



Honors College Communiqué

Issue 5

November 2019

Honors College students pause to admire the Golden Gate on their trek up to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, Israel.

Welcome from the Executive Director



The Honors College is always growing and ever-changing. Each year we welcome new students, new faculty, new programs, and new opportunities. As the Honors College is changing, we are unwavering in our dedication to developing scholar citizens by supporting students to be agents of their own vision. Students are encouraged to *engage* with their community, connecting with Charlotte and learning across multiple contexts. Students are presented with opportunities to diversify their exposure to other cultures and concepts in order to *experience* the world with a broadened scope of possibility. Finally, students are *empowered* to pursue their passions and embrace their individualism.

Thank you,
Dr. Malin Pereira,
Molly Unrath,
and the Honors College

The Honors College now serves 628 honors students and 174 merit scholars across 30 honors programs on campus and several scholarship programs. This growth is possible thanks to the commitment of honors students to personal growth and academic excellence, our dedicated faculty and staff, and those who support the Honors College at UNC Charlotte. We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has invested their time, resources, and funds to the Honors College and all within it.

Letter from the Editor

You are currently reading the 5th edition of our Honors College annual newsletter, the *Honors College Communiqué*, highlighting some of the wonderful things the Honors College, honors students, and honors faculty and staff have done. I am continually amazed by all we do as an honors community here at UNC Charlotte, and I am beyond grateful to be able to share some of these things here.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to create this publication from the writing and design to the new connections I have made with our community and the insight I have been given into their lives. I have never met more engaged, inspiring, brilliant, and passionate individuals — and we bring this out in each other all the more as a collective Honors College.

The Honors College has been instrumental in shaping my collegiate career and future. The University, Business, and English Honors Programs have empowered me to be ardently curious and engage in my education holistically.

To everyone who supports the Honors College, you make it possible for the Honors College to grow and develop along with those who belong to it. I am confident that this growth will show even more as we strive to positively impact our campus, community, and world.



Many thanks and much love,

Molly Unrath

Marketing Intern, Honors College

UHP | BHP | EHP



Table of Contents

Crown Scholarship Legacy 4

Johnson & Freeman Scholarships 5

Study Abroad Adventures 6

Competitive Awards 8

City as Text 11

Student Spotlights 12

Alumnus Spotlight 16

Faculty Spotlight 17

Martin Scholars in D.C. 18

Welcome, Dr. Adnot! 19

Faculty Updates 20

Honors Council 21

Honors Faculty Fellows 22

Student Interns 23

Directory 24





Crown Scholarship Legacy

The Crown Scholars Program welcomed its final incoming class in the 2018-2019 school year after sponsoring seven cohorts with their many successes and achievements. This program represented the heritage and history of UNC Charlotte while providing scholars support and opportunities to help them succeed.

As UNC Charlotte is North Carolina’s only urban research institution, the Crown Scholars Program upholds the mission of the university by aiding scholars in the development of a research agenda with the mentoring of the Crown Faculty Fellow. Global citizenship is a core value of the Crown Scholars program, so scholars are provided stipends to study abroad. Crown Scholars are also members of the University Honors Program, providing them a larger honors community outside of their scholarship cohort.

“The Crown Scholars Program has opened the door to many experiences I am grateful for, and may not have had without it. We are always encouraged to step outside of our comfort zones and seek new opportunities, while not being afraid of failures along the way. One of these opportunities was going to the Eastern Sierra Nevada's in California for 8 weeks over the summer of 2019 to participate in Geology research. In addition to all the great academic resources, what I love most about the program is being a part of a like-minded and close-knit group of students!”



~ Breanna Duquette



The three classes of Crown Scholars currently enrolled as undergraduates at UNC Charlotte carry on the Crown legacy. Both past and current Crown Scholars have utilized their resources and opportunities to become campus and community leaders. From serving on honors program executive boards to doing research abroad to working hands-on with wildlife to attending medical school, the Crown Scholars are doing incredible things and making an impact on the world around them.



Johnson & Freeman: New Merit Scholarships

Johnson and Freeman Scholars are impressive, thoughtful, and persistent in overcoming challenges. They all demonstrate a dedication to serve, commitment to the community, and capacity for reflection, leadership, and growth. They are academically ambitious and intellectually curious.

The Johnson and Freeman Scholarships cover tuition and fees and are offered to incoming Freshman who demonstrate financial need as determined by the Office of Financial Aid. Both scholarships are open to full-time students of all majors and can be renewed for three years.

