



THE ROUND TABLE

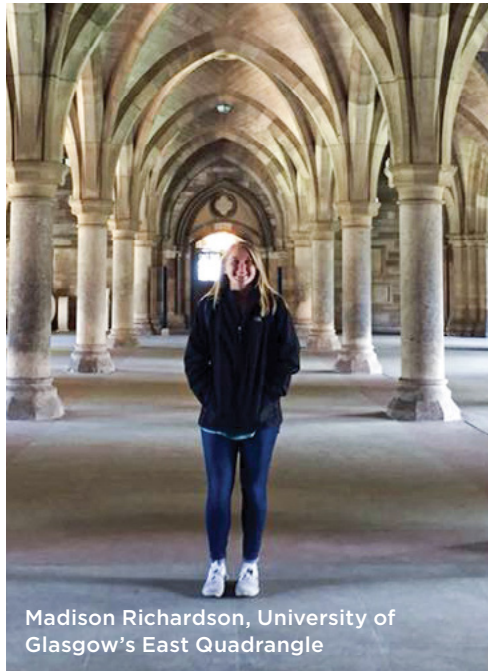
THE HONORS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

UNG
UNIVERSITY of
NORTH GEORGIA™
HONORS PROGRAM

HONORS PROGRAM MAKES A GLOBAL SPLASH

By awarding dozens of scholarships each year, the Honors Program supports Honors participants in study abroad.

Annually, Honors students fan out across the world to countries as far flung as Germany, China, Dominican Republic, and Oman, studying a broad spectrum of subjects. This July, the Honors Program led seven students on a study abroad to Glasgow, Scotland, to explore the



Madison Richardson, University of Glasgow's East Quadrangle

region's culture and literature. Program Director Steve Smith and Dean Tanya Bennett offered courses in psychology and British literature, guiding students on field trips to Glasgow Cathedral and Necropolis, the Hunterian Museum, the Robert Burns birthplace in Ayr, Stirling Castle, Edinburgh's underground vaults, and the Tower of London. In response to class assignments, participants interviewed locals about their attitudes toward cultural and national heritage,

their traditions and values and reminded me of the importance of surrounding myself with diverse groups of people which ultimately influence who I am." According to Steve Smith, the Honors Program continues to support students' academic travel because "in terms of expanding one's own understanding of the world, there are precious few things one could spend a month doing that would come close to matching a study abroad experience."

compiled photographs for visual essays on Scottish literature, and wrote reflections interpreting their experiences. In her reflection, Madison Richardson wrote, "I've been immersed in the living history and culture of the country, and I developed relationships that made Glasgow feel like home. Exploring Scotland gave me insight into

NEW HONORS MINOR LAUNCHED IN FALL 2018

As the fall 2018 semester has rolled out, so has the new Honors Research and Innovation Minor. Open to bachelor's program participants, the minor guides students through an Introduction to Honors Academic Inquiry, Honors Mentorship Tutorial and Practicum, Research Methods, Honors Research and Innovation, and the Honors Thesis, along with several elective course options to round out the requirements. The minor's goal is to develop students' creativity and skills in research, problem-solving, and leadership. Already, three Honors Program participants have declared the minor. Sophomore Taylor Malasek explained that in pursuing the minor, she hopes to glean "knowledge and skills to prepare for my future in the medical field."

For more information about this new minor, please visit our website at <https://ung.edu/honors-program/index.php>.

SPRING 2018 HONORS PROGRAM BARBECUE FUNDRAISER RAISES FUNDS AND AWARENESS



Honors students enjoy food and conversation with event guests; left to right, Abbigale Brown, Louisa Gille, and Brad Bailey

At the end of the 2018 spring semester, Honors Program Dean Tanya Bennett and husband Chuck Bennett hosted a fundraiser barbecue at their home in north Hall County. Several students presented on their scholarship in the venue's Research Tent. Abigail English and Cyndy Solis-Cruz, Charlie Brackett, Abbigale Brown, Nick Glaser, Cameron Barker, and Louisa Gille presented posters and talked with guests about their research. Amy Burger, Honors Program alumnae and Honors Advisory Council member, said, "I enjoyed speaking with UNG Honors students about their studies, as well as their research interests. I hope the barbecue will become an annual event!"

