



# THE ROUND TABLE

THE HONORS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



## SPRING 2019 BARBECUE GENERATES SUPPORT FOR HONORS ENRICHMENT

At the Honors Program's second annual spring barbecue, friends gathered to celebrate the year's accomplishments and learn about plans for 2019-2020. Honors Program students Jasmine Bouges, Erika Bowen, Tan Tonge, and Casey Gregors shared their research with faculty and community members. Providing entertainment for the event was the Nighthawk Ensemble, pictured below, left to right: Katelynn Black, Jonathan Tarrant, Jessie Jensen, and Sydney Schmitt. Also pictured below, in his UNG bandana, is Maxwell Bentley, graduating senior and owner of Bentley Media Group.

Honors Advisory Council members were among those present at the event. President Amy Burger took the opportunity to talk with attendees about the spring Career Workshop coordinated by the council, and Pete Mistr offered advice to students about getting started in the accounting field. Dean Tanya Bennett thanked Dr. Steve Smith for 18 years of meritorious service as Director of the program at Dahlonega, and announced that Steve will move into the role of Assistant Director next year as Dr. Royce



Dansby-Sparks takes over as Director.

Supporters donated \$1,800 at the event, helping to fund study abroad and academic scholarships, undergraduate research projects, and enrichment activities for Honors Program participants.

## HONORS PROGRAM GRADUATE HEADS TO VET SCHOOL



In May of 2019, Abigail English defended her Honors thesis and graduated, finishing an important chapter in her life. The preparation of her biology bachelor's degree, earned at UNG Gainesville, helped secure her a place as a first-year veterinary science student at University of Georgia in fall 2019. While at UNG, Abigail served as an Honors Program officer, engaged in undergraduate research, and presented her work at conferences. We wish Abigail all the best in her next phase of study!

## CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Honors Program saw some administrative transitions this fall. After 18 years as Director on the Dahlonega campus, Dr. Steve Smith moved into the Assistant Director role, and Dr. Royce Dansby-Sparks took the reins. Dansby-Sparks, associate professor of Chemistry, is excited for the opportunity to lead UNG Dahlonega's high-performing students, with field trips, undergraduate conferences, and leadership development activities on this year's schedule.

On the Oconee campus, Honors Director Katherine Kipp retired in May 2019, and Dr. Pam Sezgin, professor of anthropology, stepped into the leadership role. Dr. Sezgin plans to focus on recruiting and retention this year, with the intention of fostering a vibrant Honors learning community on her campus.

After four very successful years as Dean of Honors, Dr. Tanya Bennett decided to return to full-time teaching. Dr. Bennett provided outstanding leadership, guidance, and vision for the programs during her tenure. Much of the excellence of today's Honors Programs at UNG is directly attributable to Dr. Bennett's enthusiasm, initiatives and vision. Bill Gash, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs – Gainesville, will be working with the campus directors during the 2019 – 2020 academic year.

## UNG HONORS PROGRAM ROLLS OUT NEW RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COURSE

As a component of the Honors Research and Innovation Minor, Honors offered HNRS 3500 Research and Innovation for the first time in spring 2019. As the first two students to declare the new minor, Taylor Malasek and Jessie Jensen served as the first team of Honors Program students to partner with a local entity through HNRS 3500 for the benefit of the community. Malasek and Jensen were connected with UNG Student Health Services to help with a project exploring local honey's effectiveness in reducing rhinitis for North Georgians. Nurse practitioner Stella Head and health educator Meri-Leigh Smith designed the study to include volunteer subjects from both on- and off-campus. Supporting this research project's launch, the students worked with Head and Smith to establish a volunteer-recruitment and retention plan in support of the project.

The goal of the course is to provide students with project management and execution experience for the direct benefit of the community. Malasek explained, "It [the course] required me to determine the goal, create a plan, and work with others to reach the best outcome possible." Students reviewed previous studies on honey as a treatment for rhinitis, as well as research on volunteer recruitment and retention. They visited local businesses to determine optimum recruitment venues and surveyed UNG students regarding factors that might deter participation in the study. "It [this project] has shown me the importance of bringing together the local citizens and the campus," said Jensen.