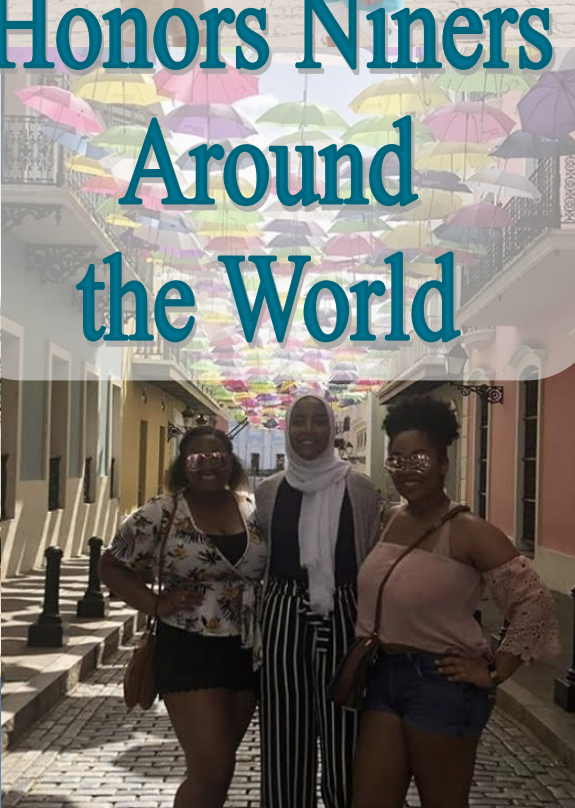
The Johnson Scholarship is made possible by donors Gene and Vickie Johnson, both dedicated and avid UNC Charlotte alumni who continue to impact future generations of students. The Freeman Scholarship is made possible by donors Craig and Darla Albert. The Alberts are committed alumni who have created several opportunities for students, including the Albert Engineering Leadership Scholarship Program.

The inaugural classes of the Johnson and Freeman Scholarships were welcomed to UNC Charlotte for the 2019-2020 academic year. The five Johnson Scholars — Noah Atwood, Brad Kathman, Tyler Milkey, Kelsey Romney, and Helen Tran — and the three Freeman Scholars — Tytianna Horn, Jacob Matson, and Giovanna Solorzano — are talented and determined scholars who are already beginning to make their impact on UNC Charlotte.



“The Johnson Scholarship was the final indication that UNC Charlotte should be my home for the next four years. I want to show the donors how much their generosity means to me through my diligent attention to my education. The Johnson Scholarship is woven into my journey and time here at Charlotte, and I am so glad I was chosen for this honor to be part of the first generation of Johnson Scholars.”

~Tyler Milkey





Scholars Take On Jerusalem

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte is the only American university licensed to excavate in Jerusalem. The Mt. Zion project encourages UNC Charlotte students from any discipline to engage with history hands-on.

The Mt. Zion Archeological Project is a three-week study abroad trip to Israel that examines the history of Jerusalem along with the modern politics surrounding the Arab-Israeli conflict. This unique opportunity allows students to excavate right outside the walls of the Old City for two weeks before touring Israel during the final week. Students from the Levine Scholars Program, Crown Scholars Program, University Honors Program, and various disciplinary honors programs were active for the 2019 dig season.



“The study abroad trip to Jerusalem was one of the most formative and impactful experiences of my college journey thus far. The opportunity to work on an active archaeological site in Jerusalem is one that not many college students have access to. My experience there drastically changed my academic trajectory and I am incredibly grateful that being a student at UNCC gave me such a unique opportunity!”

~Grey Martineau

With the guidance of the co-directors of the Mt. Zion Project, Dr. Shimon Gibson and Dr. James Tabor (Director of Honors in Religious Studies), students are able to fully participate in every aspect of an active archeological project: excavation, examination, collection of finds, cleaning, and material processing. The education abroad program is directed by Dr. Robert McEachnie with support for the 2019 season from Dr. Jim Frakes, Director of Honors in Art History, as well as Dr. Diane Zablotsky and Dr. Heather Smith of the Levine Scholars Program.





Competitive Awards: Fulbright Summer Institute



Nathan Hewitt

Computer
Engineering

Mathematics (minor)

Class of '21

UHP

This summer, I attended the “Scotland: Technology, Innovation, and Creativity” Fulbright Summer Institute in August. The application process was rigorous, including multiple essays, recommendations, and an interview. However, the massive amount of support and feedback from Ms. Karen James, our Associate Director for Scholars Advising, made the process manageable and streamlined.

The Scotland Summer Institute itself is a joint venture between the Fulbright Commission, the Glasgow School of Art, and the University of Strathclyde. They invited ten US students to attend lectures and workshops on the vibrant culture and thriving technology in Scotland, placing us in the middle of Glasgow to let us experience and explore the city’s offerings in a deeply personal way. Activities and events were hosted by an extremely wide range of organizations, including many different departments within the universities themselves, BBC Scotland, the Scottish Parliament, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow’s City Council, and Strathclyde’s Advanced Forming Research Lab. We also had no shortage of cultural trips, such as to Loch Lomond, Inverness, Edinburgh Castle, and the Lighthouse Architectural Museum. Because the subject of this Institute was “Technology, Innovation, and Creativity,” the lectures and trips were portrayed through a holistic lens, blending these three themes and letting us see the innovation going on in Scotland’s studios and labs. This laundry list of events amounted to one continuous whirlwind of perspective-widening experiences for the three short weeks I was there.

