Credit: Felicity Acosta

# Just Causa

This semester, our student organization had lots of great fun. Our March meeting sent students on a wild goose chase by searching for shamrocks. We got to tie-dye this year's shirt as a group (ducks!!), which made for a unique impression on campus. In April we even used our meeting as an opportunity to get honors students involved in the environment and do some planting of their own! Our students have worked hard this semester, but have found the time to have a little fun too.

Students in Honoris Causa also had many opportunities to volunteer, helping clean up trash around Columbus, as well as helping out with events at Oxbow Meadows. Student volunteers also assisted at Maple Ridge Golf Course and with the Columbus Road Runners.





# Laureate Society

The Honors College certainly would not be where it is today without the generous assistance of the Laureate Society. This society consists of individuals who believe in our vision and support our students. Their many contributions have invigorated Honors students and enabled them to not only have high aspirations but also to fulfill them.



Mr. And Mrs. Gary Allen  
Mrs. Peggy Batastini  
Ms. Elizabeth Biggs  
Mr. & Mrs. William Brogdon  
Dr. & Mrs. James Buntin  
Ms. Sharron Caldwell  
Mr. Robert Anness & Mrs. Katarine Cannella  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Cardin  
Mrs. Diane Dana & Mr. Mike Goodman  
Ms. Beverly Mack Davis  
Ms. Ashlyn Dewberry  
Mrs. Susan Dolan  
Ms. Emma Elder  
Ms. Skye Evans  
Dr. & Mrs. R. Clark Gillett, Jr.  
Mrs. Richard Hallock  
Mr. John Hargrove  
Mr. & Mrs. Howell Hollis III  
Mr. Paul Holmer Monte  
Mr. And Mrs. Bruce Howard  
Ms. Jo Huffman  
Dr. Shikha Shah  
Mr. & Mrs. Torrey Wiley  
Mr. & Mrs. James Yancey  
Dr. Eddie Obleton  
Dr. & Mrs. Alonzo Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob May  
Ms. Janet Davis

Ms. Tara Huffman  
Mr. Thomas Huffman  
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Hughston  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Richard Joyner  
Mr. & Mrs. Kelsey Kennon  
Dr. Paul T. Kettering III  
Ms. Rachel Lambert  
Dr. Kayron Laska & Mrs. John Laska  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lewack  
Dr. & Mrs. David Lewis  
Dr. Ryan and Mrs. Jackie Lynch  
Mr. & Mrs. Dominador Manio  
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Money  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Moody  
Dr. & Mrs. Vincent Naman  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Patton  
Ms. Michelle Perez  
Ms. Ellie Pippas  
Ms. Grace Pippas  
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Pippas  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Reinier  
Mr. & Mrs. John Shinkle  
Dr. Ed Helton  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Sidall  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Smith  
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Spears  
Ms. Patty Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ussery  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Waite

*Thank You*





## Our 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.

## Our 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!