USCA Honors Program Welcomes the Largest Honors Cohort in Program History

The entering Honors cohort for the fall 2013 semester is the largest incoming class in program history! Thirty-eight exceptional students were accepted into the entering class this year. Close to 80% of the students accepted come from counties across South Carolina. Several students from Augusta, GA and Atlanta, GA are also included in this class. We even had one student from New Jersey join this entering class. The students in this class have selected over 10 different majors to pursue while at USC Aiken ranging from Nursing and Business to Chemistry, Biology, and Communications. USC Aiken welcomes this outstanding group of students to our campus!

Message from the Director

Dr. Chad L. Leverette
Director of the USC Aiken Honors Program

What an exceptional year we had last year in the Honors Program! We welcomed our largest incoming class ever to the program. Out of the 38 students admitted to the program, 10 students were continuing students and 28 were incoming freshmen! USC Aiken desires to grow the Honors Program, which will bring more outstanding students to our campus. These numbers reflect this goal. To help meet the needs of our increasing Honors student body, we developed a new leadership program called the Honors Ambassadors. You can read about this program in the newsletter. Our students continue to earn their reputation as the best and brightest on campus by garnering numerous awards that are detailed in this newsletter. Congratulations to all of these students! We also celebrated the graduation of 9 Honors students this past year. We are so proud of these students. I am very excited about our upcoming academic year! As always, please contact me if I can help in any way!
Thank you!
We wish to thank the following past members of the Honors Steering Committee for their service to the Honors Program.

Dr. Ed Callen, Dept. of Psychology
Dr. Doug Kuck, Dept. of Sociology

And... Welcome New Members of the Honors Steering Committee
Joining the HSC in the 2014-2015 academic year:

Dr. Michael Fowler
Dept. of Visual and Performing Arts

Dr. Tom Reid
Dept. of Mathematical Sciences

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2013-2014 HONORS GRADUATES!

Aubrey M. Danielson
Jennifer R. Gilmore
Dillon J. Gooding
Allison P. Jolley
Breanna K. Marshall
Kayla E. Pruitte
Rachel L. Roberts
Tayler C. Rodgers
Sean A. Wills
Honors Program Student Athletes Shine

Andrew Ward
(Jr., Business Management Major)

Ward Named National Winner For Elite 89 Award

University of South Carolina Aiken men’s golf standout Andrew Ward was named winner of the Elite 89 award, which was released at the NCAA Division II Men’s Golf National Championship.

The recipient of this award is a student-athlete with the highest GPA that participates at the NCAA Division II Men’s Golf National Championship.

Andrew is a key player on USC Aiken’s Golf Team. He has been instrumental this past season in helping the No. 2 Pacers claim the Peach Belt Conference Championship and earn a berth at the NCAA Division II Men’s Golf National Championship.

In the classroom, Andrew has earned a 3.904 GPA in business administration. Congratulations, Andrew! Well done!!

Samantha Paschal (Fr., Biology)
Heather Bartlett (Fr., Undeclared)

We have a new club sport at USC Aiken, Eventing! We had two Honors students participate in this club sport this year, Heather Bartlett and Samantha Paschal. The Eventing Team competed in their first ever competition this past year and finished 2nd place out of 9 teams, beating out large universities like Clemson University, the University of Kentucky, the University of Georgia, and the University of Virginia. At a separate event in Tryon, NC, Heather Bartlett placed 7th in the Open Beginner Novice A Division. Great job Heather and Samantha!
I Cannot Tell a Lie!

Research collaboration between UW-Stout and USC Aiken is creating research opportunities for our students.

A new collaborative study at the University of Wisconsin-Stout and USC Aiken is exploring the brain science behind a lie.

Two students from UW-Stout and two Honors students from the University of South Carolina-Aiken (Micah Hurtt, Kayce Vanpelt) participated in a three-week project in the summer of 2013 to develop a lie detection study. Directed by UW-Stout psychology professor Desiree Budd, the study could lead to new technology that could improve modern lie detectors.

Polygraphs, which are the current detectors used in law enforcement, measure physiological reactions such as heart rate or blood pressure, which can indicate when a person is lying, but the tests aren’t always effective. (Rathbun, 2013)

In this study, a net of electrodes is placed on a person with the idea that the device will pick up a brain signal that may indicate a lie. The electrodes would detect a specific brain signal that appears when a subject is shown something they recognize. For example, if a person views images of a crime scene and a signal is produced by their brain, it may indicate the subject took part in the crime or at least was a witness, stated Budd. (Rathbun, 2013)

An article was published about this collaboration by Andy Rathbun at TwinCities.com-Pioneer Press, 08/12/2013

Pictured from left: Honors Students Kayce Vanpelt and Micah Hurtt position electrodes on a student volunteer with the help of another student participating in the research program.
USC Aiken’s Honors Program offers academically talented, highly motivated students opportunities for enriched learning experiences both in and outside the classroom.