With the UK’s superficial similarities to the US (sharing a language and similar social norms), I didn’t face any gigantic culture shock during my first time abroad. However, the opportunity offered by the Summer Institute was nonetheless paradigm-shifting in its own right. Learning about the cutting-edge academics and the centuries of vibrant history and art in Scotland made me aware of how much I had overlooked accomplishments beyond our borders. Although I had always tried to keep an international perspective, experiencing another nation firsthand provided me with a newfound appreciation for my place in our massive world.

The University Honors Program’s emphasis on holistic development was what initially drew me to the program, so it’s extremely fitting that I had such a broadening, multidisciplinary experience as a result of it. Without the connections I made in the program, I would’ve never learned about the Fulbright Summer Institute. I’m extremely grateful for all the support and advice that I received from the Honors College, making this milestone of my academic career possible.



Competitive Awards: DAAD Rise Germany

This summer, I received the DAAD Rise Germany scholarship. This is a program funded by the German Academic Exchange Service to encourage North American, British and Irish students to do paid research in Germany. The goal is to increase student exchange in Germany's research landscape. I had the opportunity to be part of the Data and Application Security research group at the Cologne University of Applied Sciences. The topic of my research project was Risk-Based Authentication. I spent a lot of time programming, planning and implementing our research study, and preparing for my presentation in Heidelberg. At the RISE Germany meeting in Heidelberg (with all 300 scholars), I presented to a packed room of students about usable security and my research progress

Having never been to Europe prior to this summer, I felt nervous about living in a country where I didn't know the language and did not know a single person. Although the RISE program does not require any previous exposure to the German language, I opted into a 2 week language program in Cologne at the start of my summer. This experience was incredibly valuable because I was introduced to German culture and learned basic words and phrases to get around. *Prost (Cheers) was an important word to know!*

In addition to my work, I spent my weekends in different cities across the continent including Glasgow, Brussels, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Munich, and Berlin. Not only did I get extremely familiar with the German transportation system, but I became surprisingly comfortable finding my way around with very limited German language skills. After my three month stay, I learned about Germany's demand for cybersecurity professionals and the significantly low cost of university, which made me realize the possibility of doing graduate school in Germany.



Tanvi Patil

Computer Science:
Cybersecurity

Class of '21

Crown Scholars
Program

UHP



From only knowing about Germany's famous beer and bratwurst, my experience abroad has given me the chance to expose myself to other parts of German culture and history through the world famous cathedrals, efficient train systems, their serious commitment to recycling, and their love of curry fries. Additionally, my research experience has increased my confidence about both my technical abilities and my ability to travel solo. The personal growth I experienced in Germany has even inspired me to study abroad next semester in Singapore!



Competitive Awards: Fulbright U.S. Student Program



My four years at UNC Charlotte were some of the greatest of my life. During this time, I studied English and Spanish, became a Martin Scholar, performed in competitive speaking events at the national level, and pursued departmental honors in Language and Cultural Studies, as well as University Honors. Both UNC-Chapel Hill and the University of South Carolina in Columbia had admitted me for Master’s programs in Linguistics. Of course I was thrilled — a first generation college student being selected for opportunities I never could have dreamed big enough for as a child — but I knew that before continuing my formal education in an academic space I wanted to see more of the world. When I received the news that I had been named a grantee of the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award I accepted with no hesitation.

English Teaching Assistants (ETA) have one main job — working closely with teachers to prepare and execute lessons, activities, or conversations that help the scholars learn the English language. The name of my institution is Santa María Marianistas and is located in La Rioja, Logroño, Spain. Like many academic spaces in the country, it is a semi-private Catholic school. A typical day starts at 8:30am, with a break midday for families to eat lunch and siesta together, followed by classes in the evening from 4:00pm-6:00pm. I am fortunate to be able to work with all age ranges, from leading a music class with infantil (three to six year olds) to helping secundario (high school) students prepare for university placement exams.

The secondary function of Fulbright ETAs is to serve as cultural ambassadors from the United States. My lessons often include historical defenders of human rights in the U.S., and we are encouraged to draw material from curriculum prepared for us named “Speak Truth to Power,” inspired by the work *Speak Truth to Power: Voices From Beyond the Dark*, by Chilean-American playwright Ariel Dorfman. Additionally, I am expected to enhance my city or school by leading a community engaged project. I will be working with la Biblioteca de la Rioja to orchestrate a literature initiative, *Cuenta Cuentos*, where we actively read to children in both English and Spanish.

