

THE HONORA

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Freshman Colloquium Focuses on Creativity

The Honors College welcomed a record 120 students to its ranks this fall! On Friday, August 10, over 120 new freshmen, faculty, and upper-classmen gathered for the Honors Fall Colloquium. Dr. Nikolova welcomed all the guests, and Dr. Karla Hull, Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs, briefly addressed the crowd.

This year's summer reading assignment was *Imagine* by Jonah Lehrer, and Dr. Dennis Bogyo delivered a thought-provoking keynote address on the idea of creativity. Dr. Bogyo engaged his audience with some questions and general responses. Dr. Bogyo discussed various examples of creativity, ranging from literature to



HSA officers sign in new freshman

mathematics and regaled the students with an exceptional story of a Hungarian itinerant mathematician.

After finishing a delicious lunch courtesy of VSU Catering, HSA

officers distributed door prizes donated by local businesses

and HSA President Jennifer Stakich gave some brief announcements before handing the microphone to Jake Newsome. Jake Newsome is the current President of the Honors Alumni Association, and he imparted several tips to the newest class of Honors.

The students divided up into their discussion groups to discuss the book and share ideas in an informal setting. Honors faculty members facilitated the discussions; many thanks to Dr. Bogyo, Dr. Johnson, Dr.

Mumpower, Dr. Friedrich, Dr. Orenduff-Bartos, Dr. James, Dr. Saeger, and Dr. Woldman.

The day concluded with fun and games as staff from the Center for Outdoors Recreational Experiences conducted ice-breakers and other activities.

Welcome to all our new students!



Jake Newsome



Honors freshmen are excited to join HSA.



Dr. Bogyo

VSU HONORS COLLEGE
Michael Savoie
Honors College Interim Dean

Mrs. Jane Robinson
Honors College Secretary

Jason Brown & Michael Holman
Graduate Assistants

Jennifer Stakich
Student Assistant

Dorrian Baber
Student Office Assistant

Honors Hosts Fall Convocation

On August 21, a record number of over 175 people attended the annual Honors Convocation.



The record-setting crowd listens attentively to the speakers.

In Dr. Nikolova's opening statements she said the Convocation was a time where "we cast our eyes back to praise the past and look forward to engage the future," and that was what the Convocation did. It was a time to reflect on Dr. Nikolova's last six years with Honors, while preparing students on how to be an Honor student for life. After giving a brief history and hitting the highlights of the Honors Program and its transition to an Honors College, Dr. Nikolova introduced VSU's president.

Dr. William McKinney, President of VSU, welcomed the audience with some thought provoking comments. He showed appreciation for the invitation of what he called a "wonderful program" as well as urged the students to consider the role of education in their lives. Dr. McKinney quoted former President John F. Kennedy in saying "For those to whom much is given much is expected." He advised the students to realize that two kinds of educations exist: one that teaches how

to earn a living and one to teach how to live. Dr. McKinney ended with congratulations and best wishes to the students and their scholastic endeavors.

Dr. Karla Hull, Acting Vice President of Academic Affairs, followed the President's welcome with remarks of her own that echoed Dr. McKinney's sentiments. Dr. Hull challenged students to consider "the virtue of not knowing." She suggested that students leave their comfort zones to take classes that are their weaknesses to challenge themselves.

Next, Dr. Jim Hill introduced Mr.



Mr. Brett Brewer

Brewer with some major accomplishments of his life. Brewer graduated from Valdosta State College in 1987 with a BFA in Communication Arts, with an emphasis in theatre.

After going into the workforce, Brewer received his Masters in English at Northwestern. Along with a slew of other accomplishments under his belt, Brewer is the co-founder of a community theatre in his hometown in Indiana and is "responsible for dramatic growth during his tenure" at an internet marketing industry. Brewer's keynote address, entitled "Five (or Six) Ways to be an Honors Student for Life," focused on



Dr. Nikolova poses with some of her students

six ways students can continue their Honors success after undergraduate life (see article below).

The event concluded with a "walk down memory lane" by the Honors Student Association President, Ms. Jennifer Stakich. Stakich's speech focused on Dr. Nikolova's journey with the Honors Program and dedication to transform it into an Honors College. She brought nearly every audience member to tears as she eloquently expressed not only her personal gratitude to Dr. Nikolova but also the gratitude of all Honors students. According to Stakich, Dr. Nikolova's greatest talent is "her ability to build relationships with students." Upon Stakich's conclusion, the Honors Student Association Executive Board presented Dr. Nikolova with flowers and a scrapbook of current and former students who have written personal statements to her. The night was indeed a time "to praise the past and engage the future," as Dr. Nikolova had hoped it would be.