Dr. Tanya Bennett, who taught the class, said that the challenge of an unexpectedly delayed IRB approval required Malasek and Jensen to adjust the scope of their plan and manage client expectations, and they did so admirably. "The students' respectful and enthusiastic interactions with the community helped to build trust for future collaborations of this kind," said Bennett.

## HONORS PROGRAM PARTICIPATION IN SPRING 2019 CONFERENCES

One of the advantages of being in the Honors Program is the opportunity to work closely with faculty on research projects that often result in scholarly publications and/or presentation(s) at conferences. This past Spring Semester students took advantage of this opportunity. Listed below are the conference attendance and presentations – Listed by conference

### Southern Regional Honors Council

#### Oral Presentations

##### Jasmine Bouges

– "The Hurdles of Overcoming Racial and Gender Bias in Machine Learning and Facial Recognition Algorithms"



**Samantha Franklin, Katie Ethridge, and Kayla Grimes** – "Feeding Habits of Cloud Forest Neotropical Butterflies"

**Megan Garity** – "The Potato's Role in Irish Culture"

**Jenna Labbie** – "Damsels of Distress: Examining Gender in American Horror Films"

#### Poster Presentations

**Caroline Brown** – "Protein Prenylation and Implications in Alzheimer's Disease"

**Erica Bowen** – "Photogrammetric Method to 3D Scan Insects"

**Rachel Rockas** – "Strategies for Success in Small Business Bakeries"

### 2018-2019 Academic and Study Abroad Scholarship Recipients

Several Honors Students included time studying abroad during the past academic year

**Gabriella Fleck** – Spain

**MacKenzie Ford** – Spain

**Natalie Macy** – Spain

**Katherine Merck** – Dominican Republic

**Micaela Tierce** – Tanzania

### UNG's Annual Research Conference

**Mason Goad** – "How Quantum Computers Affect Cryptography, and What That Means for the U.S. Intelligence Community"

**Madison Hill** – "From Collective memory to Personal Coping mechanisms: The Genre of Obituaries"

**Alyssa Howard** – "Discrepancies in the graphical representation of a perfectly competitive industry's short-run supply curve in principles of microeconomics textbooks"

**Amanda Kelley** – "A Decline in the Killing of Kids: An Examination of the Juvenile Death Penalty"

**Kevin Lin** – "An Examination of Social Engineering Regarding Phishing Emails"

**Melony Mead** – "Historic headstone Typology in Lumpkin County"

**Puong Pham** – "The U. S. Economic Paradox after the 2008 Financial Crisis: Expansion of Money without Inflation"

**Dana Robinson** – "Are Juvenile Sex Offenders a Danger to Society: Examining the Public Perception Surrounding the Recidivism Rates of Juveniles"

**Katelyn Shook** – "Ethics and Familiarity with Wildlife Population Management"

**Emily Shrewsbury** – "Accessing Novel Metal Organic Frameworks Using Reticular Chemistry"

**Brooke Tate** – "Electrochemically Modified Sol-gel Films for Selective heavy metal binding and Quantification with Total Reflection X-Ray Fluorescence"

