



Honors Mentor Program

The Honors Program at the University of North Georgia (UNG), in an inaugural event, brought some of its students together recently with experienced mentors who are pursuing and achieving goals similar to the plans and dreams of their new mentees.

The Honors Mentor Program (HMP) is led by the Honors Advisory Council, an external group of alumni, parents and community members that advises the dean on planning and seeks resources for the program. The purpose of the HMP is to connect Honors students with successful alumni and friends of UNG Honors. The program provides opportunities for enhancing contacts and networking opportunities in the student's fields of interest. Mentors foster a developmental and professional relationship with students by offering advice on careers, interviewing skills, degree programs and graduate/ professional schools.

"I am happy to serve as a mentor and to find other mentors for our students," said Jim Mathis, President and CEO of North Georgia Community Foundation. "I have had many mentors in my life, and have learned values such as philanthropy, leadership, kindness and persistence from them. For our students to have dedicated mentors at this point in their lives builds their confidence — it lets them know they are heading in the right direction."

The inaugural Honors Mentor Program meeting was held on UNG's Dahlonega Campus on October 17.

"This is a great, permanent addition to our Honors Program," said Dr. Eric Skipper, Dean of Honors and Graduate Studies. "This is a chance to give our undergraduates a larger glimpse of what lies ahead in their student and professional careers."



Jenny Clifford, Honors Advisory Council member and Academic Dean of Bethlehem Christian Academy, talks with honors student Ashley Hamby during the first meeting of the Honors Mentor Program.

UNG's Honors Program comprises more than 300 students.

When the mentor program was announced, about a dozen students requested to be matched with mentors. The Honors Advisory Council examined each student's major, career track and other specific requests, and then began searching for mentors who match the student's criteria.

UNG graduate student Tommy Jackson turned out to be an ideal match for honors student Erin Taylor. Taylor, a junior majoring in biology, plans to enter the field of physical therapy and pursue graduate school.



DPT student Tommy Jackson and PT major Erin Taylor discuss a career in physical therapy.

Jackson is currently in his third year of UNG's Doctor of Physical Therapy program, and said he was glad for the chance to mentor a student with similar interests, as he wishes he could have had this experience as an undergraduate.

"There are many things I think this program will help me with, such as learning about the application process for graduate school and things I can be doing now to prepare for my career and continued education," Taylor said. "I also hope to meet more physical therapists and create other networking opportunities with Tommy's help."

Honors Advisory Council member Kelly Lee facilitated the HMP meeting. Lee explained the process for matching mentors with students, and stressed that special requests were given high importance. One student requested a mentor with military experience who had also spent time in China, and Lee was able to find a retired Army officer living in Dahlonega who had spent most of his deployment in China.

"Our program is growing in numbers and excellence — our incoming freshmen, of which there are 66, have an average high school GPA of 3.97," said Michael DeNoia, President of the Dahlonega Honors Program and a senior majoring in psychology. "It's important that our students have this mentor aspect of the program, as it will enrich their professional and academic development, which will help us accomplish the program's mission: Impact through excellence in leadership, scholarship and service."

Glazer to Spend Semester In Israel Attending Hebrew University

Rachel Glazer is the recipient of a flagship fellowship called the Nachshon Project (pronounced “knock-shown”), which brings together up to 40 Jewish college juniors to spend their spring semester at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. The



Glazer will return home and spend her fourth summer working at Camp Coleman in Cleveland, GA.

participants are staff members at various Jewish summer camps of differing denominations around the United States and Canada. The goal of the program is to help young Jewish adults strengthen their understanding of the greater Jewish community and their skills as educators, advocates, and leaders so that they may step up and stand out in their fields and in American Jewry.

The Nachshon Project is highly selective and provides a full tuition scholarship for the semester abroad. Based out of the Rothberg International School campus of HU on Mount Scopus, Rachel will attend classes pertaining to her Gender Studies minor, as well as partake in weekly seminars, travel around the country for monthly Shabbatonim (Sabbath experiences), visit with innovative speakers, and build relationships within what will become a lifelong professional and personal support network. Along with her involvement with the fellowship, Rachel will also have free time to explore the land of Israel, connect with family and camp friends, and learn about the politics and culture of the Jewish State.

Upon her return home, Rachel will go straight into her work as a Unit Programmer at URJ Camp Coleman in Cleveland, GA. This will be her fourth year on staff, but this summer she will be able to implement a specialized program for her camp which she will develop during her semester abroad. After camp, the Nachshon network will provide support and mentorship during the graduate school application process, and should she decide to work in service to the Jewish community, the Nachshon fellowship provides further scholarship opportunities.

Community Service Highlights

Action, Inc
Elachee Nature Science Center
Empty Stocking Program with Dahlonega Jaycees
Georgia Mountain Food Bank
Habitat for Humanity
High School Quiz Bowl
Humane Society
LifeSouth blood drive
Lumpkin County Animal Shelter
Lumpkin County Family Connections
OCAF
Relay for Life
Robinson Elementary School Fall Festival
Study Abroad Showcase

“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. Give today at <https://unggive.org/give/2014-donation-form-2>

To those of you who have contributed already, we thank you for your support!