Six Ways To Be An Honors Student For Life

According to Brett Brewer, the following six tips will help you be an Honors student for life:

- ⇒ *Find a Great Mentor.* "Having a great mentor at every stage of life is essential," said Brewer. He notes that mentors "give objective guidance, moral support, and willingness to support big ideas."
- ⇒ *Engage Big Ideas.* He encouraged students to "think big, but the challenge is to back up the big idea with intellectual rigor." He warns that thinking small is easy in a world with so many distractions but thinking big is far more valuable.
- ⇒ *Contribute to Community.* Brewer advocates contributing to the community while both in college and after.
- ⇒ *Be Interdisciplinary.* "Be intellectually curious in classes other than your major," suggested Brewer.
- ⇒ *Tell Great Stories.* According to Brewer, "Great stories happen to those who tell them." Don't keep your stories to yourself, otherwise you are not benefiting anyone but yourself.
- ⇒ *Embrace Serendipity.* "The opportunity to do something presents itself unexpectedly. Instead of worrying, embrace it" said Brewer. "You can never fully be prepared for the unexpected, but it helps you be an Honors student for life."

Honors College Welcomes Interim Dean Michael Savoie

The Honors College is pleased to welcome a new interim dean for the academic year 2012-2013. Professor Michael Savoie comes to the Honors College from the Mass Media program. He holds a M.F.A. from the University of New Orleans and will receive his doctorate in May.

Professor Savoie's specialization is in digital media and video production. He served two years as the Mass Media department head, and more recently he served five years as Assistant Dean of the College of the Arts.

Savoie said that he is "honored" to have been appointed to this position. He has always thought Honors was special.

"Honors students are the 'fix-it' people. They invest in their education and seek out knowledge. Honors students are the

future leaders of America," said Savoie.

Coming into the Honors College as interim dean, he said that he is most excited about "the potential for students to grow." Although he has no intentions of applying for the dean position permanently, he encourages students to take advantage of his open door policy and drop by to talk.

For one of his first projects, Savoie organized a retreat for Honors Student Association students at Kinderlou Golf Course. The students engaged in team-building activities before discussing



Michael Savoie

ways to make Honors education even better. Savoie is actively seeking student opinion about the new changes to Honors and desires that students have a say in their Honors College.

As he will tell you, Savoie was not an Honors student when he was in school. In fact, he did not immediately attend college. He started as a musician. He has produced a few albums and many music videos that have aired on MTV and VH1. According to him, however, the best things he has ever produced are his children.

Honors Opens New Café

The Honors House now boasts a café for the students and faculty's enjoyment. You can enjoy more than just coffee at the café, for it also offers tea and hot chocolate. Dr. Bogyo and Dr. Johnson donated the espresso machine. The costs of supplying the coffee and other beverages come from a slight increase in the Honors Student Association dues. Thus far, students and faculty members alike



The Café's interior

have enjoyed having the café in the heart of the Honors College. Decorated with quaint red tables, a lamp-post, and pictures of famous cafés, the café is a place where students feel transported to Europe. Cafés are famous for inspiring some of the greatest thinkers in history. The

Honors College aims to foster that same atmosphere to encourage students to think outside the box. Many thanks to all who have donated supplies. Be sure to stop by and enjoy a nice cup of joe!



The coffee station.

Upcoming Honors Events

Mark your calendars for these exciting upcoming Honors events:

October 10—Pizza with a Professor at 7 pm in Reade Hall featuring guest speaker Irina McClellan



Irina McClellan

October 11—A&S Colloquia featuring Honors student Andrew Tatler-Burgess and librarian Deborah Davis

October 20—HSA participation in Make a Difference Day at the local food bank

October 26-27, 31—Honors Haunted House from 8 pm to midnight

October 29—Priority Registration for Honors students. Don't forget to meet with your adviser and also turn in a Priority Registration form to the Honors House.

November 30—HSA Graduation Party/Winter Semi-Formal 8 pm to midnight



Honors Students and Faculty Tour VSU Archives

Honors students and faculty had a blast from the past on September 19. The VSU library is housing the Tatler-Burgess collection of Medieval, Renaissance, and Early Modern artifacts. Andrew Tatler-Burgess conducted students and faculty around the second and fourth floors of the library describing his personal collection. Pieces ranged from Manuscripts on vellum from 1490 to antique maps of Vaugondy, as well as antique Chinese ceramics. Each piece on the second floor is accompanied by a plaque annotating its history.



Honors students Tony Piña and Joshua Arrington hold a drawing of Pablo Picasso.

