



## Research Conferences Showcase Student Innovation

Several students in the UNG Honors Program presented their research at local, state, and regional conferences this year.

The **Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference** was held January 24-25 at Columbus State University and offered students opportunities to present their work to peers and faculty from other institutions. Four students from the UNG Honors Program presented their research.

**Teri Jones** presented her research on how authors who were considered minimalist may have communicated their stories beyond the use of words. She used visual art to demonstrate how Raymond Carver, in his story "Cathedral," employs a narrative style meant to shift focus from the surface of the story, though words used may often draw attention to themselves. "It is always exciting to present your work to others. While preparation for the event can be demanding, the rewards exceed the work involved," Jones said.

The **Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Conference** was held in February at Middle Georgia State College. Twenty students representing all three campuses presented their work.

"The Honors Program has provided several wonderful opportunities for me as an undergrad," said **Joshua McCausland**, who won first place in the Natural Sciences division at the conference. "I've helped the community through Relay for Life and Habitat for Humanity, in addition to scholarly pursuits like writing an undergraduate thesis, presenting at conferences like GCHC, and applying myself in the Honors classes. Because this fantastic program has pushed me to succeed in so many areas, I believe I've grown as an individual."

### "20 for 20" Campaign

The UNG Honors Advisory Council is reaching out to Honors alums to ask for your support as we approach a milestone in the history of the Honors Program. 2015 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Honors Program on the Dahlonega campus. To commemorate, we are embarking on a "20 for 20" campaign by requesting a \$20 donation of Honors alums and other friends of the UNG Honors Program. You will be receiving an invitation to participate soon.

We thank you in advance for your support!

*Nicole Bronsted Wagner*

President, UNG Honors Advisory Council

Honors Alumna, Class of '12

Nine students from the Honors program participated in this year's **Southern Regional Honors Council Conference**, "Making Waves: Tradition and Innovation in Honors," in Savannah, GA in late March. Honors students participated in a dinner boat cruise and tour of Fort Pulaski. The following two days saw students presenting, moderating, and networking alongside over 600 other Honors students from across the region.

This year, the University of North Georgia saw record growth in the **Annual Research Conference** held on all three campuses. On the Dahlonega campus, an Honors panel was once again held; this year, the students focused on a survey of professors' and students' pet peeves. On both the Oconee and Gainesville campuses, Honors students played a leading role in conference execution and organization. Students served as moderators, checked presenters in and out, and introduced the keynote speakers. All three campus ARCs included dynamic speakers from a range of backgrounds: Jaspal Sagoo, Chief Technology Officer of the CDC, was keynote speaker at the Gainesville Campus. Dr. Tina Harris, Professor of Speech Communication at UGA, spoke at Dahlonega, and Dr. Maureen Grasso, Dean of the Graduate School at UGA, presented at the Oconee Campus.

**Woody Depew** presented a poster illustrating his research, which blended Geographic Information Systems technology and literature to produce a visual representation of British poet and social critic, Matthew Arnold's North American Lecture Tour. "I began this project with a desire to show the relationship between geography and Arnold's tour," Depew said. "By demonstrating his route and the modes of transportation he used, we hope to identify correlations, such as how population demographics may have influenced his choices. I was thrilled to find a personal connection between Arnold and my great-great uncle."



Biology major Joshua McCausland took home first place in the Natural Sciences division at the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Conference.

## Honors Program Forms Advisory Council

The UNG Honors Program is excited to announce the formation of an advisory council comprised of alumni, parents and community members. The Honors Advisory Council will play an important role in seeking resources for the Honors Program as well as advising the dean on long and short-term planning. HAC members will also assist students by serving as mentors, providing internships, serving as guest speakers, and attending Honors events.

"The increasing growth and caliber of UNG's student body begs increased infrastructure for the Honors Program," said Eric Skipper, Dean of Honors. "The Honors Advisory Council will help us to better support our students in the way of scholarships, research, study abroad opportunities, and enhanced facilities."