During dinner, guests enjoyed the music of local music group Logan and the Groovinfellers. The event raised \$1,350 for the Honors Program, which will be used to support study abroad scholarships, research awards, and other program initiatives.

GAINESVILLE HONORS GETS A MAKEOVER

In 2018-2019, Honors Program Director Jennifer Graff is piloting a new “contract” arrangement to better meet the needs of UNG Gainesville’s high-performing students. While the Dahlonega Honors Program has been running successfully for over 20 years, Graff observed that the Gainesville campus’s commuter population requires a different approach than the more traditional Dahlonega demographic. Rather than tracking students’ fulfillment of longstanding requirements for research, service, and leadership, Graff designed a contract template that will enable Gainesville students to pursue the opportunities about which they are most passionate. The contract retains the program’s academic Honors credit requirements, but “enrichment” options

will be chosen by students in one-on-one consultation with Professor Graff. This model will allow participants to shape their college experience in the direction of their interests. “My hope is that each individual student will utilize the flexibility in the new system to design an experience that fits their personality, strengths and academic needs,” stated Graff.

Gainesville Honors Program student Kristen Wedegis said she believes that “the ‘Honors Contract’ will enhance my college experience by fostering academic growth as well as my involvement within the University of North Georgia.” At the end of this year, Honors Program Directors will review the pilot’s success and discuss the possibility of expanding it to other campuses.

OCONEE HONORS PROGRAM STUDENT SHINES



Kerstin Thule (left) at the Student Awards Ceremony with Oconee Honors Director Katherine Kipp (right)

GAINESVILLE BIOLOGY MAJOR LEARNS AND LEADS

Abigail English has decided to combine her love of animals with her interest in biology to pursue a career in veterinarian medicine. A biology major and chemistry minor, she has participated in undergraduate research with Dr. Tom Diggs focused on the phylogenetics of the genus *Calycanthus*, including resolution of relationships between *Calycanthus floridus* and



Abigail English attends Gainesville Theatre Alliance production *The Odyssey* with campus friends; left to right, Aleli Rebollar-Aviles, Abigail English, Rachel Korynoski, Rae Dixon, and Castiel Dixon

Calycanthus brockiana. She presented this project at UNG’s Annual Research Conference and last year’s Gainesville Campus Earth Day event. Plugging into campus life through the Honors Program, Abigail engages energetically in UNG activities, attending Starlight, Gainesville Theatre Alliance productions, and Honors events that enrich her undergraduate experience. In addition to soaking up academic and cultural ex-

periences that broaden her perspective, she has served as the Honors Program Social and Service Events officer and has volunteered with literacy events and other important community initiatives. Director Jennifer Graff stated that “Abby has been a dedicated and dependable leader in the Honors Program in her role as Volunteer Chair.” Abigail is working on her Honors Thesis in biology this year.

During her time at UNG, Kerstin Thule has excelled in each of the Honors Program’s areas of emphasis: scholarship, leadership, and service. Kerstin has performed an ongoing undergraduate research project on “Water Dependency of Mealworm Beetles.” She presented on this work at the UNG Annual Research Conference and at the Georgia Academy of Science. To develop her leadership skills, she attended the UNG Student Conference on Leadership and the UGA Conference on Leadership. Engaging in her communities, as well, she has been active in the Student Government Association, the Presidential Leadership Program, and Nighthawks Entertainment. She also volunteered at the Athens Humane Society, working with the Spay and Neuter program. For excellence in all three pillars of the Honors Program, Kerstin Thule was recognized in May 2018 as the Outstanding Honors Program Student on the Oconee Campus. Kerstin has transferred this fall to the University of Georgia, and we wish her the best of luck!

Kiera Chan



SOCIOLOGY STUDENT EXPLORES GIRLS' EDUCATION ABROAD

Dahlonega Honors Program member Kiera Chan recently participated in study abroad to research the state of girls' education and to distribute feminine hygiene products that will enable young women to attend school regularly. Chan explained, "Through my research in Israel, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Cambodia, I found that menstruation is a taboo topic all over the world and is a barrier to girls who would like to attend school and thus succeed in life." Chan's excellent record at UNG helped her earn three scholarships to support her study abroad experience: A Phi Kappa Phi award, a Whitehead Foundation scholarship, and an Honors Program Foundation award.