Misty Morin
BA in English & Spanish
Class of ‘19
Martin Scholar
Language & Cultural
Studies Honors
UHP

Any Fulbright grant is an honor to receive, and I would be remiss not to give my thanks to those who helped me stand out. Ms. Karen James and the rest of the Fulbright campus committee were thorough and passionately helpful throughout the whole process. To Dr. Jennifer Warner, Dr. Padilla Falto, and Dr. Ralf Thiede who wrote stellar recommendations for me: you all shaped my college experience, and I am so grateful for your instruction and friendship. To all of my loved ones who read over my (many) drafts — especially Seth Flynn — I cannot thank you enough. You mean the world to me, even though I’m half a world away.

I want to encourage any students who are considering applying for prestigious scholarships to push yourselves. Think bigger than you think is possible. Most importantly, start the process much earlier than you think is necessary. The wait until decision day will feel like an eternity, but I promise the stress of the application and the uncertainty will all be worth it when you’re off living your wildest dreams.



City As Text™

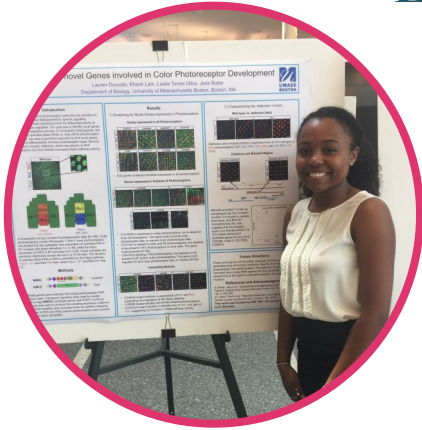


City as Text™ is a experiential opportunity for honors students to explore an area — in this case, the city of Charlotte, NC — from an active learning and observational research perspective. The National Collegiate Honors Council encourages this activity be incorporated into the curriculum of honors programs. All students entering the University Honors Program have a City as Text™ experience in their Freshman Honors Colloquium class. This activity encourages students to recognize learning opportunities everywhere and seek the freedom and confidence that comes with education and intellectual curiosity.



University Honors Program

Lauren Ducoste Class of '20, Biology, Chemistry (minor)



My experiences working with children, coupled with my love of biology and chemistry, have been instrumental in developing my career goal of becoming a pediatrician. I hope to attend medical school after taking a gap year. During the summer of 2017, I participated in the REU program in Integrative and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Massachusetts Boston, where I sought to identify novel genes that control the regulatory pathway of the fruit fly visual system. I have also gained clinical experience through shadowing a pediatric nephrologist as a part of the Dialysis Clinic Incorporated Collegiate Summer Medical Internship during the summer of 2019. I am conducting my senior thesis project in the lab of Dr. Eugenia Lo in the Department of Biological Sciences.

I have been a member of Allied Health Coalition since my sophomore year, and I currently serve as secretary. This organization seeks to bring together a variety of pre-health students to work towards the common goal of bringing awareness to important health topics and concepts. I am also the Student Vice President of the National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. I share information about the honors society with prospective members and help coordinate the community service events. As a Crown Scholar and part of the University Honors Program, I have had the opportunity to meet and work alongside an outstanding group of intellectuals, and to develop professional and personal relationships with the Honors College faculty and staff that show their constant, undoubting support of all of my endeavors.



Karissa Ewing

Class of '21

Biology &
Chemistry

Pre-Nursing

I am currently a junior in Biology and Chemistry at UNC Charlotte but am in the process of changing my major to pre-nursing. For the past two years, I have been on the pre-med track, with full intent of going to medical school. After a recent accident that caused a major concussion, I spent a lot of time with nursing students in the emergency department. Through my conversations and introspection, I was able to look inside of myself and honestly ask, “why do I want to be a doctor?”

I came up with two answers: (1) to share my empathy with those afflicted with rare illnesses or cancers, children and adolescents in particular; (2) I genuinely love medicine. From there, I asked myself, “can I achieve these goals as a doctor?” The simple answer is yes. However, as I began to dig deeper into what really matters to me, I realized that face time with patients is going to be crucial to my overall happiness and feelings of success. As a doctor, you don’t get the same amount of face time with a patient as a nurse would. So here I am, a junior, changing my major to pre-nursing and hoping to apply to UNC Charlotte’s nursing school next year.

Having the potential to impact other people is my passion. Because of this, I’ve been involved with the University Honors Program (UHP) the entirety of my undergraduate experience. UHP has presented me with the unique opportunity of connecting with like-minded individuals who will challenge and encourage me to seek out my limits. Because of UHP, I’ve always felt like I have a home and belong at UNC Charlotte. I’ve been serving as president-elect of UHPSA since June and have loved every bit of my experience thus far. I can’t wait to serve next year as President and further give back to an organization that has done so much for me.



College Mentors for Kids

College Mentors for Kids is a nationally affiliated organization that seeks to serve underprivileged elementary students through college student mentoring with on campus activities that inspire growth, confidence, and brighter futures in the students. The “little buddies” are paired 1:1 with college students, and come to campus weekly for two hours.