Founding members of the HAC are: **Jenny Clifford**, Bethlehem Christian Academy; **Sam d'Entremont '08**, Forsyth County Government; **Whitney Holcombe '09**, CVS; **Mary Jo Jester**, Heritage Bank; **Kelly Mathis Lee**, The Strong Gaddy Lee Wealth Management Group; **Eric Skipper**, UNG; **Mary Transue '04**, UNG; **Nicole Bronsted Wagner '12**, UNG; **David Walton**, Fox's Pizza.

The HAC approved bylaws at its July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.



## Study Abroad: India

**Amy Shim**, a junior Psychology major, recently traveled to India for a study abroad trip. Along with thirteen other students, Amy travelled to Goa, a small state in south-west India.



Part of the coursework was visiting schools and homes to collaborate with teachers and mothers. In a pre-school, Amy and others in her work group conducted student health assessments and taught the teachers how to do them. They also offered age-appropriate lesson plans, and they provided tips for taking care of special needs children. Amy also got to work individually with three children and their mothers. They interviewed the mothers about childhood development, and observed their daily interactions. Amy is pursuing child development studies, so this was particularly engaging for her. Being able to conduct research was "very enlightening."

Students and faculty took weekend day trips to cities, beaches, and tourist attractions, where they immersed themselves in local culture. Amy recalled that the experience "opened my eyes to new things, new people, and different ways of life." She explained, "Being emerged in the Indian culture was eye opening, fun, and amazing. I was surprised how easy it was to be immersed in the culture. India has a very rich culture, and I enjoyed every moment of my time there."

## Study Abroad: Oman

**Noah McDaniel**, a junior Arabic major from Lexington, KY, earned 12 hours of Honors credit during fall semester 2013 while studying at the Center for International Learning (CIL) in Muscat, the largest city in the Sultanate of Oman. Having completed level two of the five-level Arabic program at CIL, and having made connections with a number of other young adults there, including several students at Sultan Qaboos University, Noah yearned for a return trip. Already an experienced sojourner at age 20 with visits to Bangladesh, Belize, England, India, St. Martin, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates, Noah has become familiar and comfortable with Omani culture and customs. He knows Omani greetings (fairly lengthy but important processes), proper tones of voice, attire, etc. He also knows his way around Muscat, and he will get to use all of his knowledge during the 2014-15 school year, as he was recently selected for the prestigious David L. Boren Scholarship. This award will allow him to re-enroll at CIL and covers the totality of his expenses, including travel, apartment rental, and tuition – a value of up to \$20,000. Noah hopes to complete Arabic levels three and four during the upcoming school year, renew the friendships he made last fall, see more of the region, and make a return visit to the Musandam Peninsula (known as the 'Norway of the Gulf' because of its many fjords).



*Noah McDaniel (left) poses with friends on a beach at Muscat.*



## Nationally Competitive Scholarships

In Spring 2014, Honors students went above and beyond, claiming five nationally competitive awards. These scholarships, fellowships, and awards, totaling more than \$88,000, will enable students to study abroad, network with other like-minded scholars, and complete a bachelor's degree. **Joe Booth**, a recent graduate from the Oconee campus, was named a 2014 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Silver Scholar. His selection was based on scores he earned in the All-USA Community College Academic Team competition (administered by Phi Theta Kappa). This year, more than 1,700 applications for the scholarship were received.

In Dahlonega, **Noah McDaniel** was awarded the Boren Scholarship for study abroad. This nationally competitive scholarship enables students to study abroad for a year; in exchange, recipients commit to working for the federal government for a year. Only 165 scholarships were awarded nationally this year out of 868 applications. Noah, an Arabic major, plans to use his Boren Scholarship to return to Oman for the fall 2015 semester. **Jacob Dietrich**, was chosen as an alternate for the Boren Scholarship. Rising senior **Joshua McCausland** received one of only sixteen NIH Undergraduate Scholarships awarded nation-wide. This includes \$20,000 a year in scholarship funds alongside a paid summer internship at the NIH and a year of paid employment with the NIH after graduation.