PORSCHE INTERNSHIP PROVIDES INSIGHT AND EXPERIENCE

One of Cameron Barker's biggest passions is automobiles – another is finance. So landing a position as the Brand Specialist Intern at Porsche Cars North America (PCNA) in Atlanta was a dream come true. This six-month experience with PCNA, the exclusive importer of Porsche vehicles, will allow Barker to grow, network and learn about his future career in a real-world setting.

Barker states, "In high school, I did a project on the history of Volks Wagon, where I learned much about the early history of VW and Porsche, which are both part of the same organization. I have always dreamed of combining my love of finance and my automotive passion. Interning at Porsche Headquarters has brought this full circle, as I now work for the same company that I researched and am able to see first-hand Porsche's rich history and innovation."

As a 3rd year Honors student on the Gainesville campus majoring in Business and Finance, Barker has deliberately sought high-impact educational opportunities that include learning communities, creative endeavors and even travel.

Barker will receive training in SAP (database) and procurement, and will help with improving workflow practices and integration of technology to increase



sales of aftermarket products. He will also be involved in inventory planning and analysis, analytics, production and planning of the budget for specific events, market research, and application of research to maximize sales and customer participation at events.

HONORS STUDENTS REPRESENT UNG AT ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

UNG Honors Students presented research at a number of state and regional conferences during 2017-2018, sustaining the healthy momentum of the program's undergraduate research activity. Presenting at the 2018 Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Conference at Wesleyan College in Macon were Hannah Gilliam, Natalie Macy, Megan Alex Lowery, Meghan Garity, Lauren Silvers, Micaela Tierce, Erin Hagebusch, Madison Hill, Kiera Chan, Hannah Coltrain, Yannik Glaser, Erika Bowen, Charlotte McDonnold, and Jenna Labbie. UNG Honors students also participated in the Southern Regional Honors Council Conference in Arlington, Virginia. Presenters included Elizabeth Carrier, Samantha Franklin, Meghan Garity, Jillian Jay, Hannah Laubler, Margaret Owens, Lauren Silvers, Jasmine Williamson, and Yannik Glaser. Honors Program students presented at UNG's Annual Research Conference in spring 2018, as well.

ALUMNINEWS

Class of 2002

Iryna Ivashchuk was recently recognized as a 2018 *South Florida Business Journal* 40 Under 40 award honoree. She was presented with the award at the SFBJ luncheon on August 3 in Miami. The 40 Under 40 awards honor 40 of today's up and coming business leaders in South Florida who are making a significant impact in their field of expertise, their community and their companies.

Class of 2003

Lori Partin now works from home part-time for three different companies. The latest addition is a clinical trial company. She also reports that she finished her home basement and "now knows how to lay flooring."

Class of 2004

Cathy McDonald is still working full time at Eagle Ranch helping with all the client paperwork and regulations for the organization. She will celebrate her 14th anniversary there in October.

Class of 2006

Robert Rennie is now in Jacksonville, Florida at the University of North Florida on a one-year visiting assistant professorship. He recently signed a contract with Routledge to publish his first monograph by late 2020.

Class of 2008

June (Koehler) Black left her job at the Boise Art Museum and is moving back to Georgia. Her husband Carson is going back to school to learn coding, and June will be mostly staying home with daughter Pearl and likely volunteering at the High Museum.

Class of 2009

Tori (Arcus) Hilton works in the ICU at Shepherd Center in ATL, which has now moved from the 10th to the 9th leading rehabilitation hospital in the United States according to *US News & World Report*. Shepherd treats patients seeking rehabilitation for traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries from around the world. Tori will sit for the CCRN (critical care RN) certification at the end of September, just before her 31st birthday, and is "studying like a maniac."

Nate Shapiro got promoted to captain in the Army upon completion of medical school. He is currently in his residency at Eisenhower Army Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia.

Class of 2010



Carrie (Sobrilsky) McKenzie reports that she and husband Andrew are doing well. Their second boy Jonah is turning one at the end of August, and Elijah, their first, is three and is now full of the 'why' questions. Carrie is still working as a wound, ostomy, and continence nurse at Northside Hospital, and will begin her acute care nurse practitioner program at the end of August.

Class of 2011

Chelsea Gibson is adjuncting for the History and Russian Studies department at SUNY-Binghamton this year and will graduate in May 2019.

