

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Recognition Ceremony	2
Bailey Winners	2
University Awards	2
Mack & Marga Awards	3
Symposium	3
Summer Studies	4
Honors Graduates	4
HSA Activities	5

## Students Present at SRHC

This year, 19 Honors students submitted papers and poster proposals to the Southern Regional Honors Council Conference in Tampa, Florida. Last year, Honors took nine students, so this year's conference marked the largest group in VSU Honors history.

Our students presented a wide variety of topics ranging from an ethnographic study to an original short story to a limnology study of a local lake. Our students prepared six posters, one original art piece, and eleven oral presentations.

While at the conference, students explored downtown Tampa, attended a student throwback party, and attended a charity gala and silent auction at the Glazer's Children Museum. Two students donated art pieces for the silent auction: Andrew Tatler-Burgess and VSU alumna Feartatious Hogan. Our students also

enjoyed the nearby beach and extensive shopping options that Tampa had to offer!



Andrew Tatler-Burgess

This year, the Southern Regional Honors Council celebrated 40 years of Honors education

this year, and the organization of the conference was superb. Oral presentation sessions were grouped so as to encourage audience participation in the multiple presentations. This year's committee also designed special SRHC shirts that many of our students purchased!

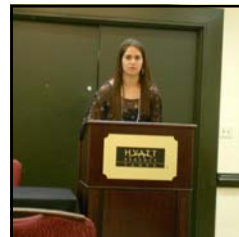
Next year, the Southern Regional Honors Council Conference will be held in Louisville, Kentucky.



Kimberly Edwards & Shannon Clark

### Participants:

Christian Carter  
 Shannon Clark  
 Ashley Dailey  
 Annamarie Decker  
 Audrey Dowis  
 Kimberly Edwards  
 Haley Franklin  
 Erica Garcia  
 Kathryn Grant  
 Danielle Jordan  
 Chase Kelly  
 Chelsie Norton  
 Jay Prosser  
 Matthew Rivera  
 Savannah Spivey  
 Jennifer Stakich  
 Andrew Tatler-Burgess  
 Katie Wagnon  
 Angelique Witmer



Erica Garcia

### VSU HONORS COLLEGE

Dr. Ofelia Nikolova  
 Honors College Director

Mrs. Jane Robinson  
 Honors College Secretary

Michael Holman  
 Graduate Assistant

Jennifer Stakich  
 Student Assistant

Dorrian Baber  
 Student Office Assistant

## 2012 Honors Recognition Ceremony

Honors students and faculty marked the end of another academic year at the Honors Recognition Ceremony on April 18th, 2012. After Dr. Nikolova's opening comments, Dr. Philip Gunter, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, gave a short speech about the future of VSU and Honors. In the absence of Dr. and Mrs. Bailey, Dr. Sharon Gravett, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented the Bailey Scholarship winners with certificates. Dr. Nikolova then presented our GCHC and SRHC participants with certificates and recognized all students completing the

Honors Program in this academic year. Students graduating this spring and summer received their gold Honors cords to wear at graduation.

Dr. Nikolova honored the eight Honors professors who were nominated for the Exemplary Honors Faculty of the Year. The students voted for their favorites, and this year's winner was Dr. Jim Hill. Dr. Nikolova also presented Dr. Hill with a special plaque in honor of his lifetime com-

mitment to Honors education at VSU.

HSA President Jennifer Stakich announced the new officers, and HSA presented their gifts to Dr. Nikolova and Mrs. Robinson in appreciation for all of their hard work. The festivities concluded in the lobby; students and faculty alike had a great time!



## 2012 Bailey Scholarship Winners

Four students received the Hugh C. Bailey Family Scholarship this year: Laura Hanna, Danielle Jordan, Matthew Rivera, and Jenny Smith. Laura is a second-year English major, and Danielle is a sophomore anthropology major. Matthew is a sophomore biology major, and Jenny is a



Laura, Danielle, Matthew, and Jenny

sophomore history major. These four students have exhibited dedication to the Honors Program by participating in conferences, joining the Honors Student Association, and working at the Haunted House.

These students represent a broad range of majors on campus, and their minors are also varied: Matthew has a minor in Religious Studies, Laura has a minor in Political Science, and Jenny has elected to take dance classes in addition to her political science minor. Additionally, both Laura and Jenny will graduate one whole year early. Danielle has studied abroad in London, England. Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients!

## Honors Students Receive Additional Accolades

Honors students routinely receive the university's top awards, and this year is no different.