On the Gainesville campus, two students secured prestigious scholarships. **John Dees**, a junior majoring in Environmental and Spatial Analysis, was named an Udall Scholar. One of just 50 in the nation, John is the only Georgia representative this year. The scholarship recognizes outstanding work in the fields of Environmental policy or Native American tribal policy, and includes a networking opportunity in Tuscon, Arizona.

*Honors Program students now enjoy library privileges equal to those of graduate students.*

# ALUMNI NEWS

## Class of 2002

**Iryna Ivashchuk** was recently selected 2014 *Florida Super Lawyers* "Rising Star" and a finalist for The Daily Business Review's 2014 Top Dealmakers of the Year in the category of Leasing.

## Class of 2004

**Michael Shaffer** saw two daughters graduate (Amanda from Dartmouth College and Catherine from Creekview High School) and his youngest (Madelyn) just turned 8. Michael is now president of U.S. Medical Scientific (medical laboratories for toxicology and genetics); his 'newest baby' is a 2014 Audi S8.

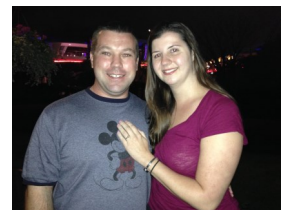
## Class of 2006

**Jordan Hembree** and wife Tinsley moved from Fort Bliss, TX to Fort Myer, VA in April. Jordan is currently serving with The Old Guard, and Tinsley is pregnant with their first child due in October. Jordan is scheduled to complete his MBA through the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University in December.

**Robert Rennie** passed his comprehensive exams at the University of Tennessee and travelled to Munich this summer to research at the Deutches Museum. He won a \$4,000 research grant for his dissertation, tentatively titled: *Death in the Air: The Luftstreitkräfte, Aviation Technology, and German Culture in the First World War*.

## Class of 2008

**Sara Clark's** fiancé, Ryan Brusco, proposed to her at Disney in front of the castle. The wedding is set for October 10!



Sara Clark and Ryan Brusco

**Kelly Howard** started with a new law firm as an Associate Attorney with McCabe, Weisberg, and Conway, LLC in Washington DC, which specializes in property and real estate. She also serves as a volunteer lawyer for the Homeless Persons Representation Project in Baltimore City. Kelly recently became engaged to Collin Reed, a computer software security specialist, and plans to get married in March.

## Class of 2009

**Tori (Arcus) Hilton** left her job in home health and is now working as a medical/surgical nurse at Piedmont Mountainside Hospital on night shift and loving every second of it.

**Whitney Holcombe** was promoted to pharmacy manager at the CVS in Ellijay.

**Tram Nguyen** graduated from med school (University of Pikeville) in May and matched into a military OB/GYN residency at San Antonio Military Medical Center, where she began her residency as a captain in the U.S. Air Force.

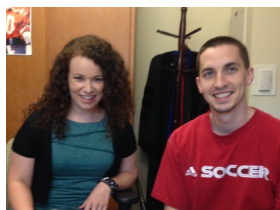
**Nate Shapiro** will be attending the M.D. Program at the Medical College of Georgia. He received funding from the Army Health Professions Scholarship Program and will begin as a 2nd Lieutenant.



**Heather (Stacey) Jantsch** completed her Masters of Science in Organizational Leadership from National University this past February and will be returning home shortly from her second deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan. She is still loving active duty, and during R&R from her recent deployment she crossed off one more continent from her bucket list. Heather spent two weeks in South Africa and Zimbabwe and loved it. She is happy to be moving back near home in the fall, and plans to attend Gold Rush.