Nicole Bronsted Wagner

President, UNG Honors Advisory Council
Honors Alumna, Class of ‘12

Jones to Attend the School of Art Institute of Chicago

Teri Jones, a Honors Program student at the Oconee Campus, graduated in December as an Honors Program Scholar with an Associate’s Degree in Studio Art and Secondary Education. She has worked as a tutor for Math and English, and has recently become active in the research community. She has presented at GCHC, GURC, and UNG’s ARC. Most recently, she presented a paper at the Georgia Educational Research Conference entitled “The Imperative of the School Choice Option of NCLB: In Whose Interest?,” which has now been accepted for publication into the Georgia Educational Researcher Journal. Furthermore, she served as a reviewer of submissions for the same conference.

Her accomplishments in and out of the classroom have opened some promising pathways. Given her interest in art education, or more specifically, the use of art in educational delivery, Teri applied to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, the number TWO art school in the United States. She was accepted into the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Education program for Spring 2015. She was also awarded a \$16,000 SAIC Distinguished Scholar Scholarship, a merit award reserved for students who take the necessary creative risks essential to succeeding in the fields of contemporary art and design and whose work demonstrates extraordinary potential.

Teri is also a promising candidate for the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship, one of the more prestigious national scholarships, and one that would fully enable her to pursue her dream of studying education and art at SAIC.

Barron's Essay: "She Won't Have No Light': Temple Drake in Faulkner's *Sanctuary*," To Be Published

Gainesville Campus honors student **Brittany Barron** is doing all the right things to prepare herself for graduate school in English. In addition to accomplishing high achievement in her classes, receiving scholarships, working as a Supplemental Instructor, and presenting at research conferences, Brittany publishes essays and poetry.

Brittany specializes in Modernism and Trauma Theory. "Distressed heroines are something I'm drawn to," Brittany observed. She is apparently doing this quite well: her essay "She Won't Have No Light': Temple Drake in Faulkner's *Sanctuary*," will be published soon in *Momentum*, the undergraduate research journal at Columbus State University.

After having presented papers at local, state, and regional conferences, Brittany realizes that these venues offer her a chance to hone her work. Faculty members have been especially helpful: "It's a process with lots of revision. Professors have been involved in reading the abstracts, offering feedback, providing motivation, and sometimes even attending the conference presentation." Honors Upgrades (enhanced versions of regular courses) have also been a key component in this process: "The regular courses don't challenge me enough. The upgrades provide an extra push, which I look forward to."

Cameron Williams, Brittany's professor in a Gender and Literature course, exclaimed, "Brittany is one of the most impressive, most highly motivated students I've ever come across. She is genuinely interested in what she studies, and that enthusiasm comes across in her work. Her writing--particularly her literary criticism--is insightful and nuanced, and it displays her capacity for original thinking and sharp analysis."

Brittany's short-range goal is to get into graduate school; her long-range goal is to become a college professor. She excels at scholarship, but values teaching as much as research and writing: "Wherever I go I hope I'll be able to teach. Right now I'm a Supplemental Instructor, so I assist inside the classroom and work outside of the classroom with students, and just by doing that I know I love it." Apparently, she is very good at it. Professor Diana Edelman-Young, whom Brittany works with in English 1101, remarked: "Brittany is a conscientious, diligent, and thoughtful SI facilitator. She designs sessions around my material, provides handouts to students, and is always thinking about ways to improve her instruction methods."



Brittany Barron

ALUMNI NEWS

Class of 2004

Michael Shaffer has opened a new laboratory in Dothan, Alabama and has one under construction in Floyd's Knob, Indiana. His company, US Med Sci, has expanded its research into healthcare analytics, genetics and advanced imaging for early stage detection of ovarian cancer.

Class of 2005

Kim (Dempsey) Colbert recently spent a week in Ireland after her husband (Hagan Colbert, class of '05) returned home from Kuwait. In late June, she started new job as a Commercial Underwriter for Everest National Insurance Company. Kim lives in Peachtree City with her 4 year-old son and 2 year-old daughter.

Class of 2006

Leah (Kilpatrick) Hannaford just took a job as the Open Education Librarian at Centralia College in Olympia, Washington. That ended her eight years of service with the Army; she was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for her service as a Strategic Planner for Special Operations Command. She says she is "very stoked for my new job, which will give me opportunities for teaching and helping faculty with research full-time. I can't believe I am about to get paid to do what I love."

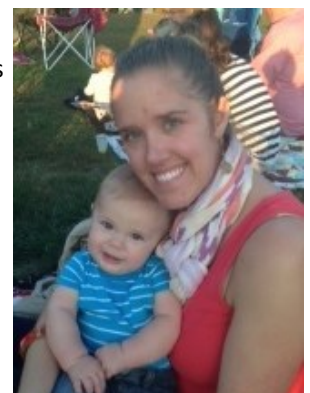
Class of 2007

Lauren (Foust) Petro lives in Winder with her two-year-old daughter Kahlan. Her husband is currently mobilized at Ft. Gordon in Augusta. She recently started a wedding planning business (www.sixpenceweddingconsulting.com) on top of her existing, highly successful photography venture (www.laurenpetrophotography.com). Lauren is also pursuing a series of photographic studies on generations of women (daughters, mothers, grandmothers, etc.) in the Athens area, drawing interest from Athens/Clarke County Library and the Madison County Library about potential exhibits.

