



“20 for 20” a Great Success

Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Honors Program, which was established on the Dahlonega campus in 1995, the Honors Advisory Council launched the “20 for 20” fundraiser in January 2015. To date, the initiative has raised just over \$10,000. Thanks to the generosity of the program’s alumni and friends, Honors was able to offer a record number of stipends for student study abroad, with seventeen awards on the Dahlonega campus, and three on the Gainesville campus. Students travelled to a wide variety of countries, including England, Taiwan, Belize, Germany, Spain, Bolivia, and Dominican Republic.



(Above, Michael Norman, center, on study abroad in Taiwan, spring 2015)

The “20 for 20” campaign will continue to run through December of 2015. The Honors Program hopes to use these funds to support additional study abroad, as well as student research, field trips, student conference travel, and facilities improvements.

Gainesville Campus Honors Graduates

In May 2015, UNG’s Gainesville campus honored the first two of its bachelor’s Honors graduates: John Dees and Jennifer Ford. The number of medallions awarded on this campus will increase substantially in coming years.



(Above, Nora Sutton accepting an award for her paper at the 2015 Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Conference)

(Below, John Dees and his family following commencement, May 2015)



Honors Advisory Council

Serving on the 2014-2015 Honors Advisory Council were Nicole Bronsted Wagner, HAC President and Tusculum College Development Officer; Jenny Clifford, Bethlehem Christian Academy; Sam D'Entremont '08, Assistant Solicitor General for DeKalb County Solicitor's Office; Whitney Holcombe '09, CVS; Mary Jo Hester, Heritage Bank; David Walton, Fox Pizza; Kelly Mathis Lee, The Strong, Gaddy, Lee Wealth Management Group; and Kelly Manley, UNG.

HAC's "20 for 20" campaign, celebrating the twenty year anniversary of the Honors Program on the Dahlonega campus, raised over \$10,000 in alumni gifts to support the program's ongoing commitments to student growth.

Wagner (*pictured below*) says that the Council hopes to establish an Annual Giving Society this year and to grow the mentorship program.



Study Abroad: Dominican Republic



With support from the Honors Program, Senior Maria Westerfield travelled in summer 2015 to Dominican Republic as part of a biology internship. Experience assisting with medical care and cultural immersion are two primary goals of this study abroad program. Westerfield, who hopes to attend medical school after completing her BS in biology, said that the internship expanded her awareness of the need for better medical care in many countries.



Sawyer Henderson, at tea in London, where he studied theatre, with assistance from the Honors Program, in summer 2015.

Study Abroad: Spain

Mahnoor Kamran received Honors funding to study this summer at Colegio Mayor Padre Poveda in Madrid, Spain, in pursuit of a Spanish minor to complement her biology major. During the course of her Spanish study abroad, she traveled to Toledo, Italy, London, Barcelona, France, and various other places.

Describing the benefits of her coursework and travels, Kamran stated, "I can most certainly say that I have gained far more than what I set out to, as far as my experience here. Not only have I been able to work on the upper level courses needed in order to attain my Spanish minor, but I have also improved exponentially in speaking Spanish. This study abroad trip gave me an opportunity to step completely out of my comfort zone and embrace the culture, language, and land. I can honestly say that I have grown and improved not only as a student here, but also as an individual, both mentally and psychologically."



UNG Honors Students Share Research at Conferences

UNG's Honors Program students offered presentations this past year at national, regional, and local conferences. At the [Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference](#), November 14-15, 2014 at Georgia Southern University, two Honors students showcased their research. Brittany Barron presented "Lily Bart's 'Process of Crystallization': Becoming Briar Rose in *The House of Mirth*," and Cassandra Dixon presented "'We Call them Greasers': An Intimate Look at a Broad Cultural War." In international competition, Barron's essay also won the Edith Wharton Society Undergraduate Research Prize.

February 27-28, the [Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Conference](#) at Georgia Southwestern State University featured the research of UNG Honors students Tim Bellows, Catie Blackwell, Jane Clifford, Karyn Davis, Michael Denoia, Joshua McCausland, Jordan Miller, Madison Muesse, Camden Pace, Brooke Oxley, Barry Strickland, Nora Sutton, Amy Rogers, Ellen Tomlin, Holly Williams, and Jialin "Callie" Yuan. Nora Sutton won second place in the Best Paper conference competition with "Fear, the Press, and Public Opinion: A Case Study of Lyndon Johnson's Vietnam and George W. Bush's Iraq."