#### Class of 2010

**Sara Brubaker** completed the DPT program at North Georgia and was one of just 12 physical therapists nationwide to be chosen for employment by the U.S. Navy. She will begin her career at the rank of Lieutenant and will serve as the Rehabilitation Department Head at the Naval Hospital in Beaufort, SC. She stopped by campus recently along with Eric Craig (class of 2011).



Sara Brubaker and Eric Craig

**Kasey Forste** is living in Palm Beach Gardens, FL and working as a RN at Martin Health Systems in Stuart, FL. She received a promotion last year to Clinical Coordinator of her unit and is studying to take the PCCN (Progressive Critical Care Nurse) certification exam.

**Winolee Furtney** bought her first home (in Dacula), and her first dog (Annie, a Doberman). She will complete her Masters this summer, and is planning on getting married in December or January to Chris Hanke.

**Kerry Griffith** lived in Haiti for about a year and a half as a volunteer and moved back to Georgia last year. She is married and is employed in Alpharetta by a non-profit that works in Haiti and in a few countries in Africa on sustainable development projects.

#### Class of 2011

**Chelsea Gibson** began her dissertation at Binghamton University in August. She's studying the interaction between Russian Revolutionaries and American Suffragists before 1917, so she is also learning Russian. She recently took on a managing editor position at the *Journal of Women's History* and is planning her wedding for October 2015.

**Lacy Talmage** started her fourth year rotations in Augusta with the UGA College of Pharmacy. She will graduate in May 2015, and hopes to get a pharmacist position in the Army.

**Mary and Tommy Jackson** had a baby girl, Elizabeth "Ellie" Ann on March 21<sup>st</sup> (8lb 3oz, 20"). Tommy is in his last year of the DPT program and Mary is still working as a case manager/home health with Amedisys.



Ellie Jackson

**Jesse Rockmore** will be starting school in August at the Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine--Carolinas Campus in Spartanburg, SC.

**Traci Lindberg** graduated from UGA with a Master of Arts in Teaching in Social Studies Education in 2013, and moved to Clarksville, TN where she received a job teaching high school U.S. History, Government, and Economics. She has also recently adopted a rabbit named Eleanor Roosevelt.

#### Class of 2012

**Ashley Huerd** completed her second year of medical school at Ross University in Dominica. She has been very involved in the School's community clinic program, which serves to aid the residents of Dominica.

**Katie (Pinkerton) Kerr** and her husband, Alex, are living in Augusta, GA and began their third year of medical school at MCG in July. This summer, they took the first part of their licensing boards, then flew to Cusco, Peru for a mission trip.

**Kaitlyn Klucznik** recently got a job with AT&T in Atlanta as an Associate Project Manager.

**Lindsay (Chitwood) Martin** is now in her third year at Southern College of Optometry, and began her first rotation of patient care at The Eye Center in Memphis, TN.

#### Class of 2013

**Katie Beccue** Is now living and working in Inner Mongolia, China teaching English to around 1,500 students a week. She reports that living internationally to teach ESL is both rewarding and challenging, an experience that she treasures and considers to be a continuation of her education.

**Kate Martin, John Hayes, and James Dodd** continue to represent us well at Vanderbilt. Kate received a NASA research grant, John received a training grant and joined a lab doing Organic Carbohydrate Chemistry, and James is working in a lab doing Mass Spectrometry. In addition, Kate and John were married in March. (And, James adds that he is the only one of the three who has supported the Vandy football team).

**Kerry McGill** finished her first year of the Molecular Biophysics Program at Georgia Institute of Technology and has been accepted into an electron crystallography lab run by Dr. Ingeborg Schmidt-Krey. She will be studying the structure of proteins bound or associated to the cell membrane by forming crystal arrays and imaging the proteins crystals with an electron microscope. She reports thoroughly enjoying graduate school, but notes that her cat, Parker, would like her to be home more.

**Megan Stowers** is living in Wyoming and working as a sheriff's deputy in the detention division for the Laramie Co Sheriff's Department.