Outstanding Student in Arts & Sciences—Matthew Portwood

Most Outstanding AS300 Cadet—Candace Brown

College of Education Highest Academic Achievement Award—Audrey Dowis

American Association of University Women Award—Savannah Spivey

Interdisciplinary Studies Award for

Academic Excellence—Kathryn Grant  
Political Science Best Paper—Kathryn Grant

Book Prize for Outstanding Student in the Foreign Language Education Program—Amy Dandron and Kimberly Wright

Outstanding Student in French—Stephanie Byington

Outstanding Student in Philosophy—Jason Singletary

Mack Varnedoe Greer Sr. M.D. Award—Matthew Rivera

Outstanding Senior Award in Chemistry—Jatin Patel

WT Summerford Scholarship—Ivan Furtado

Harold Gulliver Memorial Scholarship—Jennifer Stakich

History Award—Matthew Portwood

Outstanding Student in Computer Science—Kai Tillman

English Department Essay Contest First Place—Erica Garcia

## Honors Students Claim Top Honors: the Mack & Marga Awards

Honors students Ira Benjamin Collier IV and Katherine Wagon were selected to receive the Mack and Marga Awards, distinguishing them as this year's outstanding students.

Ira Benjamin Collier IV is a criminal justice major with a minor in aerospace studies. Ben is part of the ROTC program on campus; when he graduates on May 5th, he will be commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the United States Air Force. In June, Ben will be sent to Edwards AFB in California where he will begin training as a Special Agent in the Office of Special Investigations (OSI). There are only 300 total officers in OSI, and Ben was selected as one of twelve to enter the program this year!

Ben has received the AFROTC Cadet of the Year honor at both the university level and the state level.



Ira Benjamin Collier IV

He has also received the In College Air Force ROTC Scholarship.

While on campus, Ben has participated in the Honors Student Association, the College Republicans, and the Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM). Ben has traveled to New Orleans three times with the BCM, and he has also attended their leadership conferences.

This year's Marga Award winner is also an Honors student: Katherine Wagon. Katie is a political science major and a philosophy minor who has been accepted to the University of Denver. She will be pursuing a Masters in Public Policy there. During her time at VSU, Katie has received numerous awards, including the Bartram Award, the Claire Phillips Martin Scholarship, and the Blazer Leadership Award. Within the department of Political Science, Katie has received both the William M. Morrow Award and the David W. Winder Best Paper Award.

Katie has also been very involved on campus, participating in the Honors Student Association, Phi Alpha Delta, and the Emerging Leaders Program. She served as a freshman senator in the Student Government Association; during

her



Katherine Wagon

sophomore year, she joined the SGA Judicial Board, and she currently serves as Chief Justice of that board. In her junior year, Katie was a committee member on VSU Strategic Plan Sub-Committee on Fiscal Responsibility/Stewardship. This year, Katie also served as a student representative to the Undergraduate Research Council. In addition to these activities, Katie also completed an internship with the Valdosta Public Defender Office in her junior year! Katie has participated in the 2011 GCHC and SRHC conferences as well as the 2012 SRHC; she also attended the Georgia Tutoring Association Conference and the Southern Political Science Association Conference in 2012.

## Honors Students Present at VSU Symposium

VSU held the first university-wide Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 5-6, and many Honors students presented both oral presentations and posters. Honors students claimed the top prizes in most categories:

Best Paper: Kathryn Grant

Runner up Best Paper: Jonathan Brock

Best Poster in Sciences: Cordel Williams

Runner-up Best Poster in Sciences:

Sasha Booth, and Pratikuman Patel & Carolyn Newham

Best Poster in Social Sciences: Cassandra Brantley

### Honors Presenters

Amber Blocker

Sasha Booth

Kassandra Brantley

Jonathan Brock

Shannon Clark

Jarrett Darrah

John B. Desselle

Felina Duncan

Kimberly Edwards

Haley Franklin

Ivan Furtado

Erica Garcia

Kathryn Grant

Sydney Haire

Laura Hanna

Danielle Jordan

Chase Kelly

Kaitlyn Ledwitch

Alice Mendez

Hazel Moon

Carolyn Newham

Chelsie Norton

Jatin Patel

Matthew Portwood

Matthew Rivera

Robert Rozier

Savannah Spivey

Jennifer Stakich

Kelly Strickland

Andrew Tatler-

Burgess

Cassie Taylor

Steve Terry

Katlyn Tucker

Katie Wagon

Cordel Williams

Angelique Witmer

## Students Spend Their Summers Learning!

Last year, Carolyn Newham travelled to Germany on a summer study abroad program—she and a host of other Honors students spent their summer learning about other cultures. This year, Honors students are once again using their summer vacations to experience other countries and gain valuable work experience in their fields.



