

ASPIRATIONS

FALL 2024



Aspirations is the newsletter of the CSU Honors College, which provides updates, features, and information for the honors community. On behalf of the Honors College staff, we hope you enjoy Aspirations and welcome any ideas for future issues.

WHAT'S NEW?

ABOUT OUR
HONORS COLLEGE

CONVOCATION



We started this academic year with another Honors Convocation where we gathered over 175 students and (re)introduced what it means to be in Honors.

Students broke out into groups based on their field of study and could speak with faculty members who managed their programs.



Students also outlined three goals to start the semester off with clear, personalized tasks.

Laureate Luncheon

On Thursday October 17th, we once again hosted our Laureate Luncheon at Green Island. This is our annual celebration to connect honors scholarship recipients with our dedicated donors.



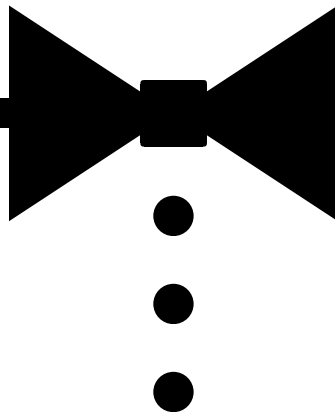
Scholarship recipients spent time talking with Honors College donors and telling them about their past successes and plans they have for their futures at Columbus State.



A big thank you to everyone who attended!



BLACK & WHITE CEREMONY



In early December we held our annual Black and White Ceremony to celebrate our Fall 2024 pin recipients and honors seals.



Some graduates participated in a brief panel conducted by Dr. Lynch, where they were able to reflect upon and share their time and experiences in Honors and at CSU.



Honoris Causa

As always we were proud to host many events for Honors students through Honoris Causa. This ranged from our Back to School picnic at the beginning of the year to our Friendsgiving celebration in November.



For our first meeting of the semester, students played an icebreaker minigame with a beach ball.



Later in the semester, we had a meeting where students gathered to make gingerbread Haunted Houses.



Honors 3555: The Search for Truth

Our HONS 3555 “Great Conversations” courses have always been among the most unique classes a student will take at Columbus State. While the entire Honors curriculum is built around an interdisciplinary approach to a student’s studies - letting them be exposed to topics that are important but would not always be a part of their traditional major - Great Conversations courses are special.

Co-taught by a rotating pairing of professors every semester and on totally different topics, part of the value of our Great Conversations is that they push students to think differently. But there’s a secret behind these classes: they often really push our *professors* to teach in a new way, and to address topics in a form that challenges them, too.

This Fall semester, however, was even more different than usual. The sudden passing of beloved Honors Faculty Fellow Dr. Scott Wilkerson, who was scheduled to lead the course on the topic of “Dreams and Dreaming,” meant that the college needed to adapt. We wanted to honor Dr. Wilkerson’s interests while also appreciating that no professor was going to be able to teach the topic in the way he would have. But thankfully, as it so often does, the Columbus State community came together to adjust.



Dean Ticknor reached out to Dr. Ed Helton, a retired philosopher who has served CSU in many roles over the years including as the head of the Leadership Institute, to lead a course entitled “The Search for Truth.” In so many ways, the class fit this moment especially well. The very nature of “truth” has become elusive as both technology and society have shifted. In addition to thinking about the long-term meaning of truth from the perspective of a philosopher, our students were joined by a wide variety of professors from around campus to provide many approaches to the theme, which included Dean Ticknor (Mathematics Education) herself, along with Dr. Lester (Vice President of External Affairs), Dr. Lynch (History), and Dr. Vidal (Political Science), Dr. Susan Hrach (English Literature), Director Mike McFalls (Pasaquan & Bo Bartlett Center), and Dr. Dan Rose (Counseling Center). As is the tradition of Great Conversations, the students’ final presentations engaged everyone as they explore difficult questions such as “Historic Revisionism: Is it bad or good?” and “Social Media: Who are the gatekeepers?”