**Victoria Wood** – "Larval Settlement Patterns of Spirobranchus giganteus and Bispira brunnea"



**Oral Presentations**

**Kindred Carrier** – “Reasons for Living moderates the Relationship Between Generalized Anxiety and Suicide”



**Mackenie Ford** – “Consumption, Conservatism, and Conventionality: America in Post-Modern Literature”

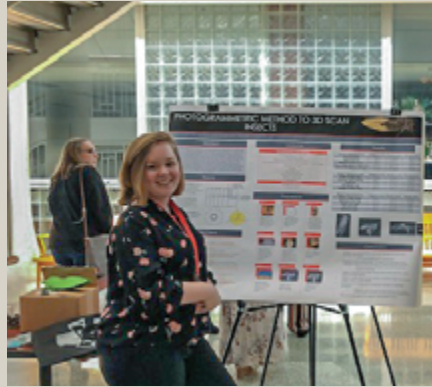


**Madison Hill** – “Only Mostly Dead: Defining Language Death Its Stages”

**Sharon Jackson** – “Graphic Design and Chemistry”

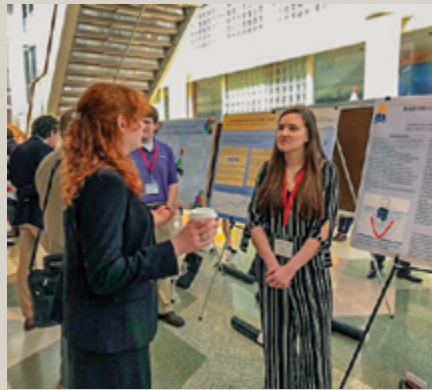
**Natalie Macy and Samantha Richey** – “A Cross Cultural Examination of Attitudes about

**Poster Presentations**

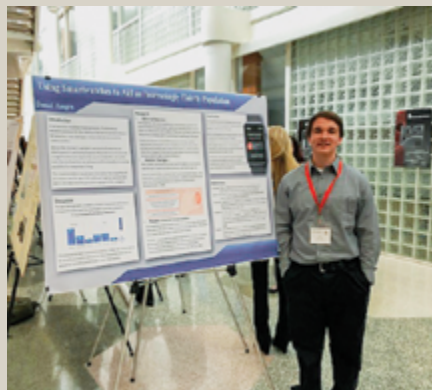


**Erica Bowen** – “Photogrammetric Method to 3D Scan Insects”

**Kyle Fromme** – “The Returns of Physical Activity on the Elderly”

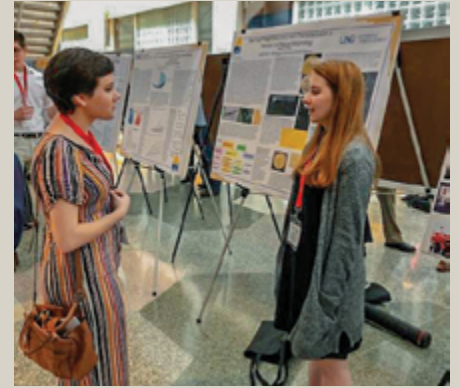


**Casey Gregors** – “Hydrotherapy as a Better Choice for High-Risk Elderly”

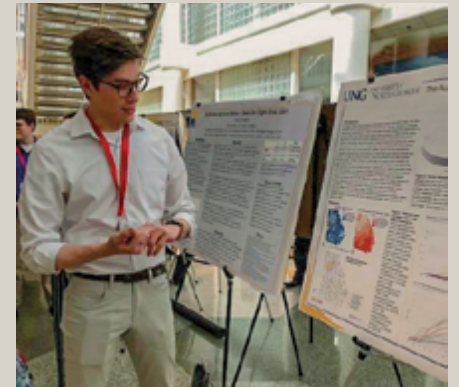


**Daniel Haugen** – “Using Smartwatches to Aid an Increasingly Elderly Population”

**Mark Leggiero** – “Using 3D Printing to Optimize Research in X-Ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy”



**Alex O’Neal** – “Xian Yue Phage Discovery and Characterization in Relation to Plaque Morphology”



**Wesley Rhinehart** – “The Adverse Effects of Climate Change on the Elderly”

**Tan Tonge** – “Smartphone Use Among Elderly People”

**Victoria Wood** – “Larval Settlement Patterns of Spirobranchus giganteus and Bispira brunnea”

# ALUMNINEWS

## Class of 2003



Lori Partin reports having obtained a new puppy. Her 5-year-old Lab is ok with him. The montage of photos documents this

reception.

## Class of 2006

Robert Rennie got married to Dr. Katie Kleinkopf in May and they have since moved to Louisville and are “enjoying the area immensely.” Robert just began work as a history professor at Indiana University Southeast.

## Class of 2007

Lauren (Foust) Petro graduated from Walden University in May with a Masters in counseling and is now working as a mental health counselor at Jones Behavioral Health in Augusta, Ga. In this private practice she sees teenagers and adults with a variety of issues, but specializes in military families and culture.

