

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.

SPRING 2024



HONORS COLLEGE
COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

Spring Highlights



Students participated in a volunteer event with Begin Again Farms in Ellerslie, Georgia. They helped with preparations for a fundraiser, where the organization invited citizens to visit their trails and participate in an auction.

Another new event was the Sports Festival, which was held in collaboration with the International Club, EPIC, CHISPA, Second Story, and FSA. This was a fun event that emulated the joy of an elementary school field day.



This semester saw the return of the Honors Colloquia. Three gatherings were held where students were able to discuss topics that ranged from a popularity contest between Michael Jackson and Taylor Swift, to more pressing matters such as an AI panel, where specialists were brought in to discuss the issues. The final panel focused on the benefits and value of higher education.



2023-2024 Senior Projects and Theses

Zack Griffith - B.S. Biology, Competitive Pre-Medical Concentration
Mentor: Dr. Brian Schwartz

Thesis: An Investigation into Splicing Variation and Expression Patterns of Insulin-Like Peptide 4 (Ilp4) within the Drosophila Genus

Campbell Eubanks - B.F.A. Art
Mentor: Professor Yuichiro Komatsu

Thesis: What Does it Mean to be a Human in the Age of Artificial Intelligence?

Rakaiya Martin - B.S. Biology, Competitive Pre-Medical Concentration
Mentor: Dr. Monica Frazier

Thesis: An Exploratory Study of the Effects of Bis-substituted Triazolium Bromide Salts on the Proliferation of WI-38 Lung Cells and H-1299 Lung Cancer Cells

Bailey Melton - B.A. History
Mentor: Dr. Ryan Lynch

Thesis: From Victorian Doubt to American Deconstruction: Exploring Faith Crises Across Time and Geography

Arianna Poveda - B.A. History
Mentor: Dr. Bryan Banks

Thesis: Sacred Screens: Hinduism, Buddhism, Shintoism and Islam in Popular Culture

2023-2024 Senior Projects and Theses

Mia Padilla - B.A. History

Mentor: Dr. Andrew Zohn

Thesis: The Five Bagatelles of Sir William Walton

Jonathan Robertson - B.S. Political Science

Mentor: Professor Edward Berry

Thesis: An Anatomy of the Muscogee County Judicial System

Elise Snow - B.A. Chemistry, Biochemistry Concentration

Mentor: Dr. Wade Holley

*Thesis: Biochemical Analysis of Secondary Metabolites in
Eupatorium Serotinum*

Don'ya Truesdale - B.S.N Nursing

Mentor: Dr. Chandler Padgett

*Thesis: Reducing Mortality Among Black Mothers Related to
Postpartum Hemorrhage: Implementing Early Education and Risk
Assessments*

Eli Woods - B.A. English, Professional Writing Track

Mentor: Dr. Carey 'Scott' Wilkerson

Thesis: Girl Interrupted: A Second Wave Analysis

Scholastic Honors Awards

Interdisciplinary Studies Award



Lilly Patterson

Scholarly Activities in Humanities



Bailey Melton

Scholarly Activities in Fine & Performing Arts



**Mary Claire
Buchanan**

Scholarly Activities in Professional Studies



**Don'ya
Truesdale**

Scholarly Activities in Sciences



Rakaiya Martin

Scholarly Activities in Social Sciences



Ari Poveda

2023-2024 Awards Ceremony

On May 4th, we held our spring awards ceremony for our Honors students at Green Island Country Club. This is our annual send off for the graduating group of Honors seniors.



Graduating seniors presented abbreviated versions of their senior theses and are able to thank those who supported them along the way.



Georgia Collegiate Honors Conference



This semester, our students traveled to Dahlonega, Georgia to the University of North Georgia for the Georgia Collegiate Honors Conference. This was an excellent opportunity for students to present their research and interact with other scholars of honors programs. CSU had the second largest delegation at this statewide meeting!



“The Crisis of Faith actually came from one of the papers that I happened to write while studying abroad at the University of Oxford. The paper explored the historiographical debate surrounding the Victorian ‘Crisis of Faith’ in addition to actually exploring the reasons for the faith crisis. This paper actually expanded to become my honor's thesis that I have now successfully defended. I would say the most important thing I learned is that you should never underestimate how studying abroad can dramatically impact your future.”

-Bailey Melton *Graduating Senior, B.A. in History*

Faculty Awards

Outstanding Teaching in the Honors College Award Winner

Dr. Lauren Neal



“Her class is a discussion, and a great learning opportunity. Opinions are welcomed and encouraged, and students are challenged in the right way where we can be proud of our outcomes.”



Outstanding Mentor in the Honors College Award Winner

Ms. Jasmine Reid

Our outstanding Mentor of the year was nominated by two separate students. One student said that Jasmine “has reached out to me and other students with not just opportunities, but understanding on the best ways and actions to take to optimize our chances and future.”

