

Hello VSU Honors Alumni!

Allow me to greet you on behalf of the new Honors Chapter of the VSU Alumni Association! A lot has been going on at the Honors Program since you've graduated. First and foremost, we are no longer the "Honors Program," but instead the "Honors College." That's right, we're now a full-fledged College! What exactly does the transition from being an Honors Program to an Honors College mean? Perhaps the change that Honors students will notice the most is that there will be Honors classes that go beyond the Core Classes and extend into their fields of study. Dr Ofelià Nikolova, the College's Director, states:

"The Honors College offers opportunities to its students to pursue Honors education during all four years of their tenure at VSU with options in their major courses. It emphasizes undergraduate research culminating in an Honors Thesis or an approved capstone experience. The Honors College caters to the global needs of today's academically talented student with its opportunities for a global experience including but not limited to foreign language courses, study abroad, or other approved activities. In addition, it helps the students give back to the community and hone their leadership skills by weaving requirements for service in the fabric of its course offerings."

So, this transition has been keeping everyone very busy, but it has paid off. In the Fall 2011 semester, the VSU Honors College accepted its first incoming class of students!

The second big development has been the establishment of an official Honors Chapter of the Valdosta State University Alumni Association. Such an organization will give Honors Alumni a chance to get in touch with old classmates, and it will give the Honors College a chance to showcase the work of our former students to not only the larger VSU campus, but also to educators state-wide, other VSU Alumni, and prospective students and faculty.

And that is why I'm writing to you today! We want to know what's going on in the worlds of our former students. If you could take 5-10 minutes out of your busy day to answer the following questions and send them back to us, that would be fantastic:

Name:

Year of Graduation:

Major and any minor(s):

Any awards or accomplishments at VSU?

What are you doing now? Grad School? Employed? Both?

Any awards or accomplishments at grad school or work? Publications, etc?

Where do you live now?

Any other information you'd like to share? Are you married? Have children? Have any other story or memory about your time at VSU that you'd like to share?

How do you feel the VSU Honors Program/College helped prepare you for your life after college?

You may answer only the questions that you wish. We will not forward this information to anyone without your permission, however we would like to include it on a new Alumni link on the Honors Website. This website would allow any prospective student (or even faculty) to see how far an education – and particularly an Honors education – from VSU can take you. We would also like to begin having an “Alumni Spotlight” feature in our bi-annual HONORA newsletter that would showcase one or two Honors Alumni for our readers.

So, if you’d like to be showcased on the website of the official Honors Chapter of the VSU Alumni Association (and be eligible for our HONORA Alumni Spotlight), just take a few minutes to answer the questions above in an email and send it to [wjnewsome@valdosta.edu](mailto:wjnewsome@valdosta.edu). I know you all are busy, but we would really appreciate hearing from you!

In the meantime, if you’d like to keep up with what the Honors College is doing, you can check out the official website at [www.valdosta.edu/honors](http://www.valdosta.edu/honors). Or, if you’re on Facebook, like our page ([www.facebook.com/vsuhonorscollege](http://www.facebook.com/vsuhonorscollege)) and receive updates right in your newsfeed. You can also follow us on Twitter at VSU\_Honors. And lastly, check out the archives of our HONORA newsletter at: <http://www.valdosta.edu/honors/events/index.shtml>.

I hope this email finds you well and successful in whatever direction your life has taken since your graduation from VSU!

Sincerely,  
W. Jake Newsome

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