Teri Jones (*right*) presented her study, "The Imperative of the School Choice Option of NCLB: In Whose Interest?" at the [Georgia Educational Research Association Conference](#), held in Savannah in October 2014.



The [Southern Regional Honors Council Conference](#) was held in Greenville, South Carolina, March 19-21.



Seven Honors students presented at the conference, including Corie Bolt; Jane Clifford; Charles Hall; Madison Muesse; Barry Strickland; Holly Williams; and Jialin "Callie" Yuan. (*pictured left*).

UNG was represented by two Honors students at the [National Conference on Undergraduate Research](#) in Spokane, Washington, April 16-18. Brittany Barron presented "'It Didn't even Hurt': Temple Drake's and Sula Peace's Resurrections"; Vu "Thomas" Tran presented "Susceptibility of North Georgia's Amphibian Population to Chytridiomycosi."

The Honors Program was well represented in the [UNG Annual Research Conference](#), held on Dahlonega, Gainesville, and Oconee campuses in Spring 2015. Students featured at Oconee included Holly Williams, Barry Strickland, Madison Muesse, Corie Bolt, William Brake, Megan Lauderdale, Laura Black, Miriah Sanders, Maria Weant, Joseph Holland, and Avery Shupert. Gainesville campus presentations were offered by Brittany Barron, Kameron Clark, Grace Cooper, John Dees, Woody Depew, Laura Dyer, Kim Griffin, Maria Hernandez, Chloe Kleinheinz, Mark Hoover, Emile T. Phommavongsy, Ye Hyeon "Amy" Shim, and Vu "Thomas" Tran. Dahlonega presenters included Jane Clifford, Caitlin McMullan, Jennifer Hightower, Sarah Orr, Heather Perona, Mark Craig, Benjamin Darnell, Emily Toliver, Jennifer Ward, and Rebecca DeCarlo.

(*Below: ARC Poster Session in the Dahlonega campus Library Technology Center*)



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UNG Honors Program.
Please make out your check to the
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Kimberly Miller
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Nationally Competitive Scholarships

The Honors Program is pleased to celebrate several winners of nationally competitive scholarships:



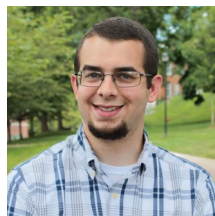
Rachel Glazer (*left*) was awarded a Naschon Project Scholarship to study at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She was also recognized as a Newman Civic Fellow.

Jacob Dietrich (*right*) won a Fulbright Scholarship as well as a Boren Scholarship.



Teri Jones (*left*) received a SAIC Distinguished Scholar Scholarship to the School of the Art Institute in Chicago.

Joshua McCausland (*right*) was awarded a 2014 scholarship by the National Institute of Health (NIH).



Obadi Obadi (*left*) won an NIH Scholarship for 2015.

ALUMNI NEWS

Class of 2005

Jan Hrabovsky got a new job with Wells Fargo and has moved to Charlotte, N.C. He is sad to be leaving Oregon, but is glad to be closer to Georgia and South Carolina.

Class of 2006

Ali Leonard is in the Biophysics Ph. D. program at the University of Maryland, where she is researching the interaction between beryllium and phosphoserine that leads to berylliosis. Ali is married with two kids, one 6 and one a year old. (*Right: Ali and Lily, the one-year-old, named after Harry Potter's mom and sporting Gryffindor colors.*)



Class of 2007

Annie (Sanders) Mendenhall partly composed and edited the custom handbook for Armstrong State University's first-year composition program. She and husband Shaun and are expecting their first child in October.

Class of 2009

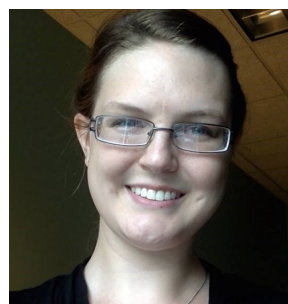
Jordan Chambers welcomed a daughter, Juliet, into the world last August (*right: Tyler & Juliet Chambers*). She'll be a big sister in November, as Tyler and Jordan are expecting a second child. After four years with IBM in China, Jordan worked with Veeam Software for 2 years and is currently in electronics distribution for Arrow Electronics. If anyone has questions about how to get involved in this type of work, please contact him at Jordan.chambers62@gmail.com.