This student-run organization has activities designed around one of three themes: high education and career, culture and diversity, and community service. Lauren Ducoste, the Chapter President, learned about the program, and saw the potential that UNC Charlotte had to have a successful chapter. Through her leadership, along with equally passionate student leaders like Karissa Ewing, they began the chapter in the Spring of 2019, serving 35 students from Nathaniel Alexander Elementary School.



During their first semester on campus, the little buddies and their mentors participated in activities led by a variety of guest speakers, including UNCC Global Medical Brigades who taught the students about how germs spread and how to properly wash their hands, UNCC Recycles, who taught the students about the importance of taking care of the environment, and UNCC Global Business Brigades, who introduced the concept of spending and saving money by setting up a “Niner Market.” The student leaders and mentors, all undergraduate students, also participate in fundraising throughout the year led by Karissa, the Vice President of Fundraising, that pays for the transportation, activity supplies and snacks for the students each week.

In August, the executive boards of all chapters across the country attended the national conference in Indianapolis, Indiana to partake in a weekend of intensive training in preparation for the school year. College Mentors for Kids at UNC Charlotte looks forward to their first full year on campus!



“Being able to provide an avenue for kids to experience new things is such an honor to see in action. How excited the kids get to see their mentors every week never fails to put a smile on my face. I remember having people like that growing up, and they have made a lasting impact on my life. To know that these kids walk away having made new friends and memories is priceless!”

~Lauren Ducoste

Business Honors Program

This past summer I had the opportunity to work in New York City as a Finance and Operations Intern for an organization called Global Health Corps (GHC). GHC is a health equality focused non-profit organization that supports health systems development in Newark, NJ; Washington, DC; Harlem, NY; Boston MA; Zambia; Uganda; Rwanda and Malawi.

The program focuses on acquiring and developing health care service leaders and employing them in host organizations in roles such as monitoring and evaluation officers, and operations officers. I specifically focused on health, safety, and security research and reporting, accounting journaling and organization, and non-profit compliance research. I also worked a second job as a task rabbit where I did miscellaneous work around Manhattan exploring and building furniture.



I applied to be in BHP after my first year at UNCC because as a 17-year-old from Arkansas, I realized I did not have very many friends that were focused on the same goals as I was. After being in the Business Honors Program for a few months I made amazing connections who were instrumental in helping me finding my job in NYC.

I have always seen my goals within “service above self” but GHC and BHP have allowed me to specialize in health-focused nonprofit work which aligns with my career goals of owning my own medical practice focused on Alzheimer's care and research. The Business Honors Program has socially and academically elevated my experience at UNC Charlotte, and I would not trade that experience for anything.



Jeremiah Parham

International Business

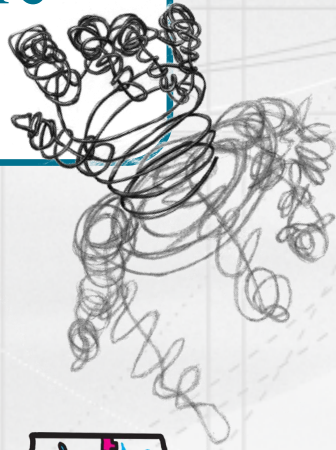
& Pre-Med

Class of '21

I am currently a server, and a peer tutor on campus, and as a way of continuing my commitment to non-profit work I have taken up the amazing position of External Vice President of the Business Honors Program (BHP) where I am responsible for setting up 4 volunteer event “slots” per 113 members for the year, which has been a great opportunity for the program to partner with over 20 different organizations like the Special Olympics, The American Heart Association, and The Alzheimer's Association.



Arts & Architecture Honors Program



I am the former Vice President and a current member of the UNCC chapter for the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS). I am a participant in the Integrated Path to Architectural Licensure (IPAL) program and am working towards obtaining an architectural license before I graduate. Additionally, I am an all-around creative spirit and huge “geek” in every sense of the word.

I am a design intern at the Charlotte office of Clark Nexsen, Architecture and Engineering, and I work directly under licensed architects on various projects. I do a little bit of everything from patterning for exteriors, to visiting active construction sites, to making spreadsheets of floor finishes. It is a wonderful and valuable experience that has allowed me to learn so much about building, construction, and the practical field of architecture. This contrasts the more theoretical approach of school, which gives a very interesting alternate perspective into the field as a whole.



Christina Slotkowski

Architecture

Class of '20

I have very much enjoyed my experience in AAHP, and consistently recommend it to incoming students. I have benefitted from getting involved with other AAHP students, the courses that are offered, and the opportunities that we are presented. When I am not learning in a classroom or at my internship, I still find it difficult to ignore my creative side. I like to dabble in everything from painting, creative writing, videography, poetry, collage making, story telling, to dungeons and dragons and scale model building.