HONS 3000s

HONS 3000: City as Text



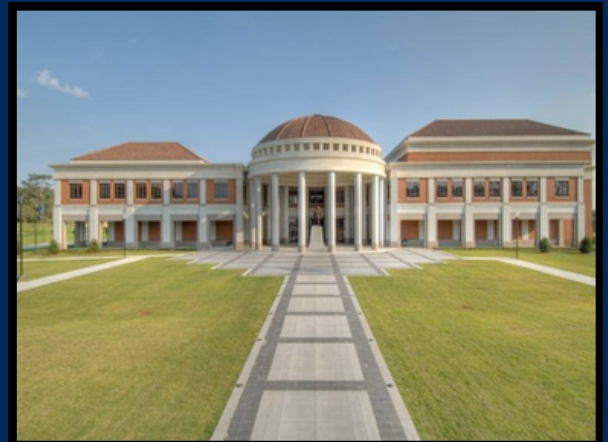
In order to prepare students for a study abroad course in Quebec this summer, Dean Ticknor led students through a seminar where they visited landmarks and sites in Columbus so they could take note to compare and contrast with sites in Quebec.

HONS 3000: Through the Curator's Lens

Professor Owings led a seminar of nine students to explore how history, art, and culture are preserved and remembered in public spaces. The seminar provided a broad overview of the fundamental philosophies and techniques of museums and archives, including preservation and exhibit design.

It also included discussions on historical interpretation and the construction of memory - along with advice on career opportunities and graduate school options.

Students also had the opportunity to visit six local area museums! Through these trips, students received special behind-the-scenes tours of the National Infantry Museum, the National Civil War Naval Museum, the Columbus Museum, Historic Fort Mitchell, the Coca Cola Space Science Center, and the Bo Bartlett Center.



HONORS 3555: Book Banning

This semester, our co-taught “Great Conversations” class was on the topic of Book Banning, taught by Dr. Gierhart (Education) and Dr. Williams (Sociology). They engaged students with the issues by using an interdisciplinary approach that make these Honors experiences so valuable.



Throughout their time in the course, students were tasked with analyzing why certain titles were banned in the first place. They then used their research to develop arguments on whether or not the ban of a title should be repealed.

Students were also divided into groups and were tasked with choosing one of three children's' books. They then created a presentation summarizing their choice and arguments on if the book deserved to be banned or not.



“Frank discussion
of sexuality”
“Religious
skepticism”

“teaches critical
race theory”

“LGBTQIA+ content,
about transgender
youth”

"Being a part of Honors 3555 exposed me to the importance of literacy for all ages and the liberty to read all books across the nation."

-Evan Mathis, Astrophysics-Planetary Geology Major / Physics Minor

Just Causa

Honoris Causa continued to host monthly meetings which provided an opportunity to gather and connect with other Honors students.



One of the highlights of this semester's meetings was the St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt we held in March. Students raced around Illges to find as many shamrocks as they could to win prizes.

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. & Mrs. Gary Allen
Mrs. Peggy Batastini
Dr. & Mrs. James Buntin
Ms. Sharron Caldwell
Ms. Verna Campos
Mr. Robert Anness & Mrs. Katarine Cannella
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Cardin
Ms. Stephanie Carney
Mr. Kenneth Couture, Sr.
Ms. Joan Cramer
Mrs. Diane Dana
Ms. Beverly Mack Davis
Ms. Jessica Demarco-Jacobson
Ms. Ashlyn Dewberry
Mrs. Susan Dolan
Mr. and Mrs. James Feighner, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. R. Clark Gillett, Jr.
Mrs. Helen Green
Mrs. Richard Hallock
Ms. Amy Hamilton
Dr. & Mrs. Ed Helton
Mr. John Hargrove
Mr. & Mrs. Howell Hollis III
Mr. Paul Holmer Monte
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Howard
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Howard
Ms. Jo Huffman
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Hughston
Mrs. Lynn Jenkins
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Richard Joyner
Mr. & Mrs. Kelsey Kennon
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Key III

Dr. Lauren King
Mr. Tyler Krug
Ms. Rachel Lambert
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lewack
Dr. & Mrs. David Lewis
Dr. & Mrs. Ryan Lynch
Mr. & Mrs. Dominador Manio
Mrs. Rayonna McGregor
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Money
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Moody
Ms. Abby Moore
Dr. & Mrs. Vincent Naman
Dr. And Mrs. Eddie Obleton
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Patton
Dr. Lydia Ray
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Reinier
Mr. Timothy Sabau
Mr. And Mrs. Frank Schley
Mr. & Mrs. John Shinkle
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Siddall
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Smith
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Spears
Ms. Patty Kimbrough Taylor
Ms. Maryah Thompson
Mr. Lealava'a Tuiolosega
Mr. Michael Tullier
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ussery
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Van Allen
Mr. Ferrell Weatherman
Mr. & Mrs. Torrey Wiley
Mr. & Mrs. James Yancey

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
We would love your suggestions!