To this end, the USC Aiken Honors Program Director, with support and approval from the Honors Steering Committee, has created the **Honors Ambassadors program**. Honors Ambassadors represent student leadership roles within the USC Aiken Honors Program.

To be nominated and appointed an Honors Ambassador by the Honors Steering Committee is both an honor and a privilege. The Honors Ambassadors serve the Honors Program by:

- Serving as a strong advocate for the Honors Program to the university and the outside community.
- Participating in recruitment events to help promote the Honors Program (events include Scholar’s Day, Admitted Students Day, Freshman Fridays, and other admissions events).
- Participating in the Honors Orientation Meeting each August.
- Participating in the annual “Welcome Dinner with the Chancellor” held each October for our new Honors students.
- Serving as a mentor to new Honors students (i.e., answering questions, providing advice about the program).
- Serving as an advocate for the other Honors students by expressing needs/concerns of the students to the Honors Program Director.
- Helping coordinate and plan social activities and service learning/volunteer opportunities for the Honors students.

To be eligible for this honor, students must be an Honors Program student in good standing and either be a junior or senior in class rank. Once appointed as an Honors Ambassador, that student will hold this distinction until he or she graduates.

This past year, the Honors Ambassadors helped the program in so many ways! We are very proud of these student leaders in our program!
Dillon analyzed data collected from local bridge groups and used a computer program equipped with statistical software to analyze the data. “We’re essentially trying to decide how competitive the game is based on the number of hands played,” Gooding said. “By the end of it, we’ll be able to say, ‘If you play this number of hands, you’re almost guaranteed not to tie’ and show the probability as the number of hands goes up.”

Reid added, “The statistical package, simulation models and amount of effort on Dillon’s end makes this a worthy, educational project. He’ll be doing some coding to get the data structured as well so it’ll be a great project for him.”

Dillon presented this work at Research Day 2014. He also hopes to publish this work in a statistics peer-reviewed journal.

“It’s an amazing opportunity, and it will definitely be a great start for any of the research I would have to do for graduate school,” Gooding added. “I have a great amount of support around me from my professors so I’m really excited about it.”

(Article published Oct. 7, 2013 by Derrek Asberry, Aiken Standard)
NEW HONORS COURSE OFFERINGS

HONS 201H Fall 2014
“Girls, Women, and Crime”, (Dr. Melencia Johnson), T 1:40-2:55, H&SS 207
(Starting on Aug. 21, 2014 and ending on November 6, 2014)
This introductory course will survey how female offenders are perceived and handled in the criminal justice system and explore the gender and cultural factors that precede criminal behavior.
Course Objectives:
1. Discuss the invisibility of girls’ and women’s offending, their victimization histories, and their experiences with courts and corrections.
2. Understand the data and literature on risk behaviors, arrests, sentencing, and incarceration of girls.
3. Gain an appreciation of broad social and cultural trends that are reflected in the lives of girls and women in the criminal justice system.

HONS 201I Fall 2014
“Processed Foods”, (Dr. Michelle Vieyra), W 2:30-3:45, Sci 213
(Starting on Aug. 21, 2014 and ending on November 6, 2014)
This course will explore processed foods primarily by discussing the book Salt Sugar Fat. Topics will include the history of food processing in America, how manufacturers formulate foods to increase sales and health implications of processed food consumption. Students will be responsible for leading the discussions and presenting additional information/ evidence to support or refute differing opinions.

HONS 101 Spring 2015
“Virtue and Vice” (Dr. Shannon Deer Smith)
This course will examine traditional virtues such as humility, charity, and temperance, and their antitheses, inordinate pride, greed, and excess, within the context of religion and philosophy. Primary texts from religious thinkers and philosophers like Aristotle, John Chrysostom, Thomas Aquinas, and Peter Abelard will provide the class with the instruction, while an anthology of short stories by writers such as Flannery O’Connor and Anton Chekhov provide the application. The pedagogy that will be privileged is the Socratic Method.