Students grappled with issues such as AI image creation being used to manipulate history. Who, for instance, could forget the moment that British Prime Minister Winston Churchill defeated heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson?
(Image created with X’s “Grok AI”)



This was not the class that our students had originally signed up to take, but they more than rose to the occasion. Nothing would be able to fill the loss of Dr. Wilkerson to our community. But this was a small way to commemorate a creative and caring professor through a course that deeply considered issues of reality and fiction.

HONS Enrichment



One of our premier honors seminars this semester was Honors 3000: Video Game Music

This seminar was hosted by Dr. Reba Wissner, and honors students were able to learn and explore the connection between music and video games along with the history of video game music.



These pictures are from a session where students used a scene from "Untitled Goose Game" to create Foley Art and recreate some sound effects.

BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC



Students made a splash
last summer at our Back
to School Picnic



Events

FRIENDSGIVING

In November, we had our Friendsgiving dinner before the students left for their break. They had a nice meal of chicken tenders for their last big honors event of the year.



PAINT THE TOWN

This year, Honoris Causa was active in CSU's Homecoming festivities and went downtown to paint a window and a paw on campus to show our school spirit!



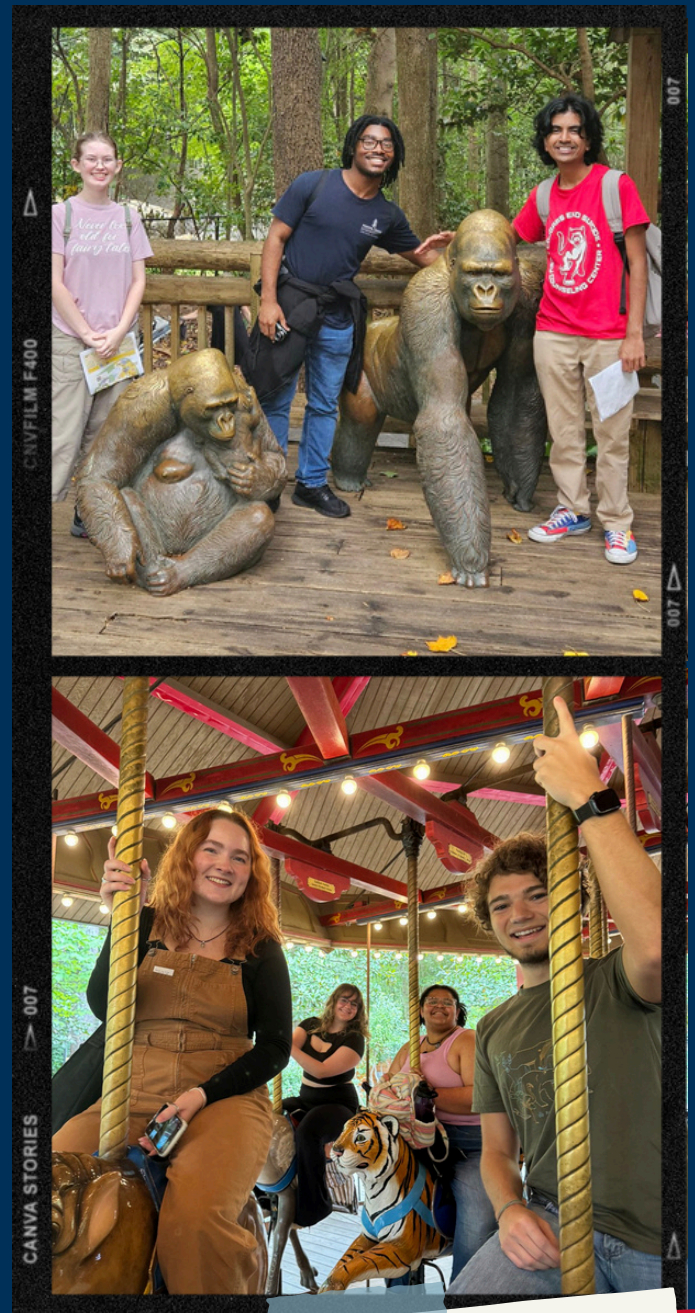
DAY OF SERVICE

For our Day of Service, many students chose to volunteer their time to support Girls Inc.!