I am currently working on my honors thesis which explores video as a media for design and representation in the fourth dimension. My thesis includes several short abstract videography series that uses colors, sounds, found footage, and amateur filmography to express complex spatial and temporal aspects of architecture and the world at large. It also includes an installation piece which expresses these same concepts in an occupiable space.

AAHP is a place where creative people come together to be strange and innovative with people who have different passions but share the same drive to be amazing.





Alumnus Spotlight

Noah Vetter | Class of '18

BSBA International Business | BA International Studies | Minors in Spanish and Economics
Crown Scholar | University Honors | Business Honors



I pursued an MA in Poverty and Development at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex in Brighton, England. I really liked the idea of studying abroad again for my graduate degree, after having studied abroad a total of four times at UNC Charlotte.

I chose to go to IDS and Sussex because I really liked the structure of the Poverty and Development program, particularly in terms of its class options. Another factor was that IDS and Sussex have been ranked number one in the world for Development Studies by the QS World Rankings. Other factors, included the fact that many of the UK graduate programs were only a year, cost-wise it was about the same as going to a top program in the US, the student cohorts were very diverse (in my 27 person cohort we had people from 15 different countries), and at IDS there was chance to learn from some of the international experts in Development Studies.

I worked on a few different projects as a Research Assistant (RA) while I was at IDS. One of the projects was focused on the role of non-state actors in Lebanon and Jordan and particularly how they interacted with Syrian refugees who were living in those countries. For my part, another RA and I were involved in reviewing existing literature on non-state public authorities in the region and then writing up an analysis of that review which will be incorporated into a larger forthcoming report on the whole project. The other major project I was involved in was actually being run by a University in Hong Kong, and I was a contractor for them, studying the literature on welfare stigma in Hong Kong.

I lived in Brighton which is on the coast, about an hour and a half south of London. Being in the UK, I took advantage of the chance to travel. I visited various places in the UK as well as travelled to continental Europe, where I visited Germany, Poland, and Hungary and also had the chance to visit France to see the US Women's National Soccer Team play Chile in one of the early games in the Women's World Cup.

The honors experience at UNCC served me well in both applying to and studying in graduate school. The many opportunities I had through honors gave me many things to write about in essays and put on my resume. Honors classes helped to prepare me for graduate school. The style of classes at IDS were most like the honors classes I took at UNC Charlotte: smaller classes that encouraged discussion and building relationships with faculty members. Certainly, the experience of writing a long, research-intensive thesis as my capstone for BHP helped prepare me to write term papers and my master's thesis.

Joining honors at UNC Charlotte was one of the best decisions I made. It gave me so many outstanding opportunities and experiences during my time at UNC Charlotte. Those opportunities and experiences not only helped to shape my undergraduate experience and make it enjoyable, but they also provided me with many skills that I have been able to apply both in and outside of the classroom. In addition to my involvement in individual programs, I worked as an Intern in the Honors College office for three years. I worked on any number of projects, but one of the ones that I am most proud of was during my senior year when I helped to propose, plan, and lead the first City as Text International Trip to Dublin, Edinburgh, and London.



Faculty Spotlight



My undergraduate studies in English Studies, Philosophy, and Education were at a really exciting place, the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in Münster, Germany. I got to study with some of the most brilliant and famous scholars and took way more classes than I was supposed to (German universities were, and still are, tuition free). My favorite professor there was from Spain, Fernando Inciarte, one of the sharpest minds I have ever met and who got me interested in formal logic and linguistics because he knew to make the big-picture connections -- not unlike Noam Chomsky, coming to think of it.

My alma mater is the University of Missouri - Columbia, where I earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. in English Language Studies. That was a two-track program in literature and linguistics, with a separate comprehensive exam in each, but thankfully only one dissertation to write. The perks were the elective courses, which were wide open, so I arranged to take all my graduate electives in medical school. I'd wager they closed that loophole after I left... But you can see how that background would eventually lead me to studying children's literature in light of neurocognitive development and linguistics, right?

What have you learned from living and teaching in different parts of the world?

I have been at UNC Charlotte since 1990. I taught English at Kaohsiung Normal University in Taiwan and at the Pädagogische Hochschule Ludwigsburg through faculty exchange. Mostly, university students everywhere are astute and information-savvy world citizens, but I also observed some differences. In one country, a class speaker made sure everyone was caught up to the material and led the students in a greeting when I walked into the classroom. In another, students learned mostly by arguing about the material with each other and with the instructor. In a third, they do a lot of writing and study for quizzes and exams. You guess which country is which...

What has your experience been like working with honors students and the English Honors Program? How is Honors Seminar different from other classes you teach?

