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Annual Colloquium Sees Record Numbers

The Honors College admitted a record number of students this year.

141 fresh faces trickled into the University Center's Cypress Room for the annual Honors Colloquium.

This year, the Honors College did not require incoming students to read a book to be discussed at the Colloquium.

Instead, Dr. Savoie, Dean of the Honors College, spoke on the four pillars on which the college stands:

- Foster Undergraduate Research/Scholarship
- Engage in Service Learning
- Provide Leadership Opportunities
- Facilitate Interdisciplinary Engagement

The Colloquium focused on the Global Experience and Understanding requirement of the Honors College.



Students attentively listen to Dr. Savoie

Dr. Savoie said in the introduction "Our objective today is to present deeper reflection and understanding of this important requirement and

how to engage each of you in a worthwhile global experience."

Following the introduction, students enjoyed lunch provided by VSU Catering. During lunch, the students watched a Ted Talk by Former Prime Minister, Gordon Brown who presented a lecture on Global Ethic vs. National Interest.

After lunch, Jennifer Dandron gave a brief presentation about the mentor program. During her delivery she explained the inception of the program, the hard work several students put in to creating the program and the objectives of the program.

Students were then placed into groups to complete a task that demonstrated their vision for an engaging Global Experience connecting to our Honors Values. The groups had one hour to develop a plan and present a cohesive overview of the activity including subject areas, activities, objectives, and assessments.

All of the groups did a fantastic job and put tremendous amounts of effort into the projects. We are very excited for the new year with all these new faces!



Mentors prepare to meet their mentees.



Students eagerly await for the Colloquium to start.

Honors College Staff:

Dr. Michael Savoie
Honors College Interim Dean

Dr. James Shrader
Assistant Dean

Mrs. Jane Robinson
Honors College Secretary

Ms. Juhaina Soares
Honors Scholars Graduate Assistant

Mrs. Shanae Toy-Farquharson
Honors Students Graduate Assistant

Mr. Dorrian Baber
Student Office Assistant

Ms. Jennifer Dandron
Student Assistant

Ms. Chelsie Norton
Student Assistant

Honors Implements New Program

In an effort to boost retention, the Honors College implemented a new mentor program this fall. Work started on this new plan in April of 2013 and took nearly all summer to complete.

Each incoming Honors freshman has been assigned an upperclassmen Honors student to be his/her mentor. The mentors have anywhere from five to seven freshmen in their groups. Each group is divided into houses, where they must complete group activities with other mentors in their groups.

The mentors were hand picked by the Honor's College staff. Twenty-four upperclassmen were selected to guide the freshmen in their freshmen year. The mentors are sub-divided into six groups of four, with six head mentors, who also serve as regular mentors, leading the group.

Each mentor is required to engage in four small group activities, three of which must be on campus or affiliated

with a campus organization.

The head mentors are required to complete two big group activities that engage everyone in his/her designated house. The houses are named after scholars.

Students were paired with each other based off a personality quiz taken over summer. The mentors first met their mentees at the colloquium.

The program is new and with all new things, several bumps have appeared in the road. However, the program has been well received by mentors and mentees alike, bumps and all.



Amber Blocker and her mentees pose for a picture during a small group activity.

Meet the Mentors

House of Galileo:

Matt Dickinson (Head Mentor), Ryan Baerwalde, Samantha Hartman, Natawnya McMillan.

House of Pythagoras:

Katie Tucker (Head Mentor), Nicole Newsum, Eugene Rowell, Hank Selph.

House of Tesla:

Ben Watson (Head Mentor), Jasmin Allen, Amber Blocker, Keith Simmons.

House of Beethoven:

Cassie Stowe (Head Mentor), Danny Freeman, Adam Hummel, Chelsie Norton.

House of O'Connor:

Erica Garcia (Head Mentor), Mara Charles, Jennifer Dandron, James Whelan.

House of Plato:

Chase Kelly (Head Mentor), JB Desselle, Danielle Jordan, Taylor Pound.

Annual Convocation Focuses on Success

Every year near the beginning of the fall semester, the Honors College hosts the Honors Convocation.

The annual Convocation was held on August 20 in the student union theater. Roughly one-hundred students braved the torrential downpour to attend the event, along with Honors faculty and staff and administrators.

Dr. Savoie was the keynote speaker. He explained the four pillars of the Honors College, undergraduate research, service learning, leadership and interdisciplinary engagement.

“The balance of success and achievement is something we are all concerned with, but success is more than grades...Success and fulfillment comes from



Students and faculty mingle after the Convocation.

the four pillars of the Honors College,” the Dean said.

Following his address, Dr. Savoie introduced the Honors faculty

who attended.

Dr. James, an Honors professor from the Department of Philosophy and Religious studies enthusiastically said “I love teaching Honors students.”

The Honors Students Association President, Chelsie Norton gave a few words inviting all Honors students to join the organization. HSA has made it its mission to make Honors more well-known on campus through an initiative called “Honors Acts of Kindness” or HAKs, which is where

the Honors College performs random acts of kindness to people on campus.