HONS 201J Spring 2015
“Molecular Gastronomy”, (Dr. Gerard Rowe)
Cooking is chemistry you can eat! There are many different chemical reactions that we carry out every day in the kitchen. After applying the fundamental chemistry concepts taught in this course to everyday cooking techniques, you will have a better appreciation for the science of ordinary life. Why does bread go stale? Why do onions turn brown as you cook them? Does searing meat really lock the juices in? In addition, by applying chemistry knowledge, renowned chefs around the world have begun to invent new cooking techniques, some of which we will practice in this class. Find out if ice cream tastes better when it’s made in 30 seconds with liquid nitrogen. No prior chemistry or culinary training is required to take this class.

HONS 201K Spring 2015
“The Crisis of Violence”, (Dr. Eric Carlson)
“The Crisis of Violence: Mimetic Rivalry and Its Resolution” will be an interdisciplinary course that analyzes how and why human individuals and societies engage in acts violence in an attempt to explain the various motivations for violence in a variety of contexts. To this end the class will focus on violence and conflict resolution as a mimetic phenomenon, that violence (including warfare) is the result of rivalries between entities over various objects of desire as described in the theories of René Girard. Likewise, attention will also be paid to the social function of altruism and peaceful conflict resolution, including the function of sacrifice as a means of concluding mimetic violence.
Awards and Recognitions

Congratulations to Jennifer Gilmore!

Jennifer Gilmore was named the Sunrise Rotary USC Aiken Student of the Month for January 2014. Jennifer is from Silver Bluff High School and has been very active with Broken Ink, the USCA Writing Room, and the Gregg-Grantville Library. With an exceptional grade point average, Jennifer hopes to continue her studies and obtain a Masters, and eventually be a copy and developmental editor. Congratulations Jennifer!

USC Aiken Honors students continue to garner the prestigious Magellan Scholar Awards. 58% of all the USC Aiken students named Magellan Scholars for spring/summer/fall 2014 were students in the Honors Program!

Spring 2014

Amy He, Junior, Nursing Major
Mentor: Dr. Rebecca Carr, Associate Professor, School of Nursing
The Attitudes and Beliefs of Undergraduate Nursing Students about Chinese Healthcare Practices

Allison Jolley, Senior, Exercise and Sports Science Major
Mentor: Dr. Brian Parr, Assistant Professor, Department of Exercise and Sports Science
An Examination of Core Strength and Stability in Normal Weight and Obese Adults

Helen Morris, Junior, Biology Major
Mentor: Dr. Michelle Vieyra, Associate Professor, Department of Biology and Geology
Dose dependent effects of caffeine on cognitive performance and neuronal activation

Ashley Strother, Junior, Biology Major
Mentor: Dr. Nathan Hancock, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology and Geology
Targeted Transposon Mutagenesis Using the Cas9/CRISPR System

Summer and Fall 2014

Melissa Lane, Sophomore, Nursing Major
Mentors: Dr. Stephanie Muga, Department of Biology and Geology, and Dr. Thayer McGahee, School of Nursing
The Effects of Antioxidant Consumption on the Frequency of Student Illness

Emma Foerster, Junior, Chemistry Major
Mentor: Dr. Gerard Rowe, Department of chemistry and Physics
MGS: Synthesis and Reaction of Metal Compounds Containing Acid Functionalized 1,4,7-Triazacyclononane Ligands

Andrew Boggs, Senior, Nursing Major
Mentor: Dr. Thayer McGahee, School of Nursing
An Examination of Lateral Hostility Experiences of Undergraduate Student Nurses at the University of South Carolina, Aiken Campus
USC Aiken Honors students made a very strong showing at Discovery Day, the University System Research Symposium for undergraduate students. A total of 27 USCA students made 25 presentations in oral or poster sessions. Two of the Honors Program students that participated received awards in their various sessions.

USC Aiken Discovery Day award recipients and their mentors are:

FIRST PLACE AWARDS
Oral Sessions
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Afternoon Session II
Rachel Roberts, Senior, Biology Major
Mentor: Dr. Michelle Vieyra, Department of Biology and Geology
The Effect of a High Sucrose Diet on Cognition in Rats

Poster Sessions
Biology and Biomedical Sciences I
David Gilbert, Sophomore, Biology Major
Mentor: Dr. Nathan Hancock, Department of Biology and Geology
Determining the Role of Target Site Duplication Sequences on the Transposition of MITEs

CONNECTIONS Award

USC Aiken completed our inaugural cycle for the new Connections award, which is sponsored by the Center for Research Excellence and supported by the EVCAA. Beginning in the spring semester 2014, these Honors students will receive funding for their proposed research.

Please join us in congratulating these outstanding students and their faculty mentors.