English Honors is a relatively young program, so this is my first turn with an honors class. I have enjoyed working with some super-talented students over the years, and I often invited them to do independent studies or directed readings with me. Our "Language, Mind, and Power" seminar is an entire room full of such students, and the discussions and presentations are so stimulating that I feel I just had several cups of coffee when I return to my office downstairs! I generally am having fun teaching, but this Honors Seminar is a particular treat; more like a colloquium than a seminar. I am definitely game for another one!

Dr. Ralf Thiede

Associate Professor | Department of English | Honors Faculty





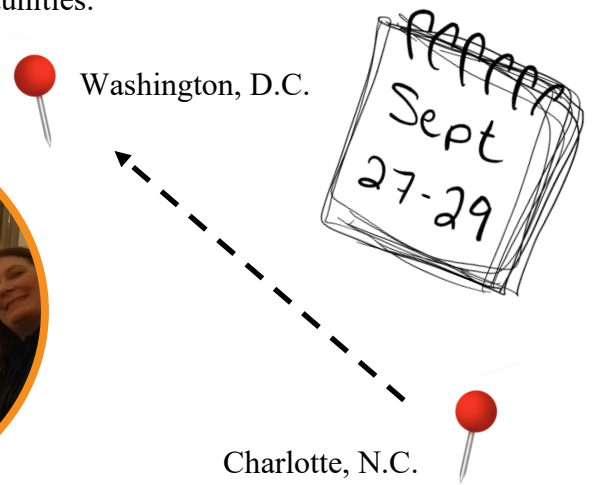
Martin Scholars: From N.C. to D.C.



On September 27th, Martin Scholars and Honors College staff and faculty boarded a plane to Washington, D.C. to attend the Furious Flower Poetry Center 25th Anniversary Celebration and Gala. The Martin Scholars Program supports high-achieving students and strives to enhance the personal and professional development of scholars through academic and enrichment opportunities.



Martin Scholars also visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture, as well as several iconic landmarks and monuments. Dr. and Mr. Martin, benefactors of the Martin Scholars Program, hosted a dinner with the students and staff where they were able to hear about the academic careers and accomplishments of the scholars.



Welcome, Dr. Adnot!

Associate Director of Curriculum

In January 2019, the Honors College welcomed Dr. Mindy Adnot to our staff as the Associate Director of Curriculum. Dr. Adnot is responsible for the curriculum and academic experience of the University Honors Program, the curricular relationship between UHP and departmental honors programs, and honors development.

Previously, Dr. Adnot served as Visiting Assistant Professor at Davidson College. She earned her Ph.D. in Education Policy and Master's in Public Policy from the University of Virginia, and her Master's in Teaching from Pace University in New York. Her own favorite courses to teach involve the use of research and analytics to investigate questions of educational, social and economic equity.



Dr. Adnot has already made an impact on the Honors College and its students. In addition to serving as Associate Director of Curriculum, she teaches Freshman Honors Colloquium and the University Honors Senior Seminar. In the spring of 2020 she will be teaching an Honors College Topics class focused on evaluating educational and social innovation for youth.

Outside of class, Dr. Adnot is a loving wife as well as a mother to her newborn son, James. She is dedicated to education and making the honors experience the best it can be for students and staff alike.

Feel free to drop in and say hello!

Mindy Adnot, Ph.D.

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Faculty Updates

As the Honors College continues to grow, the number of faculty grows as well. We are proud to welcome our new honors faculty and to continue collaborating with our reappointed faculty. Honors faculty appointments last for five years and are renewable.

New Honors Faculty

Honors	Mindy Adnot	Associate Director	Honors College
COED	Kelly Anderson	Associate Professor	Special Education & Child & Family Development
CHHS	Allison Burfield	Associate Professor	Nursing
CHHS	Dena Adele Evans	Associate Professor	Nursing
COAA	Jamie Franki	Associate Professor	Art & Art History
COAA	James Grymes	Professor	Music
CHHS	Lee-Ann Kenny	Clinical Assistant Professor	Nursing
CLAS	Amanda Pipkin	Associate Professor	History
CLAS	Barbara Presnell	Senior Lecturer	University Writing Program
CLAS	Consuelo Salas	Associate Professor	University Writing Program/ English
CHHS	Meredith Troutman-Jordan	Associate Professor	Nursing
COED	Shawnee Wakeman	Clinical Associate Professor	Special Education & Child & Family Development

Re-Appointed Honors Faculty

COED	Ian Binns	Associate Professor	Reading & Elementary Education
COED	Erik Byker	Associate Professor	Reading & Elementary Education
CLAS	Sara Levens	Associate Professor	Psychological Science
CLAS	Jordan Poler	Professor	Chemistry
COED	Drew Polly	Professor	Reading & Elementary Education
CLAS	Jennifer Webb	Associate Professor	Psychological Science
CLAS	Beth Whitaker	Associate Professor	Political Science & Public Administration

Honors Council



The Honors Council is a standing committee of Honors Faculty that serves as the advisory body to the Executive Director of the Honors College, and reports to the Office of the Provost. The Council also serves to review and evaluate the honors curriculum, program proposals and revisions, and the Executive Director of the Honors College.