Honors Highlight: Holly Williams

Holly Williams, a Psychology major at the Oconee campus, is an outstanding student scholar and a dedicated leader among her peers. Having been President of the Honors Program at Oconee since August 2014, Holly has helped refine program policy to maximize student involvement and overseen activities that have helped our fledgling program grow in stature. One highlight of her leadership was our successful community fundraiser last October. "Pasta Dinner at Fox's" gathered community leaders and program supporters for a pleasant evening of conversation and student presentations, raising \$500 for the Honors Program. Holly has also been a writing tutor for the UNG Writing Center and been involved in numerous service organizations, including the UNG Oconee Chapter of the Gay-Straight Alliance (Vice-President) and UNG Oconee Student Disability Services (Peer Mentor).

An active researcher, Holly has presented at GCHC, SRHC,



and UNG's ARC. Her paper "Improving Cognitive Function: As Easy as a Walk in the Park" won Best Presentation at Oconee ARC 2015. Supported by a FUSE grant with Dr. Katherine Kipp this past summer, Holly helped prepare "Uncovering

Information Literacy Deficiencies in Psychology Students," to be presented at the Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy this September. This past spring, she was awarded both the 2015 Outstanding Psychological Sciences Student Award and the 2015 Clark Theodore Outstanding Nontraditional Student Award. Most impressively, her academic achievements are guided by a humble spirit and a desire to help her peers and colleagues.

Honors Highlight

Senior biology major Obadi M. Obadi, president of the Honors Program at the Gainesville campus from 2013-2015, exclaims, "The experiences I've had, the lessons I've learned, the opportunities that have come my way, the doors that have been opened, I'm humbled, honored, and extremely grateful." Anyone who has worked with Obadi knows it's a two-way street: His outstanding service, leadership, and scholarship have strengthened UNG.

A native of Ethiopia with Ethiopian and Arab heritage, Obadi moved to Lawrenceville, Georgia, in 2010 to complete high school and pursue higher education. He obtained permanent resident status in the United States in 2014 amidst stellar achievement at UNG. In 2014, he was awarded the Clark-Theodore Outstanding Student Award, and in 2015, he won a National Institute of Health Scholarship. Dr. Anastasia Lin, Assistant Dean of Student Research and Scholarship and former Assistant Director of Honors on the Gainesville campus, describes Obadi as "a rare mix of intellectual acumen, leadership prowess, and exceeding enthusiasm."

Among the many academic and service conferences that Obadi has attended during his years at UNG, one that stands out is his presentation on carotenoids at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. As a result of his ongoing collaboration with his mentor, Dr. Evan Lampert, they are expecting publication in an academic journal. Obadi also serves as a Supplemental Instructor for Biology at UNG, Gainesville Campus Honors president, UNG ambassador, SOAR leader, and President's Leadership Program Scholar.

Obadi's interest in HIV/AIDS and cancer research stems largely from his service and volunteerism associated with hospitals and not-for-profit organizations in Ethiopia and the United States. His goal is to become a physician and work as a doctor who heals patients and a researcher who finds cures for diseases. Ultimately, he would find solace in working for Doctors Without Borders. Obadi revealed, "Wherever I go I want to be used for good in the world. I want to save lives in the United States and abroad. I would do this even without pay."



There is no doubt that Obadi will continue to lead people and communities to greater heights.

ALUMNI NEWS, continued



Rochelle Tiedemann completed her Ph.D. in biochemistry at the Medical College of Georgia and accepted a position with the Van Andel Institute in Grand Rapids, MI. She took in a Braves game during her final

victory lap just before her thesis defense.

(Above: Steve and Jennifer Smith with Rochelle)

Terrell Ussing recently represented Amazon.com, Inc. against the IRS in one of the largest tax cases in U.S. history, involving a tax bill of around \$1.5 billion. They won't hear back from the judge for about a year, and meanwhile his law firm was acquired by another larger firm, so he now works for Morgan, Lewis & Bockius.

Class of 2011

Bryant Bush graduated in May with his Master's degree in I/O psychology from Valdosta State, having volunteered to add a thesis to a non-thesis program, and had an article published in the June 2015 issue of the *International Journal of Selection and Assessment*. He plans to work for a couple of years before beginning work on his Ph.D.

