In fall 2011, fourteen new students were added to USCA’s Honors Program. Ten of these students were true freshmen. They are Shelbey Bunker, Sommer Farmer, Amy He, Adrienne Hughes, Amanda Jones, Helen Morris, Emily O’Rourke, Matthew Polk, Megan Taylor, and Andrew Ward. Four of our new Honors students were continuing students. These students are Emily Bush, Jennifer Gilmore, Adam Port, and Kayla Pruitte. The USCA Honors Program welcomes these new students!

Among the new Honors students are (top, L-R) Emily O’Rourke, Adrienne Hughes, Shelbey Bunker, (middle, L-R) Kayla Pruitte, Jennifer Gilmore, Adam Port, (bottom, L-R) Megan Taylor, and Helen Morris.

Honors Program has a New Director

Dr. Chad L. Leverette, Associate Professor of Chemistry in the Dept. of Chemistry and Physics and the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs officially began as the Honors Program Director on July 1, 2011. Dr. Leverette replaces the previous Director, Dr. Lacy, who retired at the end of June. “I am delighted to be working with such outstanding students,” said Dr. Leverette. “It is my hope to continue to build upon the success of Dr. Lacy and Dr. Morehouse. As a professor, my greatest joy is getting to work with bright young people. Now I have the opportunity to help more than 50 of USCA’s best students.”

Honors Highlights:

- Honors students garner numerous awards
- Honors student lands prestigious internship at the White House
- New Honors course offering, AHON 490

Inside this issue:

- Sigma Tau Delta welcomes new Honors students 2
- Student feature: White House intern, Ms. Laura Storey 3
- Award winners 4
- Fall 2012 classes 6
- Fall orientation meeting 6
The USCA chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society, inducted ten new members at a special dinner ceremony on March 12. Four of the ten members were Honors students. Those students are Brianna Arnone, Jennifer Gilmore, Clarissa McDermott, and Tayler Rodgers. Established in 1986, USCA’s Epsilon Upsilon chapter of Sigma Tau Delta is dedicated to supporting the international society’s goals of recognizing student accomplishments in literature and linguistics and promoting interest in the discipline of English on college campuses and their surrounding communities. The Epsilon Upsilon chapter, in particular, provides an annual undergraduate scholarship to a USCA student majoring in English or English education and helps host visiting writers as part of the James and Mary Oswald Distinguished Writers Series.

This year’s chapter officers include Jenny Powell, President; Justin Edwards (Honors Student), Vice President; and Brady Morris (Honors Student), Secretary-Treasurer. The chapter sponsor is Dr. Tom Mack, Chair of the Department of English.

Sigma Tau Delta Welcomes Honors Student Members

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Thank you!!

A sincere thank you to Dr. Elaine Lacy (past Director of the USCA Honors Program). Dr. Lacy was an exceptional leader for the Honors Program. Dr. Lacy retired in June 2011. Thank you, Dr. Lacy, for all of your work and effort for the Honors Program. The Honors students miss you very much! Also, thank you to Dr. Julia Ball (School of Nursing) and Dr. Leanne McGrath (School of Business) for many years of faithful service to the USCA Honors Program as HSC members.

Welcome!

Welcome to the new members of the Honors Steering Committee, Dr. Sanela Porca (School of Business) and Dr. Linda Heraldo-Gacad (School of Nursing). Thank you for serving in this important role!

Honors Students Continue to Shine at Research Day

USCA Honors Program students continue their excellence in the annual USCA Research Day. On Friday, April 6, 2011, students from across the campus featuring eight different disciplines presented oral and poster presentations on various research topics. Seven different Honors students participated. These students and their respective majors are:

Alex Brugh (Chemistry), Alisha Frazier (Nursing), Abigail Mojica (Psychology), Brady Morris (English), Priscilla Simon (Biology), Leah Stanley (English), and Amanda Steffen (Biology).

USC Aiken’s Research Day is held each spring to showcase undergraduate student research and performances. A panel of judges awards prizes to the most outstanding presentations or performances. Fifty percent of the awards given out this year went to Honors students!

Alisha Frazier earned a Bronze Medal for her poster presentation. Congratulations to all of these students! Job well done! Alex Brugh (Silver Medal) and Leah Stanley (Bronze Medal) both placed in the oral presentations category. Alisha Frazier received award from Dr. Hallman (Chancellor)
Honors Student Serves as White House Intern

Recent USC Aiken graduate and Honors Program student Laura Storey was recently featured in the The Citizen News of Edgefield, South Carolina for an internship position she held in fall 2011.

