

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

THE HONORA

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From the Director's Desk

Dr. Ofelia Nikolova



Dr. Ofelia Nikolova

Have you noticed how true some well-worn sayings are? How many times have you heard people exclaim: "Where did time go? Time flies!" It certainly seems like that this semester. Replete with classes, assignments, and extracurricular activities, several weeks have elapsed so fast, we've hardly had time to realize that half of the semester is already gone. But this was time well invested in the strengthening of our Program. We have welcomed the new vibrant and promising class of 2010. One

hundred and eleven freshmen decided to join the Honors Program, challenge themselves, and contribute to the spirit of excellence and involvement, which defines Honors education. Traditional activities were undertaken with enthusiasm, new projects were proposed and their realization is under way. I would like to thank all of you who are participating in our activities and invite those who have not had a chance to participate to get involved and to join in!

HSA News

Keri Toggerson, HSA Secretary

The honors student association has been very active already this year. We hosted an orientation for incoming freshmen where they met their peers, some of the teachers, and learned about the honors program. We had over 60 participants and have welcomed many of those into HSA.

At our first meeting we discussed all of the exciting plans for this year. We already have intramural sports teams, plans for fundraisers, social events, and community service projects such as the heart walk. HSA plans to participate in homecoming week and other campus events and is working to further the visibility and involvement in the school and community. We are all looking forward to another great year!

see page 2 for more information on HSA and Honors activities

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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Fall 2005 Colloquium

Dr. Nikolova

The Colloquium took place in the UC on August 11. Sixty-nine Honors students read the book *Stuff: the Secret Life of Everyday Things* by Allen and Durbin over the summer. The book revealed disturbing truths about the environmental wake left by the most common and inconspicuous everyday activities of the average American. The participants in the Colloquium enjoyed a delicious lunch and informal conversation with their discussion leaders. Afterward, Dr. Carter gave an informative and thought-provoking talk which became a natural transition to the lively discussion of the issues raised by the book *Stuff*. All of the students had something to say. It was clear that the issues were close to the students' hearts and that the conversation on these issues had melted the ice between young people who had never met before.

Fall 2006 Convocation

Rebecca Thorn



Dr. Jane Whitehead

The Honors Convocation brought together more than one hundred Honors students, representatives of the Honors faculty, and VSU administrators. Dr. Louis Levy, Vice President for Academic Affairs greeted the Honors students and wished them a successful start. Dr. Linda Calendrillo, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences also addressed the students and introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Jane Whitehead. Her talk entitled "Excavations of the Roman Baths in Carsulae, Umbria" allowed the audience a glimpse in the fascinating world of archeology.

Honors Activities

Rebecca Thorn

So far this semester, we have been quite a busy little bunch. We launched the semester on Aug. 11 with the Colloquium, for which prizes were donated by the VSU Bookstore, Lee's Bookstore, the VSU Tech Shop, and the Loop. On Aug. 22 we got together to listen to Dr. Jane Whitehead tell of her excavations of the Roman baths in Carsulae, Umbria at the annual Honors Fall Convocation. The Happening gathered all of VSU's clubs together on the Palms Quad on Aug. 24. HSA has had regular meetings, three so far. Also, HSA has held two community service projects: a VHS Cross Country Meet and the Heart Walk. In intramural sports our flag football team has won one game, though lost two games. We



Travis Christy Gets Soaked During Water Wars

honored the former acting director of the Honors Program, Dr. Byron Brown, with a surprise party held at the Honors House on Sept. 19. We all had fun on Sept. 26 on the front lawn playing Water Wars, and are anticipating a bigger and better war late next semester. The Honors Program is participating in both a Student Service Day at LHS and tutoring at S.L. Mason. Another community service activity coming soon is the Make a Difference Day at America's Second Harvest of South Georgia. Also, we are planning on hosting a "Food Feast and Open Mike" night at the Honors House very soon. All of these events are just plans from our Fall 2006 semester. Keep in touch to see what we are planning for next semester!



Students Gather to Honor Dr. Brown

Spotlight On...

We're delighted to welcome two professors to the Honors Program faculty for spring semester!

Dr. Amy Aronson-Friedman, Assistant Professor of Modern and Classical Languages

"By participating in the Honor's program, I hope to be able to work with students possessing a genuine interest in the Spanish language as well as teach the class at a more advanced level and accelerated pace. I would also hope that the Honor's students might eventually declare a major or minor in the language and participate on a Study Abroad program.



Dr. Amy Aronson-Friedman

I believe that my background in applied linguistics and second language acquisition as well as my formation in pedagogy and methods will enable me to make a significant contribution to the Honor's Program. Of course my enthusiasm for foreign languages, cultures, travel and research (plus the many, many years that I have been teaching language) will significantly impact the Honor's program in a positive way.

I hope that the Honor's students come away from the course with a better understanding and respect for foreign cultures, customs, and traditions as well as gain a solid understanding and certain proficiency level in the foreign language."