Chelsea Gibson took an 8-week Russian course at Indiana University this summer. She is getting married in Skaneateles, NY on Oct 3rd to fellow Americanist Alex Jablonski (right), and ending her tenure as the Lead Managing Editor of the *Journal of Women's History* so that she can start writing her dissertation. Chelsea she plans to earn her Ph.D. by 2017.



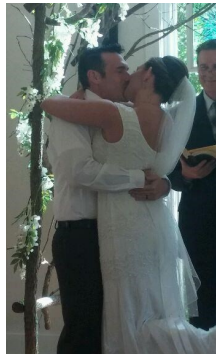
Tommy Jackson graduated from the North Georgia DPT program, and **Mary (Burnside) Jackson** got to fulfill her ambition of becoming a stay at home mom with daughter Ellie (age 1). Tommy is working at Pro Therapy in Blairsville and also as a PRN in home health in Habersham Co.

William Wilcox was promoted from 1LT to CPT in May. In September he will move from the Fort Stewart/Savannah area to Fort Lee, VA to attend the Combined Logistics Captains Career Course (CLC3). He and his wife are now expecting their first child in November.

More ALUMNI NEWS

Class of 2012

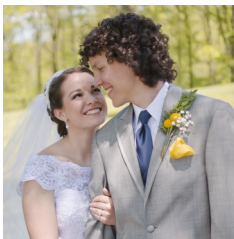
Christie (Hightower) Humphreys was married to D.J. Humphreys in May. (Right)



Class of 2013

Megan (Stowers) Barr got married on April 11th, having bought a house just a few weeks before. She and husband Jacob reside in Cheyenne, WY.

Kate Hayes did a fellowship at Goddard Space Flight Center this summer, and also received a *Scientist in the Classroom* fellowship through Vanderbilt for the upcoming school year.



Jacob Kelly was wed to Margaret Kellum in May (left), and is working with Walker Therapy in Gainesville; he will finish the DPT program in spring 2016. Jacob is still the Resident Director for Donovan Hall, so he and Margaret are living in the

dorm for their first year of marriage.

Kerry McGill got engaged to Andy Strickland and will get married on 11/11/17. (Right)



Taylor Turner is planning for her third year of teaching, and will be covering 8th grade science at Russell Middle School. She also won the "pigeon" at the Honors Program 20th reunion reception, fulfilling one of her life goals.

Class of 2014

Alex Ellis is happy to say that he's working as a Script Writer and Video Producer for Finicity in Gainesville, GA, and that he got married to Andrea Ousley on July 25th.



Ben Hefner is still training full time, and spent his birthday in Romania (since it was July 4, the President of the country brought a cake, left). Ben represented team USA at the World Cups and made the U23 team for both the world championships in Portugal and the senior world championships in Milan. He reports that paddling is "pretty much my whole life right now."

Katherine Jones moved to Alpharetta and is still working for MarktSource and rescuing kittens. She has begun taking Muay Thai classes and hopes to become a comic book hero as a result.

Katie Powell just finished her first year teaching 7th grade math at Lumpkin Co. Next year, she'll be covering 8th grade Physical Science, coaching high school volleyball and swimming, and pursuing her Master's in Middle Grades math & science through UNG.

Caitlin Ritchey is happily planning lessons for her second year teaching at Lumpkin County High School. She is also happy that her parents are finally back from overseas, after spending many years in Africa and South America.

Loren (Stowers) Schaper is expecting a baby boy (due in September) and just finished up her certifications in ESOL and Gifted teaching.

Class of 2015

Ashley Hamby received a 3rd grade teaching job at Fair Street School in the Gainesville City School system for the fall.

Josh McCausland has settled into an apartment in Rockville, Maryland where he works at the National Institutes of Health. He will begin sending out grad school applications in the fall, and his NIH fellowship will pay for his Ph.D. program.

Sydney Smith completed the audit section of the CPA exam on July 8th and will be sitting for the financial section later this month. Her goal is to complete the entire four part exam by the end of the year.

"20 for 20" Campaign

The UNG Honors Advisory Council is still reaching out to Honors alums to ask for your support as we celebrate a milestone in the history of the Honors Program. 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the Honors Program on the Dahlonega campus. To commemorate, we are engaging in a "20 for 20" campaign by requesting a \$20 donation of Honors alums and other friends of the UNG Honors Program. Please send checks, made out to **UNG Foundation**, memo line: **Honors Program**, to

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