

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

THE HONORA

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From the Director's Desk

Dr. Nikolova



Dr. Ofelia Nikolova

If there has ever been a semester in my career that I could call breathtaking, it surely is this spring semester. The Honors Program has experienced so many changes, we have participated in so many events, and there hardly has been time to catch our collective breath. We moved to a new magnificent house, we invited all our friends to come and celebrate our new home with us, we traveled to conferences, we presented papers and posters, we opened art shows, we gave awards, and we organized elections. And all this in just three months! There truly is no end to the creativity and energy of the Honors students. That is why we needed to take a moment, look back at all the excellent things we have done this year, and recognize the people who worked very hard to get us where we are now. Thanks to everyone who came out and celebrated our achievements at the Honors Recognition Ceremony Thursday, April 19. We were happy to see so many faces.

Honors Move

Rebecca Thorn

On Friday, January 19, the Honors Program moved into the former President's house at 222 Georgia Avenue. Sometimes referred to as "the big white house on the corner of Oak and Georgia" or "the house where the student success center was last semester," the house was that of President Bailey during his time at VSU. The large two story house offers a great deal of room for our Honors Program. Downstairs there are two classrooms, a main and a student kitchen, a lounge, an atrium for studying and relaxing, and a reception room that also serves as Mrs. Robinson's office. Upstairs there is a room for HSA, the assistants' office, Dr. Hill's office, and Dr. Nikolova's office. The program has really had a chance to spread out a bit! If you haven't seen the house yet, make sure you drop by. For more photos of the new house, check out the Honors Program website.



The New Honors House

Recognition:

Dr. Ofelia Nikolova
Honors Program Director

Rebecca Thorn
*Student Assistant,
Webmaster, Editor-in-Chief*

Mrs. Jane Robinson
Program Secretary

**Honors 2006-2007
Executive Officers:**
*President: Monica Chana
Vice President: Jessica Thomas
Secretary: Keri Toggerson
Treasurer: Lauren Hunter*

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HSA and Other Honors Activities

Rebecca Thorn



Chocolate Day

This semester the Honors Program and HSA have had a great deal of fun! We started the semester with a grand move into our new house and cut the proverbial red bow with a band. Our first event for the semester was the Third Annual Chocolate Day on February 12. Dr. Nikolova, Dr. Hill, and Mrs. Robinson made some masterly chocolate goodies, which everyone enjoyed. On February 20, HSA hosted trivia night. Winners were presented with prizes donated from the Loop, VSU Bookstore, Lee's



Chocolate Day

Bookstore, and Freshman Representative Will Wright. The program then hosted an open house party on March 4 for all honors students, faculty, and staff to become acquainted with one another and the new location. A t-shirt contest for the design for next year's HSA shirt

was held, and Jake Newsome and Travis Christy's design was

chosen. Congratulations to them! Elections for next year's officers were held on April 3. The officers are: President – Jessica Thomas, Vice President – Jake Newsome, Secretary – Elizabeth Barwick, Treasurer – Time Malone, Senior representative – Stephanie Zavlanos, Junior representative – Danielle Sheffield, Sophomore representative – Will Wright. The last event planned for this spring is the HSA pizza party. All honors students are invited to join us at the Honors House on Tuesday, April 24 at 7 pm to enjoy some free pizza and good company. HSA dues for next year, the standard twenty-five dollars, can be paid at this time. If you've missed out on other events, don't miss out on our end of the semester party!



Chocolate Day

CUR Symposium

Rebecca Thorn

The Council on Undergraduate Research of the College of Arts and Sciences hosted its Thirteenth Annual Symposium on Undergraduate Research on April 12-13. Each year CUR invites VSU students to present their original research to a large audience of faculty and fellow students with the purpose of sharing research papers, lab experiments, and independent study projects.

This year there were four Honors students presenting on behalf of the program in the symposium. Monica Chana and Jordan Hancock had a poster presentation entitled "Medicinal Uses of Bryostatin." Jake Newsome also had a poster presentation, "A Complex History: A Brief Overview of German Reaction to Its Nazi Past." Rachel Wayne presented orally her project "Sarcasm, Suaveness, and Starships: James Bond and Han Solo as American Folk Heroes." Jake and Rachel were also participants at this year's Georgia Collegiate Honors Council meeting at Dalton State College, Dalton Georgia on February 23-24.