## Class of 2008

Rachel Gibson is still working for Johnson & Johnson in Athens, where she serves as a Quality Assurance and Control scientist, specializing in chemistry and microbiology. She recently bought a new house (pic at right) and joined the ranks of first time homeowners.



Amanda (Springfield) Love and family have moved to “downtown Dawsonville” while Amanda continues to work at Northside Forsyth Hospital.

## Class of 2009

Tori Hilton just started the first semester of an accelerated FNP program at Kennesaw State. She is working PRN for Northside Cherokee in the ICU but reports that her life “has become buried in text books and case studies, but I am enjoying it.”

CPT Nate Shapiro was assigned as a flight surgeon to the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade in Savannah, GA and got engaged in June.

## Class of 2011

Chelsea Gibson is serving this year as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the History Department at SUNY-Binghamton. Chelsea is also serving as Treasurer at the Phelps Mansion Museum, where she has been on the board for over two years.

## Class of 2013

Heather Bryan is still working for the City of Gainesville as a Senior Planner. She is getting married to fiancé Cody on October 19th and recently started an online Doctorate program at Valdosta State (in Public Administration).

John and Kate Hayes left Nashville behind and recently relocated to Washington, DC. John started a new job on September 9th as a rum distiller for Cotton & Reed Distillery. Kate is finishing up her data science fellowship next week.

Katie Hughes graduated with a Masters in clinical counseling from Brenau University in May. She completed a thesis titled The Relationship Between Childhood Neglect and Adult Attachment Style and she published it as sole author and is now interviewing for a therapist position.

## Class of 2014

Rachele Giles is now Rachele Hollis and she is no longer a student, but a practicing pharmacist, working with Publix. She finished her Doctor of Pharmacy program in April 2018 and was married in October 2018.

Jared Patterson graduated with his Masters in Public Administration at UNG in May and also welcomed a son, Josiah, into the world last November. As of this writing, Josiah is being discouraged from becoming a Tennessee football fan.

## Class of 2015

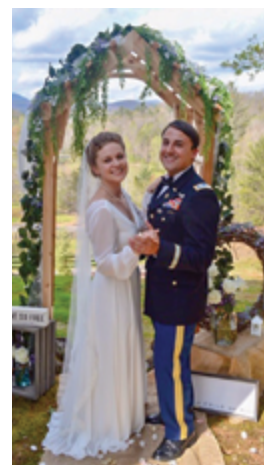
Philip Akins is in his first year of medical school at Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine, and reports it is going great so far. His wife Natalie and daughter Teddy are doing well.

Karley Barcus is still working at American Greetings in its supply chain department but got promoted in May as one of their managers. She will be graduating with an MBA in spring 2020 from Abilene Christian University, with a concentration in supply chain and operations management.

Tim Bellows started working as a Social Media Specialist/Copywriter for a new company called BrightFire last October. Since then, he has also been promoted to Project Manager on top of the previous roles. Tim and spouse Abby bought their first house, in Suwanee, in July.

Sydney (Roth) Colombo got married on July 19, 2018 to Peter Colombo, her long-time love and fellow UNG alum. They now reside in New Hampshire, near Dartmouth College, where Pete is an MBA candidate at the Tuck School of Business.

Sydney is working as an RN at Dartmouth's inpatient nursing unit and is also still an Army nurse in the Georgia Guard, working with the Medical Command unit in Marietta, GA. Her most exciting news of all, however, is that she and Pete are expecting their first baby, due in November!





Ben Darnell recently obtained his Master's and proposed his dissertation, and as of Sept. 13 had a manuscript accepted for publication in Clinical Psychological Science. He's starting applications for his clinical internship and expects to complete his PhD (at Northern Illinois University) in two years.

Jacob Dietrich graduated in May from the Georgetown School of Foreign Service Security Studies Program with an MA in Security Studies (Military Operations concentration). He subsequently graduated as part of the U.S. State Department's 199th A100 class and officially joined the ranks of the Foreign Service as a Political Officer. He and his fiancée Haley (his wife, as of Sept. 21) will be moving to Colombo, Sri Lanka this November for a 2-year posting at U.S. Embassy Sri Lanka and Maldives.