Jesse Rockmore graduated medical school in the spring and matched with the Michigan State University - Detroit Metro Consortium Urology in Macomb, Michigan. He is doing his general surgery internship year with Wayne State University in Detroit, and has a new leadership position as Subspecialty Chair for the Society of Young Rural Surgeons.

Class of 2012

Ashley Huerd began her pediatric residency at Memorial Health in Savannah, GA, this past July. She is thrilled to have matched into her top specialty and to be within an hour's distance of her family, including her brand new nephew.

Katie (Pinkerton) Kerr is in her third and last year of pediatric residency in Augusta GA. The Kerrs are currently awaiting Army orders (husband-related) in the spring to see where they will be moving for the next four years. Also - having a baby (first) in December!

Kaitlyn Kluczniak is still with AT&T, taking over some training roles within her office. She's living in Norcross.



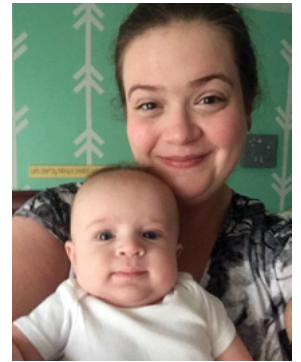
Lindsay (Chitwood) Martin welcomed a baby boy on January 3. His name is Abel Boone.

Audrey Salley got married on August 18 and will heretofore go by the name Audrey Russo. After a honeymoon in Oregon that includes Newport, Crater Lake, Five Pines and Portland, she and husband Josh will reside in Athens.

Class of 2013

Heather Bryan graduated with her Master's in Public Administration from UNG and is working with the City of Gainesville as a city planner now. Heather is also getting married in 2019.

James Dodds defended his thesis at Vanderbilt and completed a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry. James is now working as a postdoc at NC State.



Katie (Collier) Richard now has an adorable little baby boy. Gibson, born 5-13-18, is pictured with his momma.

Class of 2014

Ben Hefner will be graduating with his masters in engineering this December. Ben's thesis focuses on instrumentation for measuring flow velocities directly on a shallow reef crest. As part of his project he tested the equipment in American Samoa, Baja, Mexico and on the Georgia coast. He just accepted a job offer from the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography in Savannah, GA as a research technician. As part of this position, Ben will be traveling to Hamburg, Germany for HF radar training and to Cape Cod for glider training this fall.

Katherine Jones is still living in Sandy Springs with her two cats, Ad'ika and Zoe. She's working at MarketSource as a Technical Specialist still, but has also been volunteering with the Feral Cat Program of Georgia. Katherine will be going to Nepal later this year.

Katie Powell is starting her 5th year teaching at Lumpkin County Middle School; she teaches 8th grade Physical Science and serves as the Science Department Head. Katie is also in her 4th season as the High School's Head Volleyball Coach and this winter will be her 5th season as the HS Head Swim Coach. In her "spare time," she's pursuing an Educational Specialist degree in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in Gifted and Creative Development.

Class of 2015

Philip Akins got married September of 2016 to Natalia Akins, a UNG graduate, and their first child, Theodora Jane, was born on August 14. Philip is teaching Life Science, Forensics, and General Science at Cherokee Christian Schools and is in the process of applying to med schools.

Ben Darnell is still working through his Master's thesis at Northern Illinois. He recently published his first article, on the relationships between facets of mindfulness and the PTSD symptom clusters. Ben also recently finished a summer externship at a partial hospitalization anxiety/OCD behavioral health hospital and is now working in a VA hospital's trauma services program.

Ashley Hamby graduated from Piedmont College with a Masters in elementary education and has now begun classes for her Specialists degree in curriculum and instruction (which she will graduate with in December 2019).

Katelyn (Reeves) LeBlanc finally took the leap and is working full time as an independent photographer! She has been doing that for about 6 months now and reports that it has been great. She's still living in Atlanta with husband Taylor and dog Maggie, and they just bought a townhome!

Amy Rogers graduated with her MA in English Literature in May, completing her thesis titled "Temporal Collapse and Historical Erasure in David Mitchell's Cloud Atlas." Amy also got a new job -- Executive Communications Coordinator in the President's Office -- at the University of South Carolina.

Sydney Smith started working in July at RL Jennings & Associates PC as a staff accountant in Rome, Georgia.