Dr. Savoie’s closing remarks reminded students that the Honors College cannot be a success with out them. Any problems they may face are problems of the Honors College.

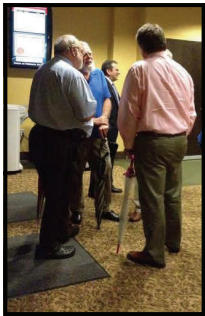
“We need to maintain momentum. We cannot falter...We can't take our problems lightly. We need your continued support!” Dr. Savoie said.



Students enjoy the free refreshments.

Attendees adjourned to the lobby area where they enjoyed lemonade and cookies provided by VSU Catering.

The night was a success. Thanks to everyone who helped out and attended!



Honors professors get to know each other.

Honors Hold Free Lunch

Hungry Honors students enjoyed free lunch from the Honors College on September 16.

The Honors College contributed hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, chips and dip. Mrs. Jane Robinson and several students provided desert.

Over fifty students attended the lunch held in the dining room of the Honors House. Mrs. Jane Robinson cooked the food.

Students gathered around the table and enjoyed each others company.

The lunch was a huge success.

Thanks to everyone who attended and contributed food. The Honors College hopes to hold more lunches in the future.



Students enjoy the free food provided by the Honors College.

Honors Celebrates the Beginning of the Semester with a Cookout

To celebrate the start of a great fall semester the Honors College teamed up with the English Language Institute for a cookout at the Honors House on September 6. We had our largest turnout yet from both Honors students and International students.

The students enjoyed hamburgers, veggie burgers, cookies and a variety of chips. When they were not eating, students spent time getting to know each other and developing cross-cultural relationships.



Students pose around the food for a fun picture!

Tex, from ELI, prepared the food. Students started trickling into the house around 3:30 and stayed until after 6:00. In an effort to break the ice, Honors students were required to find an international student they had never met and find out his/her name, home country and major.

ELI provided several outdoor games for everyone to play as another way to encourage relations. Through games of badminton, soccer, horseshoes, corn hole and others, students were able to make new friends.

Thank you to everyone who came out and had a great time, as well as everyone who helped make the event possible!

Conference Call

One of the main pillars of the Honors College is undergraduate research. Students are urged to participate in conferences where they present their research.

This year the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Conference will be held at Middle Georgia State College in Macon on February 7-8, 2014. The theme of the conference is "Honors Without Borders."

Honors students wishing to participate must send their abstracts to Dr. Savoie by Monday, November 11 for review. Proposals must be submitted to GCHC by January 15, 2014. To be considered for the Best Paper Competition students must also submit their completed paper to GCHC by January 15.

Winners will receive \$200 for first place and \$100 for second place. Categories for Best Paper are: Natural Sciences, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

Students are encouraged to submit their creative works for display at the conference.

If you have any questions please contact the Undergraduate Research Coordinator, Jennifer Dandron or Dr. Savoie.

Upcoming Events

The Honors College holds several events throughout the semester. Here is a look at some upcoming events that everyone is invited to!

October:

Oct. 10: French Film and Food

Come join us at the Honors house at 6 pm for a double feature of French influenced films. We will be watching on the side lawn of the house so bring blankets and pillows. Some sheets will be provided. Dr. Savoie will be making crepes for everyone to enjoy!

Oct. 15: Study Abroad Fair

The Honors House is being transformed into a globe from 10 am-1:30 pm. Each study abroad program will have a booth with information and food from its respective country set up throughout the house. Students will get a passport that will be stamped as they make their way through.

Oct. 16: Pizza with a Professor

Registration is nearing and we want you to know about all the great Honors opportunities. Come eat pizza in Reade Hall and learn about Honors courses being offered in the Spring.

Oct. 18: Priority Registration Due

One of the many perks of being in Honors is priority registration. To be eligible for it, forms are due to the Honors House by 3:00 pm.

HONORS STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The officers of HSA revamped the organization over summer. HSA now consists of three main sections, the Executive Board, the Service Learning Committee and the Mentor Program. Each section overlaps, but students choose which part of the organization in which they want to participate. Students have the option to participate in all three. Chelsie Norton, President of HSA said “HSA simply wasn’t serving the needs of the Honors College. Since the college had changed and transformed so much over the past two years, it was time for HSA to meet the demands of our increased population and new requirements.” Students receive merit points for participating in certain activities. The top ten students with the most points will receive a prize at the end of the school year.

Honors Student Association Merit Point System Effective September 19, 2013

50	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conference Presentations• URS, GCHC, SRHC, NCHC
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attending Honors functions• Socials, cookouts, Mentor Program activities, etc.• Working visitation days, orientations, The Happening booth, etc.
20/hr	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Service Learning• Only excess SL hours for Scholars counted here• Any non-scholar’s SL is counted here
15/hr	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Service• Any non-SL service hours are counted here• This includes being on the Relay For Life Committee
10/hr	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prep work for events
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head Mentors• These are “bonus” merit points for organizing whole-house events
5 ea.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Like” the Honors College on Facebook• Follow us on Twitter• Follow us on Instagram