The Honors Council is comprised of eleven members, each member having an elected alternate:

- 1 elected Honors Faculty representative from each of UNC Charlotte's Colleges
- 2 elected Honors Faculty representatives from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- 2 elected At-Large Honors Faculty representatives
- 1 appointed undergraduate honors student representative

Honors Council Members 2019 - 2020

Ex-officio non-voting member: Malin Pereira, Executive Director

Undergraduate Honors Student Representative: Tanvi Patil

At-Large: Christopher Cameron ————— Alternate: Mary McKenzie

At-Large, University Honors Program: Murray Webster ————— Alternate: Jeannette Bennett

College of Arts & Architecture: Robert Campbell ————— Alternate: Mark Pizzato

College of Business: Karen Ford-Eickhoff ————— Alternate: Carol Stivender

College of Computing & Informatics: Jessica Schlueter ————— Alternate: KR Subramanian

College of Education: Cindy Gilson ————— Alternate: Amy Good

College of Engineering: Milind Khire ————— Alternate: Ron Smelser

College of Health & Human Services: Cynthia Toth ————— Alternate: Joseph Marino

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences: Eddy Souffrant & ————— Alternates: Jose Batista &
Jordan Poler ————— Didier Dreau

Honors Faculty Fellows



Christopher Cameron, Ph.D.

Dr. Cameron joined the Honors College in 2018 as the Faculty Fellow overseeing course proposals and faculty development. He is an Associate Professor of History and is the former director of the History Honors program. Dr. Cameron also serves on the Honors Council and has supervised numerous honors thesis projects.

Thomas “Joe” Howarth, M.A.

Joe Howarth joined the Honors College in Fall 2019 as the Honors Faculty Fellow for Community Engagement. Howarth completed his Master's in Geography at UNC Charlotte and is working toward a Ph.D. Geography focused in gentrification and affordable housing. Howarth was invited to teach LBST 2301 in the Fall of 2015 as part of his involvement with the Charlotte Action Research Project (CHARP) under Dr. Janni Sorensen. Through LBST 2301, Howarth challenges students to think critically and look at the deeper roots of the social issues we face—such as racism, poverty, and homelessness.



Reuben Howden, Ph.D.

Faculty Fellow for the Crown Scholars Program, Albert Scholars Program, and UHP students, Dr. Howden is an Associate Professor in the Department of Kinesiology, where he has been a faculty member since 2008. He is Director of the Laboratory of Systems Physiology and Group Leader of a busy research team investigating cardiovascular health. Dr. Howden serves on the Kinesiology Honors program committee, as well as supervises research projects of Honors and Scholar students.



Jeffrey Leak, Ph.D.

Dr. Leak joined the Honors College as the Martin Scholars Program Faculty Fellow in 2017. A Professor of English and African American Literature, he joined the faculty of UNC Charlotte in 1998. He is the former director of the Center for the Study of the New South in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and most recently served as UNC Charlotte's Faculty President (2015-2016). He values the opportunity to engage with a range of students and looks forward to working with them as they enter the Martin Scholars Program.





Student Interns

Bryson White
IT



Major: Computer Science
May 2022

I enjoy playing video games, being with family, and watching basketball in my free time.

Molly Unrath
Marketing



Major: Marketing Analytics and English
May 2021

University, Business, and English Honors

This is my kitten, Apocalypse (but we all call her Pocky)!



Brianna Smith
Events & Programming



Major: Public Health and Spanish
May 2021

Martin Scholar, University Honors

I love to travel and have spent two weeks in Italy and a month in Costa Rica.

Jayden Corea
Public Relations



Major: Biology, Chemistry Minor
December 2019

University and Biology Honors

My dog's name is Jojo, and he loves wearing sweaters.

Connor Derrick
Alumni Relations



Major: Business Analytics and Finance, Statistics Minor
May 2021

Crown and Belk Scholars, University and Business Honors

I love Taylor Swift and have seen her in concert 5 times!

Mindy Adnot | Ph.D., Associate Director of Curriculum
704-687-7195 | Office: Levine Hall 191 | madnot@uncc.edu

Gretchen Bagley | University Honors & Merit Scholars Specialist
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Chris Cameron | Ph.D., Faculty Fellow
704-687-5134 | Office: Levine Hall 291 | christopher.cameron@uncc.edu

Liz Hanie | D.V.M., M.S., Pre-Health Professions Advisor
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Joe Howarth | M.A., Honors College Faculty Fellow for Community Engagement
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Reuben Howden | Ph.D., Crown Scholars Faculty Fellow & Assoc. Professor of Kinesiology
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Jeffrey Leak | Ph.D., Martin Scholars Faculty Fellow and Professor of English
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Malin Pereira | Ph.D., Executive Director and Professor of English
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