Sarah (Heape) Sawyer and husband Josh welcomed a baby boy, Jasper Dean, to the world in July. He just turned two months old and will soon be making his first trip to Dhlonega. His Aunt Emily (Heape) Burns (pictured here

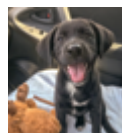
with Jasper) is excited about her first nephew and visits him as often as possible as she continues to work hard at completing the Mercer University PA program.

Joshua McCausland is moving along in his PhD program at Johns Hopkins University and is very excited about the super-resolution microscopy work being done in his lab. His project involves single molecule tracking, specifically tracking a bacterial cell wall-synthesizing enzyme in *E. coli*. Josh ran into a fellow UNG HP alum Kerry Strickland at The Biophysical Society conference in March, where both presented posters, and set aside time to catch up.



Jordan (Miller) Ragland is in her 5th year of teaching at West Hall Middle School, where she teaches 8th grade Social Studies and ELA! I recently finished my M. Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction!

Amy Rogers is still working at the University of South Carolina (and their new president). Amy has a new puppy (pictured) named Granger, after Hermione Granger (from Harry Potter)



Sydney Smith is still working at RL Jennings & Associates in Rome, and got engaged in June.

Nora Sutton is working in University Advancement at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. She recently had an article titled, "Have You Bought Enough Vietnam?": The Vietnam Antiwar Movement at West Virginia University, 1967-1970," published in *West Virginia History: A Journal of Regional Studies*.

Margaux Usry is currently working as a medical assistant at an urgent care facility in Macon. She was accepted into the Physician Assistant program at Mercer University and starts there in January.

Jennifer Ward recently completed an internship with the American Conservation Experience where she worked with the National Park Service, and just began a new job as a wildlife technician in the non-game sector of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Rachel Yarger is still with Home Depot (in their headquarters in Atlanta), where she now serves as a Manager of Appliance Delivery and Fleet Optimization.

## Class of 2016

Rachel Glazer is continuing her work as the Community Engagement Associate at the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life in Jackson, MS. Her work covers a wide swath of topics including conflict resolution, literacy, and Jewish social justice education. Outside of the office, she serves on the board of Big House Books, an organization providing free books to inmates in MS prisons. She is also celebrating one full year as a certified Zumba instructor. Mostly importantly, she has started an Instagram for her reviews of secondhand jigsaw puzzles: Piece2Gather. Her door is always open for visitors (Mississippi is the Hospitality State, after all)!

Katie McCullough reports that she spends more of her time studying, and/or pestering UT-Knoxville PhD program classmate Brittni (Ragland) Kelley. Katie took two trips to Europe this summer; one as a Teaching Assistant for an Italian food microbiology class taught by Dr. Bialonska of UNG, and one to attend a math modeling workshop in the UK. She is also still (happily) involved in rugby.

Abby McMillan is still working with General Motors, though she was recently transferred to a different team (from working on Owner Center to their eCommerce team).

Justin Mueller and his wife have now bought a house, and Justin is teaching Spanish at Gainesville High School.

Sarah Orr just started the second year of her PhD program at North Carolina State where she's doing ecotoxicology research using aquatic insects. She's working on writing up her first manuscript and reports that she loves living in Raleigh.

Sid Patel recently started a job at an environmental consulting firm, ALL4, in which he assists facilities with environmental reporting requirements to their respective state agencies as well as EPA. From the other details he shared about his work, I am thinking he is helping to save the environment.

Heather Perona is in her second year of PA school at Emory and will begin clinical rotations in early November; her graduation date is December 2020. She will be taking national pre-clinical exams in a few weeks.

Savannah Summers graduated with the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga in May and started working in acute care at Piedmont Columbus Regional in Columbus, GA at the end of June. She says she is loving it so far!

Erin Taylor just began her first job as a Doctor of Physical Therapy, having completed her DPT program in the spring. Erin will be working at Emory Hillandale Hospital in Acute Care.