Atlanta Zoo

We had a wild time at the Atlanta Zoo this semester!



Students swapped textbooks for tickets for a wild life adventure!

Trunk or Treat



The past few years, Honors students have been working hard to collaborate on events with other student organizations.



We joined Uteach, the History Club, and the Creative Writing Club for our annual Trunk or Treat event. Events like these really help build community on our campuses!

In Memoriam

1951 - 2025



It is with heartfelt gratitude that we honor the memory of Dr. Barbara Hunt, whose vision and dedication paved the way for the Honors College that we know today. A long-serving CSU English professor, she played a key role in our community as the founding Director of what was then the Honors Program some 25 years ago. While her passing leaves a profound sense of loss, we take comfort in knowing that her legacy lives on in everything our students experience today.

A beacon of unlimited knowledge and inspiration, Dr. Hunt was a remarkable educator with a keen ability to support each student who crossed her path. She not only guided students through the curriculum but also helped them navigate life's challenges with a kind smile and boundless patience.

"Somehow, Dr. Hunt saw potential in me and gave me a chance," says Nicole de Vries, a former student. *"I attribute all of [my career development] to that initial seed of her pushing me forward."*

"I love my life now, and I think she's a great part of how I got to where I am. Being with the people in Honors opened my eyes to the potential that maybe I could do [great] things too"

Dr. Hunt's influence will continue to shape lives for generations to come. She reminds us of the power of encouragement, mentorship, and unwavering belief in the potential within ourselves and others.

Laureate Society

Mr. and Mrs. R. Gary Allen
Mrs. Peggy H. Batastini
Mr. Josue Becerra
Dr. and Mrs. James E. Buntin
Ms. Sharron Caldwell
Mr. Robert Anness and Mrs. Katharine Cannella
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Cardin
Mrs. K. Michele Carlisle
Ms. Stephanie Carney
Mrs. Kelly Cooper
Mrs. Diane Dana
Ms. Beverly Mack Davis
Ms. Janet W. Davis
Ms. Jessica Demarco-Jacobson
Ms. Ashlyn N. Dewberry
Mrs. Susan Dolan
Dr. William Edwards
Mr. Mick Etchison
Dr. and Mrs. R. Clark Gillett, Jr.
Mrs. Richard Hallock
Ms. Amy Hamilton
Mr. John T. Hargrove
Dr. and Mrs. Ed Helton, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Howell Hollis III
Mr. Paul Holmer-Monte
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Howard
Mr. and Mrs. Edgar M. Hughston
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Joyner
Mr. and Mrs. Jack B. Key III
Mr. and Mrs. Kelsey Kennon
Dr. Lauren King
Mr. Tyler Krug
Ms. Rachel Lambert
Dr. Kayron Laska and Mr. John Laska
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Lewack
Dr. and Mrs. David F. Lewis
Dr. Ryan Lynch and Mrs. Jackie Lynch
Mrs. Hildagine Manio

Mrs. Rayonna McGregor
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Moody
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Money
Ms. Abby Moore
Dr. and Mrs. Vincent A. Naman
Dr. and Mrs. Eddie Obleton
Mr. Donald Osborne
Dr. and Mrs. Robert M. Patton
Mr. David Phillips
Ms. Ellie J. Pippas
Ms. Grace A. Pippas
Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Pippas
Mr. Kenneth Ragan
Ms. Diamond Rashad
Dr. Lydia Ray
Mrs. Jacquelynne Regan
Mrs. Geraldine Regnier
Mr. Richard Rodgers
Ms. Jazmin Rush
Mr. Timothy Sabau
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schley IV
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Schuster
Mr. Harrison Sharitt
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Shinkle
Mrs. Pamela Siddall
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Smith
Dr. Eric Spears
Mr. Matthew Swift
Ms. Patty Kimbrough Taylor
Ms. Maryah Thompson
Mr. William and Dr. Susan Tomkiewicz
Mr. and Mrs. Michael O. Ussery
Mr. and Mrs. Torrey S. Wiley
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Yancey
Dr. and Mrs. Alonzo Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Bob May
Dr. Shikha Shah



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
We would love your suggestions!