Thursday night there was a poster session and Friday hosted fifteen-minute paper presentations, while the posters remained available for viewing. CUR offers two awards for best poster, one in the Humanities and Social Sciences and one in the Sciences and Mathematics, and one award for the best paper. The symposium was held in the Atrium and Auditorium (Room 1011) of Bailey Science Center.

Honors Open House

Dr. Nikolova



Food Anyone?



Dr. Nikolova and Dr. Bailey

On Sunday March 4, the former President's house opened its doors for Honors students, faculty, staff, Physical Plant workers, and administrators who came to visit our new headquarters. Many of them were instrumental in our move to the new house and we wanted to show our gratitude with a heartfelt reception. Mrs. Robinson surpassed herself with her culinary creations, enjoyed by more than fifty guests. Among the visitors of the Open House were Dr. Louis Levy, VPAA, Dean Calendrillo, A&S, and President Emeritus Bailey and Mrs. Bailey. The Baileys lived in the house for more than twenty years until 2002 when Dr. Bailey retired. They were both pleased to see their former house put to good use and so many young people taking advantage of it. The Open House was a great opportunity for all to meet people from different generations united by their support for the Honors Program.



Mrs. Robinson and Jorri



Drinks Anyone?

Honors Program Art Show

Dr. Nikolova

The Honors Program has invited Art majors to exhibit their work in the new Honors house on a rotation basis with priority given to Honors students majoring in Art. The first show featured works from Eric Clausen (Honors student), Richard Estes, and Janelle Wischart. The show was organized under the guidance of Mr. Rodgers from the Art department and was in place during the March 4 Open House for all visitors to enjoy.

Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Meeting

Rebecca Thorn



This year five honors students and the Honors Program director Dr. Ofelia Nikolova traveled to Dalton Georgia to attend the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council. For the first time the GCHC offered a poster section and two of the VSU Honors students presented.

The participants included (from left to right in picture): Jake Newsome, Rachel Wayne, Dr. Nikolova, Matthew Sumrall, Baqara Ngoyi, and Elizabeth Barwick. Jake and Elizabeth were the students with posters, while Rachel, Matthew, and Baqara, along with Dr. Nikolova, had oral presentations.

Honors Exemplary Teacher of the Year

Each year honors students elect and choose an Exemplary Honors Teacher of the year. This year, six professors were nominated for the award: Dr. Pat Burns (OASIS), Dr. Kevin Colwell (Psychology), Dr. Dixie Haggard (History), Dr. Kathryn Hall (English), Dr. Jim Hill (Philosophy), and Dr. Theresa Thompson (English). Having six nominees is a record for the program! This year the students voted Dr. Jim Hill Exemplary Honors Teacher of the Year and this was his response:

Socrates: Well, Jim Hill, I understand you have won the Exemplary Honors Professor Award for Teaching.

Hill: I have and it should please you, since I follow you in my teaching

Socrates: I would be pleased if only I understood what teaching is and why you are so exemplary at it. So do follow me, and tell me what teaching is. Then we'll see if you are an exemplary teacher or not. I hear you provide a lot of pizza for the students. In *pizza veritas*? Is that it?

Hill: Of course not. Teaching is asking questions. I ask questions.

Socrates: Which a computer or a fool could do. You know it's easier to ask than it is to answer.

Hill: Asking is only part of teaching. You know, asking like you did in the dialogue the *Meno*.

Socrates: As I recall in that dialogue I never did find out what teaching is. Or, what virtue is. We were looking for both.

Hill: Teaching is asking questions and drawing out of students ideas, keeping the good ones, tossing the bad ones, you know, the ol' midwife analogy.

Socrates: Tossing or keeping ideas means you know which is which. And you do, since you are an exemplary teacher. So, how do you know a keeper from a tosser?

Hill: Easy, Socrates, the keepers are the true ideas; I get students to chuck the false ones.

Socrates: Yes, and I bet you have fun doing it, too. The true ones would be what?

Hill: Those that stand to reason.

Socrates: Which means?