Alexis Harvin, Department of Biology and Geology
Mentor: Dr. Virginia Shervette
Age, growth, and reproduction of southern kingfish (Menticirrhus americanus)

Melissa Lane, School of Nursing
Mentors: Drs. Thayer McGahee and Stephanie Muga
The effects of antioxidant consumption on the frequency of student illness
2014 Research Day Award Recipients

**Gold Medal, Oral Presentations – Humanities/Social Sciences**  
Kayla Pruitte (Communications Major)  
Adaptation: Exploring Memoir to Film  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Spring-Serenity Duvall

**Bronze Medal, Oral Presentations – Humanities/Social Sciences**  
Jennifer Gilmore (English Major)  
How Can Writing Therapy Be Implemented at USC Aiken?  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Matthew Miller

**Silver Medal, Oral Presentations – Sciences – Session 2**  
Breanna Marshall (Biology Major)  
The Effects of Sugar Consumption on Body Fat and Fasting Glucose Levels in Rats  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michelle Vieyra

**Bronze Medal, Oral Presentations – Sciences – Session 2**  
Rachel Roberts (Biology Major)  
The Effect of High Sucrose Diet on Cognition in Rats  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michelle Vieyra

**Silver Medal, Posters**  
David Gilbert (Biology Major), Catherine Bridges  
Determining the Role of Target Site Duplication Sequences on the Transposition of Miniature Inverted Repeat Transposable Elements  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. C. Nathan Hancock

**Honorable Mention, Posters**  
Erin McLaughlin (Biology Major)  
Transfection of Jurkat Cells by Electroporation  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. William Jackson

**Honorable Mention, Posters**  
Daymond Parrilla (Biology Major), Kristian Pickerel  
Identifying Sequences Responsible for the High Transposition Rate of Tourist MITE  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. C. Nathan Hancock
Congratulations to Orlando Moldovan! Orlando is a participant in the new Leadership USCA Certificate Program.

2014 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS WINNERS

Parliamentarian
Micah Hurtt
College of Sciences
Madelyn Wasden

Student Marshalls (December Convocation)
Antwon Dallas, Sommer Farmer

April Convocation – Academic Banner
Antwon Dallas - Academic Banner (SOBA)

Breanna Marshall – Outstanding Student in Biology
Kayla Pruitte – Ernestine B. Law Communications Student of the Year

Congratulations to the following winners who were announced at the Student Life Leadership Awards Banquet!

New Student Leadership Award:
Monica Martin

Student Government Awards
Student Government Senator of the Year:
Samantha Lisek

Freshmen Pacesetters 2014
Monica Martin, Samantha Lisek, Micah Hurtt
Aiken, S.C. – Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) has given a $50,000 gift to USC Aiken in support of the SRNS Scholars program. The SRNS Scholars program was established in 2009 and provides scholarships for academically talented students. The students and their parents were honored at a recent reception at USC Aiken with SRNS senior management.

The first year scholarship recipients that are in the Honors Program are as follows: Heather Bartlett, Brandee Desmarais, Sarah Henagan, Erin McLaughlin, Katelyn Oliver, Taylor Shelley, and Brianna Snelling.

The second year scholarship recipients that are in the Honors Program are as follows: Chitravati Choony, Kayce Vanpelt, Madelyn Wasden, Linda Zheng, Melissa Lane, and Samantha Lisek.

Antwon Dallas, a USC Junior Management Major from Columbia, has received a banking fellowship from Security Federal Bank. The bank is partnering with the School of Business Administration awarding a promising business student. Dallas will receive a scholarship as well as work at SFB, learning the banking industry from the inside.
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 2014-2015 Honors Program Steering Committee:

Dr. Andrew Geyer
Dr. Windy Schweder
Dr. Thayer McGahee
Dr. Sanela Porca
Dr. Michelle Vieyra
Dr. Charmaine Wilson
Dr. Michael Fowler
Dr. Tom Reid

Our Honors Program is a proud member of the National Collegiate Honors Council

To Keep in Mind....

All Honors students will get together for the first meeting of the year on Wednesday, August 20 from 2 to 4:00 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 2014-2015 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 midsemester 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/honorscourses.dot. Graduating seniors will present their work late in the semester they graduate.

For all Honors Students who will be here for academic year 2014-2015....Please provide us with a photo which we can use on the webpage listing Honors Students and also so that we have something to use in various publications (like this one!). You can email a photo to Dr. Leverette at ChadL@usca.edu or to Dale McCarthy at DaleM@usca.edu. Thanks!
Established in 1991 and expanded in 2005, USC Aiken’s Honors Program offers academically talented, highly motivated students opportunities for enriched learning experiences both in and outside the classroom.