Upon learning of her selection, Laura credited hard work and her education at USC Aiken. “I was so thrilled and honored because I felt like the stars were finally starting to align – after years of hard work I was finally seeing my reward,” she said. “I don’t think anything can prepare you for the White House – it’s such a fast-paced and whirlwind environment, but with that said, I know for a fact that USCA gave me the skills and tools necessary to thrive in this environment,” Storey said. Laura credits the impact her professors had on her academic career. “The relationships I built with my political science and history professors helped me more than anything.”

Honors T-Shirts and more!

This past year, the Honors Program was able to provide new t-shirts with the USCA Honors Program logo to all Honors students in the Program. Students were able to choose their color and whether they wanted long-sleeve or short-sleeve. They really turned out great!

Upon requests from the Honors students, further improvements to the Honors lounge were provided. These included a dry-erase board for group studying, a color scanner for the computer workstations, four new computers, office supplies (including staplers, markers, etc.), and new furniture. We were able to add a love seat to the Honors lounge that matched the current couch and chair. The Honors lounge continues to be a wonderful place for the Honors students. More students than ever are using this facility during the school year.
Honors Program News

Honors Students Garner Numerous Awards

Honors students continue to earn top awards across campus and throughout the USC system. In the academic year 2011-2012, USC Aiken had nine students selected as Magellan Scholars. Out of these nine students, six were Honors students. This past year, 67% of all of the Magellan Scholars came from the Honors Program. These students are Alex Brugh, Tomas Greizinger, Virginia Kopald, Abigail Mojica, Priscilla Simon, and Leah Stanley. For the upcoming fall semester, seven additional USC Aiken students were named Magellan scholars. Three of these students are Honors students (Brianna Arnone, Jennifer Gilmore, and Tayler Rodgers). The Magellan Scholars program enriches the academic experience of undergraduates through research opportunities in all disciplines of study.

For December graduation, Mr. Blake Leaphart was selected as the Outstanding Senior Student for the entire USC Aiken campus. (article continued on p. 5)

Chancellor Hallman Honors Graduates at Reception

Dr. Tom Hallman, USC Aiken Chancellor, has been a staunch supporter of the Honors Program throughout his tenure as Chancellor. Dr. Hallman recently displayed his continued admiration for our Honors students at a reception on April 25 that he hosted. Each year, at the conclusion of the Senior Capstone presentations, Dr. Hallman hosts a reception to honor all of the hard work all of the Honors students have accomplished for that year, but specifically recognizes graduating seniors.

This year, the reception featured Asian cuisine with a special fruit sorbet for dessert. It was delicious! Each year, this reception is a wonderful opportunity for Honors students to relax together and talk about the past year. Dr. Chad Leverette, Honors Program Director, and Dr. Suzanne Ozment, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and members of the HSC were also in attendance.

In addition to the reception he hosts for all Honors students each spring, Dr. Hallman also invites all of the new Honors students to a dinner each fall so that he can get to know them better. Both events this year were wonderful. Thank you, Dr. Hallman, for your support of the Honors Program!

2011-2012 Honors Graduates

Eleven Honors students graduated from the Honors Program during the 2011-2012 academic year. They include: December graduates—Max Boafo, Blake Leaphart, and Lauren Stephens, May graduates—Alex Brugh, Justin Edwards, Alisha Frazier, Karoline Holzschuh, Rebecca Keating, Abigail Mojica, Alix Smith, and Amanda Steffen. Congratulations to each of you! We will definitely miss you!
New Honors Course Offering, AHON 490

Introducing AHON 490: Honors Special Topics! This course was officially approved during the spring semester by the Honors Steering Committee and the Faculty Assembly. This course provides tremendous flexibility in our course offerings and allows our program to offer new courses on a variety of topics to see how these courses may fit into our existing program at a later date. The topics for this course will change as faculty create new courses on current, interdisciplinary topics.

We often receive wonderful ideas from faculty regarding new courses that could be offered for our Honors students. The problem is that many of these courses do not fit into our AHON 201 colloquia series and do not fit the requirements of our AHON 101 course. Up to this point, we have been unable to offer any additional classes outside of our AHON 101 and 201 course descriptions. AHON 490 will allow us to do just that. As a new course is created and approved by our Honor Steering Committee, we will offer that course through AHON 490. This will count as elective hours for our students. The number of credit hours for this course will range from one to three credit hours depending on the type of course offered.

