

HONORABLE MENTION

A NEWSLETTER OF THE HONORS PROGRAM AT GORDON STATE COLLEGE

Spring 2017

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DECADE ONE

The Honors Program at Gordon State College is nearly ten years old. One of the last things that our founding Coordinator, Dr. Mark Milewicz, did before “handing me the keys” was to design the Honors Logo. He ordered a big box of medallions with the logo engraved on them. I bet he would be surprised to learn that the big box is almost empty! I have had the privilege of awarding more than thirty medallions to GSC Honors Program graduates, but that elite group of students, as brilliant as they are, does not tell the whole story of the life of our Honors Program. This newsletter, a collaborative project of the Student Honors Council, is intended to provide a few snapshots of our dynamic Honors community. Our goal is to publish one in Fall and one in Spring. We are communicating first and foremost with our fellow Highlanders to show you more about us, help you to see what we’ve been up to, and maybe even attract a prospective new member or three. Oh, and Mark, if you happen to come across this missive, could you give me a call and tell me where I could get a good deal on a big box of medallions?

-- Dr. David Janssen, Honors Program Coordinator

ACADEMICS: GSC @ GCHC

The weekend of February 17th was not only educational, but a lot of fun. Angela Knight, Sheli Mathews, Justin Serna, Kimberly Sowell, and Julia Whitt all represented Gordon State College at the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Conference at Columbus State University. Before the day of presenting our presentations and posters, we enjoyed a fun-filled evening at the Coca-Cola Space Science Center and got to know other presenters from other colleges and universities from around the state. Not only did we have a blast there, but we also did a little bit of geocaching—it was so exciting!



Students at the GSC Honors Conference

HONORABLE MENTION

A NEWSLETTER OF THE HONORS PROGRAM AT GORDON STATE COLLEGE

ACADEMICS: GSC @ GCHC (CONTINUED)

Afterwards we ate delicious, mouthwatering pizza from Mellow Mushroom and enjoyed spending quality time together as a team. This is only a small taste of what actually happened in Columbus, Georgia, because as we all know the famous saying: “What happens in Columbus, Georgia...stays in Columbus, Georgia.”

-- Sheli Mathews, Student Honors Council

ACADEMICS: The Benefits of an Honors Colloquium

“When I first heard Dr. Janssen say that a former Honors Student took four colloquia in order to receive Honors credit, it seemed perfect for me. When I came into the Honors Program, I had already finished most of the associate’s level classes that had Honors alternatives, and embedding a course didn’t appeal to me personally, although it can be a great solution for others. I took my first Honors Colloquium in the Spring of 2016, Dr. Mayo’s History of Psychology. In the Fall of 2016 my second Colloquium was Dr. Wilcox’s COLQH, focusing on the TV show *Firefly*. As of this semester, I am on my third Colloquium, a class focusing on the show *Star Trek*, boldly helmed by Dr. Aiello. Next semester will be my fourth Colloquium, taught by Dr. Janssen, titled “Future Tenses,” which, I am told, will deal with works of fiction and non-fiction that look at the future from different perspectives. I highly recommend these courses for all interested students, not only for the honors credit, but for the unique experience.

-- Kimberly Sowell, Student Honors Council



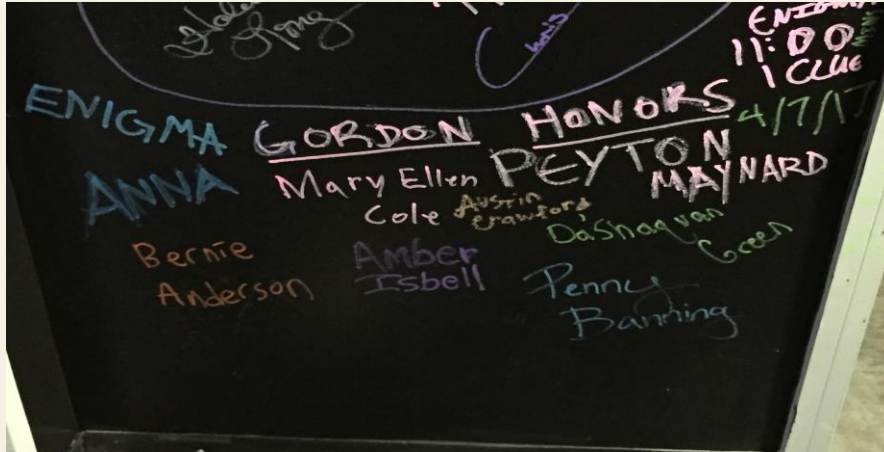
Dr. Wilcox’s COLQH on *Firefly*



Dr. Aiello’s COLQH on *Star Trek*

HONORABLE MENTION

A NEWSLETTER OF THE HONORS PROGRAM AT GORDON STATE COLLEGE



Gordon was here!

Events and Activities: The “Ultimate Escape” Escape

On April 7th, 2017, fifteen honor program members took their shot at the Ultimate Escape game. We split up into two groups. Eight people went for the Enigma challenge, which was rumored to be one of the harder challenges, while the other seven went for the Atlanta challenge, which dealt with finding the secret recipe of Coca-Cola. I happened to choose the Enigma group, and those of us in the Enigma group had to save Winston Churchill from a German assassin. To do this, we went through two rooms – one hidden within a closet. It required that we each work together and give each other space, and we also intuitively had people at each and every lock to try out multiple combinations we found. The search for clues on how to escape was challenging, but the Enigma group pulled through. The Enigma group escaped with eleven minutes to spare, but the Coca-Cola group did not make it out in time. Despite all of this, everyone had a blast in Atlanta, and the whole experience was exciting!