Lacie Warren graduated from UNG with a Masters of Business Administration in May. She also accepted a position with Texas A&M University College of Medicine as the Program Coordinator for their combined MD/PhD Program and moved to College Station, Texas right after graduation.

After completing her first year of med school, **Maria Westfield** went to the AAFP national conference in Kansas City this summer, having received a national LEADS scholarship to attend. She also went to Honduras on a medical mission trip, and helped design and implement a med camp for Dalton Middle School. Maria will serve this year as an ambassador for Mercer as well as president of the Family Medicine Interest Group, secretary for the Rural Health Interest Group, vice president of the Global Health Interest Group, Macon Volunteer Clinic coordinator, and Vice President of recruitment for PhiDE (an international coed medical fraternity).

Class of 2016

Katie McCullough reports *almost* feeling settled in Knoxville and is starting classes in Microbiology. Brittini (Ragland) Kelley was assigned to be her grad student "big sibling." She'll be researching and taking classes and teaching some during her first semester.

Sarah Beth Orr just moved to Raleigh, NC to start her PhD in Toxicology at NC State. She also did a summer internship at the FDA's National Center for Toxicological Research. She reports that she is "loving research and having a blast."

Heather Perona just finished her third week of class at Emory PA school, and is on the exec board for her class as the secretary. She currently lives in Atlanta and "will be here for a while."

Erin Taylor is approaching graduation in May from the DPT program at Brenau. She will leave in mid September for a 12 week clinical rotation in Jacksonville, FL at an outpatient neuro clinic with Brooks Rehabilitation.



Kaylee Todd is starting her 3rd year as a PhD student at UF for chemistry education. She taught her first lecture class (about 150 students) over the summer and will be the instructor for Introductory Chemistry again for fall semester (about 270 students). The chemistry department awarded her a teaching excellence award for this past year for General Chemistry; also, during the fall semester of 2017, Kaylee was one of six recipients of the Townes R. Leigh Prize for outstanding achievement during her first year of graduate school. She adopted another kitty this year. Irene (new larger cat) and Pascal (not-new smaller cat) are pictured.

Joanna Toso just finished one year as a project manager at Brightlink IP - a communications company in Atlanta - and is planning on celebrating with a vacation to Greece in September. She also performed in her first musical with a local theater company this summer.

Class of 2017

Tori Beck reports that she is "still loving my job at NOA, also getting married in November!"

Carley Flores vacationed at Harry Potter World over the summer and is teaching second grade this year at Parkway Elementary School in her hometown of Evans, GA.

Abbey Grey was accepted into KSU's Master's program in Social Work, and says she is already loving Kennesaw.

Sawyer Henderson is continuing to teach English at Woodstock High School and won the Wolverine Rookie of the Year award at the end of last school year. The award is given to a teacher new to the school and is voted upon by all members of the faculty and staff. He taught as a Humanities Instructor over the summer for UNG's Summer Scholars Program on the Gainesville Campus. Starting this year, he has been charged with creating new curriculum

for a 9th Grade Honors STEM Literature & Composition course and currently has 160 students among his different classes. He is also the new Assistant Director for the Drama program at the high school.

Sarah Hosey is finishing up her time in Yellowstone National Park, and in late September will move to NYC to begin working for Outward Bound Peacebuilding.

Rachael Lacey is in the second year of the physical therapy program at Georgia Southern-Armstrong and has begun her thesis work, which "has been fun (eh)." She took up a job as a contracted athletic trainer through Memorial Health Hospital and still competes in half marathons (1:55 PR) and has her first Spartan race in



October.

Abby McMillan is still working at GM; one more year and she'll be out of their college grad program. Abby took a week-long vacation to the Netherlands this past June.

Haley Patterson is starting her last year in the master's program in Spanish Linguistics at the University of New Mexico and is still teaching Spanish 102 there, having been promoted to SPAN 102 supervisor. She'll be presenting at the Hispanic Linguistics Symposium in Austin and the Linguistic Association of the Southwest's conference in Provo this fall, where she'll be sharing her research on null object use in Amazonian Spanish.

Margaux Usry is applying to physician assistant schools and working as a medical assistant. She's also giving serious consideration to working in China (near Shanghai).

Molly Young reports that it was a great year at MUSC. She has one more semester in her OT program and in December will go off on rotations. Her first one is at a pediatric facility in Myrtle Beach and her second is at a nursing facility in Columbia; she will graduate in July.