One exciting possibility for AHON 490 for this coming year is a proposal being developed by Dr. Dave Harrison (Professor and Interim Dean of the School of Business) and Dr. Drew Geyer (Associate Professor of English and member of the HSC). Their proposal, if approved, will provide a unique learning experience in the spring and summer of 2013. The courses proposed are based solely on critical thinking and will focus on critical inquiry for global studies.

During the first AHON 490 course in the spring of 2013, students will totally direct a research project that investigates a current global issue. Students will be guided through the critical inquiry process while also having the freedom for creative exploration and discovery. In the maymester and summer I session of 2013, these students will travel on-site to gather additional data and to present their findings at an international conference. This is an exciting opportunity that connects study-abroad with critical inquiry and analytical research. Hopefully, we are able to work out the details to allow this to be offered in 2013. More information to come...

Honors Students Garner Numerous Awards (Continued from p. 4)

Blake was a featured speaker at the December graduation ceremony. Blake was also selected for the REA Hall of Fame. Tomas Greizinger was the recipient of the Hallman University Values Award. Both of these awards are for campus leadership. These awards were given at the Student Life Leadership Awards Banquet.

Brady Morris was chosen as the 2012-2013 recipient of the Ellen Lott Smith Scholarship.

At the annual academic convocation ceremony on April 24, numerous awards were given out to Honors students. The following is a list of the awards received.

Micah Hurtt, Oswald Freshman Writing Award
Pricilla Simon, Outstanding Student of Biology
Alex Brugh, Outstanding Student of Chemistry
Adam Port, Outstanding Student of Physics
Rebecca Keating, Outstanding Student of Early Childhood Education
Justin Edwards, Who’s Who Award
Brady Morris, Who’s Who Award

Congratulations to all of these students!

“THIS PAST YEAR, 67% OF ALL THE MAGELLAN SCHOLARS CAME FROM THE HONORS PROGRAM.”
Honors students participate in a unique learning community that enjoys small classes and independent study under the direction of USC Aiken’s best teacher-scholars in a program that cultivates critical thinking, analysis and creative expression.

Honors Program Director
Dr. Chad L. Leverette
ChadL@usca.edu
803 641 3291

The 2012-2013 Honors Program Steering Committee:

Dr. Ed Callen
Dr. Drew Geyer
Dr. William Harpine
Dr. Linda Heraldo-Gacad
Dr. William Jackson
Dr. Doug Kuck
Dr. Sanela Porca
Dr. Windy Schweder

http://web.usca.edu/honorsprogram/index.dot

To Keep in Mind….

All Honors students will get together for the first meeting of the year on Wednesday, August 22 from 2 to 3 pm in the Business and Education Building room 140. This meeting will provide an opportunity to meet and welcome new Honors students, get news about fall Honors events, and receive a copy of the 2012-2013 Honors handbook. All Honors students are required to attend.

If you are a rising senior, you should have already submitted your Capstone intent form in the spring semester. Remember that you must submit your Honors Capstone proposal by mid-semester of the semester before you graduate. You will need to complete and submit the Capstone Project Proposal Form which can be found at http://web.usca.edu/honorsprogram/honors-courses.dot. Graduating seniors will present their work late in the semester they graduate.

In fall 2012 two Honors colloquia, the AHON 201 short courses, will be offered. Students need to take three such courses during their time at USCA. Drs. Tom Wood and Roger Deal will teach a colloquium titled “The Arab Spring and the New Middle East Since 2011”. This multi-disciplinary course explores historical background, current events and international ramifications of the dramatic and unexpected unrest (often called ‘The Arab Spring’) that swept the Middle East early in 2011 and that continues to unfold.

Dr. Ed Callen will teach a colloquium titled “Science and Pseudoscience: Scientific Literacy and the Scientific Method”. In that course, students will review concepts of the scientific method and examine some classic scientific phenomena in a historical context. This class will foster a way of critical thinking about research in the sciences.

In spring 2013, our AHON 201 offerings include “Portrayal of the Brain and Mind in Popular Media” by Dr. Echo Leaver, and “Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Altruism” co-taught by Prof. Natalia Bowdoin and Dr. David Dillard-Wright.

To register for these unique AHON 201 colloquia, please contact Dr. Leverette.