Hill: Those that survive the critical examination process.

Socrates: A process defined how?

Hill: Asking questions.

Socrates: Nice, if you like circular reasoning. I don't. you don't know what teaching is, do you?

Hill: I did. Don't now. Got to go.

Socrates: Don't go. As a lover of follows his loved one, let me now follow you. Wouldn't the examination of students include some sort of examination of oneself, also? If we could just find out what self-examination consists of, then we might have our answer to what teaching is. I'll bet you know.

Hill: Glad you were in the audience on the 19th, Socrates. It pleased me greatly.

Socrates: The University Center? Sounded like the agora to me. I was there.

Honors Recognition Day

Rebecca Thorn

This year's Spring Honors Recognition ceremony was held on Thursday, April 19 at 7 pm in the University Center Theater. Dr. Levy and Dr. Zaccari addressed the students. Dr. Calendrillo introduced Dr. Bailey, who handed out the Bailey Scholarship awards. Graduating seniors, all students who have fulfilled the honors requirements this year, the Bartram Award recipient Baqara Nyogi, the students who presented at the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council meeting and the Thirteenth Annual Symposium on Undergraduate Research, and the nominees and winner of the Exemplary Honors Professor of the Year election were also recognized. Dr. Brown, former Acting Director for the Honors Program was recognized and presented with a special gift. Finally, Monica Chana, current HSA president, introduced the newly elected HSA officers.

Honors Program Scholarship Information

Rebecca Thorn

As many of you may or may not know there are scholarships offered to honors students through the Honors Program: The Bartram Award and the Hugh C. Bailey Family Scholarship.

The Bartram Award will be celebrated as a campus wide award as of this year. This year's recipient is Baqara Ngoyi with her project entitled "Penetration of Nitrate through Liposomal Membranes and its Biological Relevance." The awards she will receive include a certificate with a monetary prize, recognition at the Honors Recognition Ceremony, and dinner for herself and her family with President Zaccari. Click the "scholarships" link on the Honors Program website for more information about eligibility for this award.

The Bailey Family Scholarship is an endowed scholarship created by Dr. Hugh C. Bailey, President of Valdosta State University from 1978 to 2001, to support academic excellence and achievement in every academic discipline through participation in the University Honors Program. The scholarship was first awarded in 2006. Bailey Scholarships are available to full-time students who have been admitted to the Honors Program and who have completed between 45 and 75 semester hours, including at least 10 semester hours in the VSU Honors Program. Applicants must have a grade point average of at least 3.6 for all courses completed and must exemplify the spirit of inquiry and service that characterized the Honors Program. Scholarships are awarded for one academic year. The number offered each year will vary with the earning of the endowment fund. Recipients are selected by the Honors Program Advisory Council. Click the "scholarships" link on the Honors Program website sidebar for application deadlines.

Fall 2007 Honors Freshmen Colloquium

Dr. Nikolova

This fall we will continue the tradition of meeting the incoming Honors students on the Friday before classes start to discuss a reading assigned for the summer. Those of you who are sophomores and freshmen now remember how much fun the Colloquium is. You got to meet your peers and many of your teachers that day and you started friendships that will probably last a lifetime. We count on you, the experienced students, to join us in an effort to make the new class feel welcome in the Program and enjoy the event as much as you did. Our Colloquium is scheduled for Friday, August 10. The book selected for summer reading is Khaleb Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* and our keynote speaker will be Dr. Michael Stoltzfus from the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. The newly elected HSA officers will be working on scheduling details and contacting those of you who would like to be part of the welcoming team. If you are interested please email Dr. Nikolova at: ornikolova@valdosta.edu.



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We're on the web!
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***Honors Program -
Dedication To Distinction***

Announcements

Don't miss the end of the semester pizza party held at the Honors House Tuesday
April 24 at 7pm

HSA dues for next year will be collected at the end of the semester party. Dues are twenty-five dollars

2007-08 HSA Officers:
President - Jessica Thomas
Vice President - Jake Newsome
Secretary - Elizabeth Barwick
Treasurer - Tim Malone
Senior rep - Stephanie Zaylanos
Junior rep - Danielle Sheffield
Sophomore rep - Will Wright