Dr. Kevin Colwell, Assistant Professor of Psychology

"I have always been attracted to teaching talented and motivated young people. When I was a student, I had wonderful relationships with my professional mentors. These relationships allowed me to have the confidence necessary to explore the academic world, and in the process, to learn about myself. I hope to create similar learning environments for the people I teach.

I hope to contribute a combination of things. First, I have a lot of basic information to pass on regarding the social and biological sciences. My emphasis is on Clinical Psychology, which is how to apply the science of psychology to the problems of mental illness and modern life. Also, I work and study at the intersection of Psychology, Law, and Public Policy. I want to introduce students to the idea that one goal of science is to take its body of knowledge and translate that into specific actions to benefit the human community."

2006-2007 HSA Officers



A Few HSA Officers

President: Monica Chana
 Vice President: Jessica Thomas
 Secretary: Keri Toggerson
 Treasurer: Lauren Hunter
 Senior Reps: Shelly Chatelain, Christina Huntley
 Junior Reps: Joey Jarrard, JoAnn Pulliam
 Sophomore Reps: Angela Sullivent, Rebecca Thorn
 Freshmen Reps: Randi Larimore, Will Wright

Thanks Dr. Brown!

From HSA and all Honors Students, Faculty and Staff



Dr. Byron Brown

A Job Well Done

Dr. Jim Hill, Professor of Philosophy Emeritus

On July 1 of this year, Dr. Bryon Brown stepped down as Acting Director of the Valdosta State University Honors Program. Actually, Dr. Brown served two terms as Acting Director, 1991-1993 and 2004-2006. Reflecting on his tenure during these two terms in office, one can only express gratitude and admiration for the profound effect Dr. Brown has had on the Honors Program. We should be aware of some of his achievements during these four years of vigorous and faithful leadership.

- Dr. Brown developed the summer reading program and the Fall Honors Freshman Colloquium.
- He guided two proposals for Honors PERS courses through the labyrinthine of academic committees—Honors Human Nature and Human Futures and Honors Narrative and Identity. Both were approved and are now in the catalogue.



Dr. Marks, Dr. Hill, Dr. Hiers, Dr. LaPlant, Dr. Brown, Dr. Carter, and Dr. Gravett

- Dr. Brown expanded the Honors Program in other ways also. He was instrumental in developing REL 2020 H World Religions and an Honors CHEM lab.
- With the assistance of good graduate and student assistants Dr. Brown brought to the Honors Program more efficiency in the use of technology. Under his leadership, an electronic format for Honora was developed and distributed electronically. The Honors Program website was reworked and many of its forms were posted online.



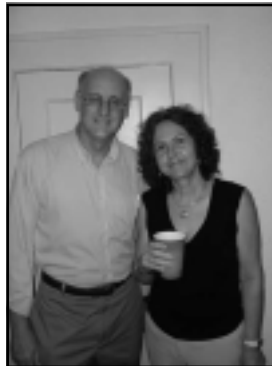
Dr. Brown and Dr. Nikolova

- With the help of the Honors Advisory Committee, Dr. Brown identified a number of exemplary Honors Option projects from various academic areas and posted them on the Honors website.

- Working with the Honors Advisory Committee and with the generosity of Dr. Hugh C. Bailey, Dr. Brown secured the first scholarship reserved exclusively for Honors Program students. With the assistance of Dr. Bailey and the HAC, Dr. Brown made the

first awards last year.

- Have you noticed the spiffiness of the Honors House? Dr. Brown had the floors varnished; the inside painted; added the laptop and projector for class presentation; got the outside cleaned, back door repaired; kitchen renovated; and newer computers for student use.
- Dr. Brown led Honors students to and had them participate in state-wide meetings of the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council. During his tenure, the Honors Program sponsored student presentations at the Council on Undergraduate Research conferences.



Dr. Brown and Mrs. Robinson, Honors Program Secretary

In addition to his administrative duties, Dr. Brown taught many courses in Honors Introduction and Honors Capstone. Quite an impressive list of accomplishments!



Dr. Brown and Monica Chana, HSA

But there were intangible benefits that emerged under his leadership. Dr. Brown was always patient with faculty and students. He gave the program vision and was remarkably

selfless. He possessed the basic qualities of a good administrator: leadership, determination, organization, facilitating rather than controlling, always keeping the wellbeing of the Honors Program before him. In a word, Dr. Brown, you did a superb job.



*Valdosta State University
Honors Program*

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*Honors Program - Dedication
to Distinction*

Announcements

The Honors House staff would like to thank all of those students who help supply our kitchen with food and coffee. We want to remind all Honors students that our kitchen is always available for use and fully functional.

Fell free to come by and cook up whatever you may desire!

Don't forget to sign up for advising for Spring 2007!

Priority Registration applications are due on Oct. 23 by 5:30pm to Mrs. Robinson. Priority Registration begins on Oct. 30 and applications can be found online.