-- Da'Shaquan Green, Student Honors Council

Events and Activities: The 6th Annual GSC Honors Program Trivia Contest

On Thursday, April 20th, the Honors Program hosted its popular annual trivia contest, open to Gordon students, faculty and staff. There were five teams, four consisting of Gordon students and faculty members and one team consisting of only Gordon students. The Student Honors Council created professor-approved questions based on each scholastic “house” on campus, from the Academic Building to Russell Hall. Each team was eager to participate (and win), and as such, out came the trash-talk! Though it must be said, ‘twas all in good fun. Friendly competition always makes for a good game. Each team strategized differently and did their best, while performing under the pressure of submitting an answer to each question in under a minute’s time. However, the six-member team, Schadenfreude, continued its two-year reign by winning for a third time! As team leader Dr. Jeremy Richards noted, “That is three wins and three second places!” Big smiles plastered their faces as they posed for their winning photo and brandished the ultimate prize: the coveted

HONORABLE MENTION

A NEWSLETTER OF THE HONORS PROGRAM AT GORDON STATE COLLEGE

Events and Activities: The 6th Annual GSC Honors Program Trivia Contest (continued)

Bust of Einstein, created by Honors Program Graduate Shannon Griffin for the first trivia contest in 2012. The night ended on a high note, with many laughs, bonds strengthened between students and professors, and talk of next year's contest and team strategies.

-- Sara Willi, Student Honors Council



Taking Pleasure in Your Suffering: Dr. John George, Dr. Ed Whitelock, Andrew Fortson, Susan Boyd, Carey Lisk, and Dr. Jeremy Richards

HONORABLE MENTION

A NEWSLETTER OF THE HONORS PROGRAM AT GORDON STATE COLLEGE



Students and professors chatting at the new members' party

Celebrating New Members

The Gordon State College Honors Program has just welcomed 14 new students this Spring. The latest members were welcomed into the program with a party in their honor, pun intended. Faculty, staff, new members, current members, and alumni all joined in an evening of food, fun, games, and good conversations. The diverse group could be seen out on the lawn of the Honors House late into the evening enjoying chips and hot dogs, playing games, and discussing all manner of topics from classes, to sports, to astronomy, and even new battery technology. The “New-Members” party, held shortly after applications to the Honors Program have been reviewed by the Faculty Honors Council in October and March, has become a tradition and a familiar sight on campus. The Honors Program is now accepting applications for new members in the Fall; the next deadline is October 10. Contact Dr. David Janssen for more details.

-- Austin Crawford, Student Honors Council

Honors Salons: Food and Fine Conversation



The Honors Salon, where students and professors discuss thought provoking ideas.

Dr. Burstein and his wife Cindy have given the Honors Program students a chance to experience a salon that is not a normal “hair-nails” kind of experience. Oh, it’s much better than that! The Honors Salons may not quite be “a fashionable assemblage of notables” as Merriam Webster defines salon. However, these events do provide an evening of thought-provoking discussion on a selected topic. A small committee composed of Honors students and professors select salon topics that are relevant to the American culture and society as a whole. The salon topics have ranged from discussing the place of art in our culture, to discussing ways of

HONORABLE MENTION

A NEWSLETTER OF THE HONORS PROGRAM AT GORDON STATE COLLEGE

Events and Activities: Honors Salons (continued)

healing a divided nation. Usually about six professors and six students are invited to attend each salon. The salons are held at the Bursteins' home twice throughout each semester. One of the professors in attendance is asked, in advance, to be the discussion leader. The salons usually begin with a delicious meal prepared by the Bursteins. The meals often include a rice or pasta dish, salad, bread, dessert, and beverages. As soon as the distraction of the delicious dinner begins to subside, discussion of the selected topic begins.

--Julia Whitt, Student Honors Council Vice President



Accolades: Our Hero

In February, the Honors Program members and faculty were thrilled when our very own Student Honors Council president, Kat Crawford, was featured in the Student Success Center's special recognition program, "Highlander Heroes." Kat is more than deserving of the honor. She has served as the SHC president since the fall semester of 2015. She completed her Associate of Arts in December of 2016 and plans to graduate with her Associate of Science in Nursing Degree in May. Kat will then return to GSC to complete her Bachelor of Science in Nursing as well a degree in Business. Kat has pursued her education with a kind of vigor and gusto

that many of us only wish for. Dr. Janssen, Honors Program coordinator, states, "Kat is an ideal representative of our Honors Program. She has been a tireless advocate for Honors at GSC in more ways than I can count, and she is a natural leader. It has been a great pleasure and privilege to work with her." Congratulations, Kat! We sincerely thank you for your dedication to the Gordon State College Honors Program.

Leah Whitt, Student Honors Council

Accolades: Congratulations, Honors Program Grads!

Katherine Odegaard, Bachelor of Science in Biology
 Charley Dodgen, Bachelor of Science in Biology
 Raquel Gonzalez, Bachelor of Science in Biology
 Maci Shearouse, Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood/Special Education
 Amber Isbell, Bachelor of Science in Human Services
 Jessica Bailey, Bachelor of Arts in History
 Catherine Crawford, Associate of Science in Nursing
 Austin Bell, Associate of Science
 Da'Shaquan Green, Associate of Arts
 Sara Willi, Associate of Arts

Live Long and Boldly Go! –GSC Honors Program Graduation Creed (coined by Katherine Odegaard, 2014)