Even more pieces can be found on the fourth floor. Students and faculty were able to hold a hand drawn picture by the famous artist, Pablo Picasso. The Tatler-Burgess collection also featured leaves out of a pulpit Bible used during Henry VII's reign. The students and faculty were proud to say that VSU hosts such an impressive collection and is grateful to Tatler-Burgess for shar-



Andrew Tatler-Burgess discusses the artifacts with the students and faculty.

ing his collection with the public. Thanks to everyone who attended the event!

Honors Faculty: Dr. Lori Mumpower

After moving back to the South following her teaching stint at the University of Alaska Anchorage, Dr. Mumpower is gracing the Honors College with her presence.

She is now teaching Honors English 1101H, which she says is off to a great start! Dr. Mumpower is impressed with her freshmen Honors students because they are "very prepared." She



Dr. Lori Mumpower

does not expect that enthusiasm to die down anytime soon.

Although this is the first time she's taught an Honors class, Dr. Mumpower was an honors student when she was an undergraduate. She feels fortunate to be able to teach an Honors course. She finds the Honors College to have a very special environment.

According to Dr. Mumpower, it is such a "big learning community where focused, bright students come together to learn." Her philosophy for her classroom is simple—she aims "to create a student centered environ-

ment," and from the way she described her classes thus far, she seems to be doing just that.

At the end of the day though, Dr. Mumpower wants to go home and cuddle with her little baby girl and knows that her students understand "that writing is hard, but hard work pays off!"

Honors Faculty: Dr. Richard Saeger

When asked to describe what he found special about the Honors environment, Dr. Saeger responded with a simple, yet witty answer: "I haven't seen anyone sleep yet."

Dr. Saeger is teaching a section of Honors 990, where his students are reading and discussing the book *It's Even Worse than it Looks*. The class focuses on the current gridlock Congress is in and why and how it got to be that way. He says that the small, intimate class sizes allow for greater discussion on such a hot-button issue.

"Thus far, the response has been pretty good. I'm not at all disappointed and have great expectation for this class," said Dr. Saeger.

He says that he is waiting for his students to have the "Aha moment!" His teaching style is "neo-socratic" as he puts it because he likes "to throw out a lot of questions and foster discussion." His mission for his Honors 990 class is for his students to have a "better appreciation of the absolute necessity that democracy requires informed citizens." When Dr. Saeger isn't talking politics, he enjoys singing with his group *Sine nomine* (without a name) and historic

preservation with the Valdosta Heritage Foundation.



Dr. Saeger (front, center) with *Sine nomine*

HSA Corner

Benefits of joining HSA include numerous opportunities to be involved in community service and social events. For more information look for VSU's Honor Student Association on Face-book and check out their website.

2012-2013 HSA Officers:

- President: Jennifer Stakich
- Vice President: Chelsie Norton
- Secretary: Shakeria Bonaparte
- Treasurer: Chase Kelly
- Community Service Coordinator: Terrance Jenkins
- Freshman Board Advisor: Amber Blocker
- Undergraduate Research Coordinator: Erica Garcia
- Public Relations Officer: Jessica Bartek



Most photos provided by Jessica Bartek

HSA Helps Habitat For Humanity

HSA emphasizes community service as an important part of each individual's development, and Community Service Coordinator Terrance Jenkins has scheduled a cornucopia of events for the students this semester!



Our volunteers were hard at work!

8th, fourteen students volunteered at the Valdosta Habitat for Humanity warehouse, and they painted, stained, and scrubbed both the warehouse itself and items to be put inside new houses. The students had a great time bonding with each other while also helping the

Valdosta community.



Students repackaged bathroom fixtures.

Students Enjoy Annual HSA Trivia Night

The Honors Student Association held its annual Trivia Night on August 29. The festivities included pizza, sodas, games, a piñata, and some very unorthodox trivia questions. The president of HSA, Jennifer Stakich, administered the questions while Vice President Chelsie Norton kept score. Trivia consisted of four teams with anywhere from four to eight members on it. Questions like "What is the literacy rate of Bulgaria?" and "How



much does the average person's cremated ashes weigh?" were just some of the mind boggling questions thrown to the teams. In the end, two teams tied for the most points. Although the winners did not receive prizes, they were able to walk away with their heads held high. After trivia, the students adjourned to the backyard. In falling dark-

ness, energized on soda and adrenaline, the students were blindfolded, spun around three times, and given a stick to knock down a piñata. After several failed attempts, it was Chelsie Norton who struck candy. Following the candy frenzy, the students enjoyed playing some classic childhood games like Twister and Apples to Apples. Even though the weather was terrible the atmosphere of the night was pure fun. All the students had a great time. Thanks to those who organized the event and supplied the games!