Kaylee Todd is still with the University of Florida, in her 4th year of grad school in Chemistry Education. Over the summer, she presented research at the Florida Local Section of the American Chemical Society (FLACS). More recently, she finished teaching Introduction to Chemistry for the 3rd time as the instructor and "I love every minute of it." She has enjoyed tailgating and attending every home football game in the Swamp with fellow UF grad students (Kaylee is 3rd from right in the photo).



Britni Treadway got engaged to Andrew Kang on August 31st.

## Class of 2017

Mitch Fariss is currently working as a metadata specialist in the Woodstock Theological Library at Georgetown University - he is aiding with the cataloging of items in their rare books department. He is also beginning grad school applications hopes to pursue a Masters in international relations or a related field.

Sarah Hosey now lives in Boulder, Colorado and is in the process of applying to master's programs in Public Policy. Her goal is to focus in Environmental Policy and do research on climate change issues.

Haley Patterson started in the PhD this semester at the University of Houston where she is studying Spanish Linguistics, and teaching an accelerated Intro to Spanish course. She also reports having already been to several Astros games wearing Braves gear.

Molly Young completed her Master's in Occupational Therapy at MUSC, and found on that she passed her boards and accepted a job offer on the same day in early September. She will be employed at St. Mary's Home in Norfolk, VA.

## Class of 2018

Matt Caudell reports "enjoying" his second year at UGA's School of Law. Matt has a job lined up in Gainesville at a firm where he will serve as a divorce attorney after graduation in May 2021.

Nick Glaser is still working toward his Master's in computer science here at the University of Hawai'i-Manoa. He was accepted into the UH Data Science Institute's fellowship program for this academic year and plans on getting a PhD after he completes the Master's program.



Hannah Laubler currently works for a company, Alliance Together, that strives to give back to the community. Some activities

include adopt a mile, donations (service dogs, Epilepsy foundation, Autism, etc.), and charity galas. Hannah became an aunt on July 31st; her nephew, Joshua Brandon Nelms, "plans on being on the Braves roster in the future."

Charlotte McDonnold is working for BDO USA, LLP in Atlanta, GA as a National Digital Marketing Associate. In this role, she helps update the website, build graphics for social media posts, and take photographs for use in both print and digital materials. She gets to travel around the country to several of our other offices to update headshots for new employees that join the firm.

Rachel Rasque is now a 6th Grade Social Studies teacher at Lanier Middle School. Thus far she has not responded to offers to teach her the proper 'Hook em Horns' hand sign technique.

Alex Smith graduated with his Masters of Accountancy (MAcc) from UGA, passed all four parts of the CPA exam, and was hired by Moore Colson CPAs in Atlanta as a Tax Associate.

Jasmine Williamson completed an REU through UGA over the summer where she served as an amphibian tech at the Coweta Hydrologic Laboratory. She is currently working in outdoor retail and merchandising at Wander North Georgia, and will be applying to grad school soon.

## Class of 2019

Brooke Alred just started the Master's program in International Affairs at George Washington University. She also began an internship with the Middle East Institute as a publications intern.

Emma Etelalahti is enrolled in the MAcc program at Kennesaw State. She is studying for the CPA Exam and will take all four parts by graduation in May. Emma interned at an accounting firm, Aprio, this summer and accepted a full-time position there as a tax accountant starting next September. In August, she went to Germany and Spain for a summer vacation before starting grad school again, and hopes to return to celebrate her next graduation!

2LT Erin Hagebusch is working in UNG Cadet Admissions this semester. She expects to find out soon where she'll be stationed beginning in spring 2020 (hoping for Germany or Hawai'i).

Kyra (Bessey) Handley is currently working on her Master of Arts in Teaching for Secondary Mathematics at UNG. She plans to graduate in Spring 2021.

**Jenna Labbie** worked at Duke TIP this past summer and now works at The Princeton Review, where she's being trained to teach ACT/SAT prep courses in high schools around Georgia. Jenna is also working on applying to graduate programs.

Victoria Wood is currently in dental school at the Dental College of Georgia, and is "loving getting to work with my hands!" Her fiancé, David Rice, is also in her dental school class (and is a UNG alum), and they will be getting married in summer 2020.