Class of 2008

Rachel Gibson recently went through Johnson & Johnson's Microbiologist Analyst Training & Certification Program in Irvine, California.

Amanda (Springfield) Love works as a nurse educator at Northside Forsyth training all new nurses from North Georgia. Her son is 6 months old. She enjoys travelling to Dahlonega to stroll and hike as much as she can.



Amanda (Springfield) Love

Adam Thompson took command in September of C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment (C/ 2-11 FAR) in O'ahu, with six 155mm howitzers and 85 soldiers at his disposal. He recently returned from a trip to Europe, where he posed with a U.S. flag in front of Buckingham Palace.



Adam Thompson

Class of 2009

Tori (Arcus) Hilton is getting ACLS certified this month and recently earned a certificate for basic EKG interpretation. She was nominated for a "Bravo Zulu" at work for her positive attitude and patient satisfaction reviews. She volunteered to be on the Ebola team at Piedmont Hospital and has been practicing Emory/CDC standard infection control. Tori participated in the color run this October (photo) and as you can see, she had a blast.



Tori (Arcus) Hilton

Nate Shapiro finished his first semester in medical school at Georgia Regents University, where he's on the HPSP scholarship and serving as a 2nd lieutenant. Nate hopes to begin research in the spring, possibly on the topic of rehabilitation of muscles after dysphagia.

Leah (Springer) Umbehant finished PA school at MCG and now works in Family Medicine at the Longstreet Clinic in Buford. She says it is her 'dream job.'

Rochelle Tiedemann was the lead author of a 10-scientist Mayo Clinic team whose work on DNA methylation in the human genome was published last month in *Cell Reports* (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2014.10.013>). She is interviewing for postdoctoral positions at the Van Andel Institute (in Michigan) and at Harvard; Rochelle plans to defend her dissertation in April and will subsequently get to live with her husband, Davis, again.

Class of 2010

Kasey Forste is relocating back to Atlanta to start a job as a staff nurse at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. She'll be working at Egleston in the Cardiac ICU beginning in December. She is very excited to be coming back to Atlanta and beginning a career as a pediatric nurse.

Kristin (Young) Rosevear is currently living near Montreal, Quebec and is in her fourth year of teaching.



Kristin (Young) Rosevear

She is currently teaching second grade English and Math in a bilingual school system. Kristin's biggest news is that she and her husband (Brian) are expecting their first child in January!

Class of 2011

Lacy Talmage is graduating from UGA in May with her Pharm.D. degree, and is trying to find a job.

Class of 2012

Erika De La Cruz is doing clinical rotations for her DPT in Savannah at St. Joseph's Hospital. At the end of this rotation she will be heading to Galveston, Texas to work at the Transitional Learning Center (inpatient rehab for traumatic brain injury patients).

Class of 2013

Ana Laura Campos is back in Costa Rica working for the financial services company Copal Amba, a subsidiary of Moody's, as a Financial Analyst. She says she misses UNG and frequently craves Chick-Fil-A and Zaxby's.

Jacob Kelly is currently a 2nd year student in the DPT program at UNG, as well as the Resident Director of Donovan Hall. He's engaged to Margaret Kellum, who is a senior in the Early Childhood Special Education program. They will get married in May 2015.

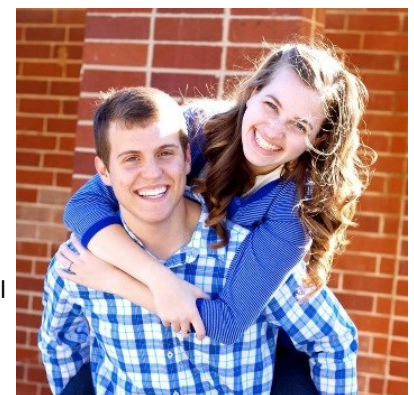
Class of 2014

Marcela Cotes is working at the Colombian head hunting company C&Z Consultants as a Junior Recruitment Consultant. She selects resumes and administers psychometric and personality tests. Marcela plans on starting her masters next year after relocating to England and hopes to study either human resources management or organizational psychology.

Ben Hefner is training full time in preparation for the 2016 Olympics, spending seven hours a day in the gym, on the track, or on the water. He recently took a part-time job working with Engineering for Kids, a program that organizes afterschool activities to get young people interested in STEM fields.

Katherine Jones began a new job in December as a Recruiting Specialist with MarketSource.

Jared Patterson was hired as a Residence Life Coordinator at Reinhardt University, where he supervises six RAs. Also, he and Abigail got married on June 28.



Jared and Abigail Patterson

Loren (Stowers) Schaper is working at Lumpkin County Middle School as the Spanish teacher and ESOL Coordinator, and is taking online graduate courses in Gifted and ESOL endorsement.