Carolyn Newham in Paris

ing classes in marine biology.

**Elizabeth Tuttle (JR)** will be travelling to Australia through the International Scholar Laureate Program to learn about Australia's healthcare system.

**Kally Cole (SOPH)** will spend her fall semester in Barcelona, Spain.

**Lindsay McMullen (SR)** will be going to Cadiz,

Spain to practice her Spanish language skills.



### Going Global

**Caitlin Bailey (SR)** is going to the Czech Republic with the Psychology & Counseling Department.

**Jennifer Stakich (SR)** is going to the Czech Republic with the Political Science Department.

**Michael Holman (GR)** is going to London with the European Council program.

**Brittany Butler (SR)** will spend Fall 2012 in Fiji through ISEP, tak-

### Intelligent Interns

While not actually leaving the country, **Chelsie Norton (SR)** will be attending MSRI-UP at the University of California at Berkeley and conducting enumerative combinatorics research with the Mathematical Science Research Institute.



**Shakeria Bonaparte (SR)** and **Terrence Jenkins (SR)** have been admitted to the seven-week Student Educational Enrichment Program at Georgia Health Sciences University.

## Honors Graduates 41 Students!

Congratulations to our 41 Honors students who have graduated from VSU during this academic year!

### Fall 2011:

Helen Burkett  
 Kristel DeGroot  
 Tyrina Dickson  
 Lauren Gordon  
 Feartatious Hogan  
 Candace Howard  
 Matthew Portwood  
 Jay Prosser  
 Khristian Roberts  
 Mary Warthen

### Spring 2012:

Amber Brown  
 Ira Ben Collier  
 Steven Cray  
 Amy Dandron  
 Annamarie Decker  
 Cory Hart  
 Cara Heesh  
 Brandi Jackson  
 Bianca Mallory  
 Danielle McNeil  
 Carolyn Newham  
 Brittany Nicholas  
 Allison Parrish  
 Maureen Pritchett  
 Rob Rozier  
 Aerolyn Shaw

Tiffany Soma  
 Nikolas Spens  
 Kierra Spivey  
 Savannah Spivey  
 Jennifer St. Aubin  
 Cassie Taylor  
 Lacey Taylor  
 Theresa Tucker  
 Katherine Wagon  
 Angelique Witmer  
 Kimberly Wright



### Summer 2012:

Jaimie Concord  
 Audrey Dowis  
 Kathryn Grant  
 Jessica Williams

## 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 Facebook and check out their website.

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=2200950440>

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



## Annual HSA BBQ & Elections

Honors students gathered at the Honors House on April 11 for a fun-filled evening of good food, music, and friends! Grillmaster Kimberly Edwards, aided by Shannon Clark, did a masterful job of cooking the food. Reade Hall generously donated the food that was consumed, and there were hardly any leftovers! Once everyone was finished munching, the annual HSA elec-

tions took place. While most of the board remains unchanged, two new officers were sworn in: Chase Kelly and Amber Blocker. Class representatives were also chosen for the upcoming year: Shannon Clark (SR), Kimberly Edwards (SR), Laura Hanna (SR), Danielle Jordan (JR), Adam Uelmen (JR), Jennifer Dandron (SOPH), and Adrienne Fry (SOPH). Freshman representatives

will be selected in August.

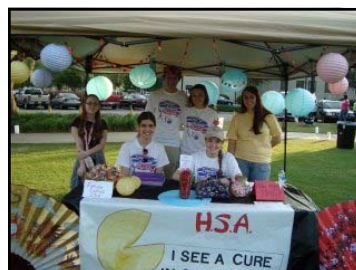


Erica Garcia and Danielle Jordan

## HSA Participates in Relay for Life

Our HSA Relay for Life Captain Ashley Land dedicated many hours to organizing the HSA team, and her efforts paid off! HSA organized a bake sale for Relay for Life and raised \$141 in just two days! Additionally, Ashley also placed donation receptacles in the Honors House, raising over thirty dollars in change.

At the event, HSA chose China as the theme for the tent, and team members sold fortune cookies and



Some of our volunteers at our China tent!

painted Chinese symbols on people's faces.

Additionally, Kiana Lively constructed origami stars that were used in a guessing game—people paid \$0.50 to guess how many stars were in the jar, and the closest guesser won a \$25 gift certificate to Beijing Café! HSA members staffed the tent from 7 pm on April 13 to 7 am on April 14, raising a total of \$53.38. Special thanks to the Reade Hall residents who designed the tent sign as well as everyone who participated, donated, or decorated!