

HONORS COLLEGE COMMUNIQUE

*A Dancheong shrine,
Seoul, South Korea.
Photo credit: Honors
student Mariah Roseboro,
March 2022*



WELCOME FROM THE DEAN

Welcome to our annual *Honors College Communiqué*!

The Honors College has been very busy since our last issue. We have been growing in all kinds of ways that are becoming more visible. Now, in a typical semester, we offer 22 sections of honors courses, a 40% increase over our offerings a decade ago. We have more than doubled our numbers of honors students in the same time period, thanks to significant growth in departmental/college honors programs and the University Honors Program (UHP). Over the last five years the Honors College has grown 37% and UHP has grown 95%. Fortunately, Honors College staffing has grown as well: in 2012 we had four staff, including myself; today, we have ten staff and two faculty fellows. Our office suite in Levine Hall is full for the first time since we took occupancy in 2017.

This growth was evident at our All-Honors Graduation and Awards Ceremony, which we inaugurated in 2021 and repeated in Spring 2022. During the ceremony, 209 students walked and were recognized. We live-streamed the event to an unknown number of honors graduates' friends and family members. This fall, we hosted our annual Honors College Pancake Breakfast on the first day of classes for students, which entailed three separate seating times to accommodate everyone. As you can see, students enjoyed meeting the Chancellor while eating our homemade pancakes.



Another sign of expansion is our new footprint at The Dubois Center (TDC) in uptown Charlotte. We have two honors classes meeting there this fall, as well as three staff working from the offices on the 7th floor one day a week. We also held City as Text™ and the Honors Research Symposium in this location this fall. Additionally, we have put our mark on the Honors College student lounge on the 5th floor, which our students love for its lockers and snack food machines.

See what else we have been up to in the following pages! And thanks for your interest in the Honors College.

Malin Pereira, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor of English

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THE HONORS COLLEGE BECOMES AN OFFICIAL COLLEGE



Dr. Malin Pereira was appointed Dean of the Honors College at UNC Charlotte on July 1, 2022. She served as the Executive Director of the College since 2012. The creation of a new deanship and change in reporting structure resulted from the recognized role of honors programs in the University's strategic plan. One key goal of the college is to recruit, nurture and retain world-class, diverse undergraduates to the University. Pereira came to UNC Charlotte in 1992 and has spent her entire 30-year academic career at the University. She is Professor of English as well as affiliate faculty for the Department of Africana Studies and Women's and Gender Studies .

"Among Pereira's achievements in her decade leading the Honors College are the establishment of various scholarships, including three full-ride merit scholarship programs, two tuition and fees merit and need-based scholarships, and awarding an additional \$600,000 annually to honors students; driving tremendous growth in honors enrollment (a 100% increase since 2013) and diversity (a 152% increase in Black and biracial honors students); an increase to 29 discipline-based honors programs; and the identification, advisement and endorsement of students for national/international competitive awards and fellowships."

Source: *Inside UNC Charlotte* (June 30, 2022)



"The Honors College is ready to play its role in 'shaping what's next' for the University through the recruitment of highly motivated undergraduates and providing them opportunities for academic distinction."

- Dr. Malin Pereira



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL (NCHC) CONFERENCE

The 57th National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Annual Conference was held in Dallas, Texas, during the first week of November 2022. Five Honors College staff members had the opportunity to attend this conference.



NCHC was founded in 1966 and is an organization which supports and promotes undergraduate honors education. With roughly 900 member institutions, NCHC impacts over 330,000 honors students. It provides members with resources, training opportunities, as well as collaborative events to create and sustain their honors programs and curriculums. Within NCHC, students have access to scholarships and exclusive events.



Among other awards, the National Collegiate Honors Council sponsors an Honors Newsletter Competition each year. This year, our Honors College won 3rd place for the print version in the faculty/administrator/student published category.



CITY AS TEXT™: INTERNATIONAL — NEW YORK CITY (NYC)

City as Text™ International, a National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) trademarked activity, offers rich and deeply researched exploration of a given city. Every spring semester the Honors College offers an upper division honors elective class rooted in this pedagogy, which includes a trip to the city during spring break. This honors course is taught as a seminar by Honors Faculty member Abigail Moore. Students prepare for their trip by researching and challenging themselves to engage critically with the landscape. Covid-19 prevented any travel in 2021 and any international travel in 2022, therefore students went to New York City. While in NYC, students visited many places including the main branch of the New York Public Library and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. They also took the Staten Island Ferry past the Statue of Liberty, saw Broadway plays and Times Square.

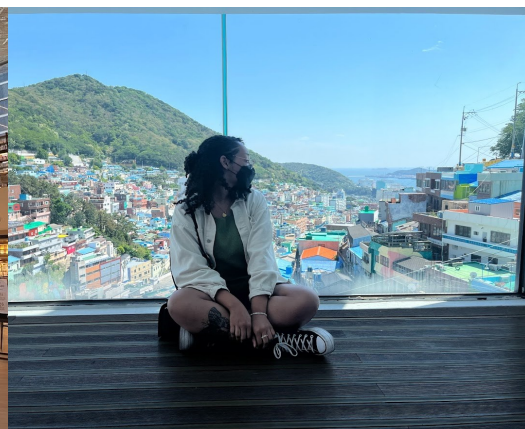


Study Abroad: South Korea — Mariah Roseboro

Class of 2023 — B.S. in Psychology — Martin Scholar — University Honors Program

I studied abroad in the city of Seoul, South Korea, at Korea University for a little under five months. During my study abroad, I was able to visit so many different places like Namsan Tower, the seaside city of Busan, Nami Island, Leeum Museum of Art, and so much more. With every new building, town, museum, etc., I fell deeper and deeper in admiration for the beautiful sights to see in the country of South Korea. I am so thankful when I look back on my experience; I'm able to see that my role as a **Martin Scholar** opened so many doors for me and kept me grounded in a sense.

The Honors College at UNC Charlotte is dedicated to supporting you through whatever endeavors you decide upon, especially to study abroad. They are committed to helping you find opportunities, advocating for you, and motivating you. It has always been evident to me that the Honors College is highly interested in my undergraduate journey; they want to be there every step of the way. It is an intentional relationship between the student and the College to ensure students have an exceptional time at UNC Charlotte that promotes success, well-being, and opportunity.



“Study abroad is genuinely what you make it – consider what you want and need to get out of your study abroad experience, as well as ponder how an international trip can equip you with the skills to help others and spread opportunity.”

- Mariah Roseboro



HONORS COLLEGE "BY THE NUMBERS"

30

Honors Programs

213

New Honors & Merit Scholars
[including AAHP, BHP, UHP & Levine Scholars Program (LSP)]

840

Total Honors & Merit Scholars
[including LSP]

Merit Scholarships Awarded

12

Albert Engineering
Leadership Scholarships

15

Martin Scholarships

9

Freeman Scholarships

17

Johnson Scholarships

12

Alumni Scholarships
for Merit

32

Fall 2021 Graduates

321

Honors College
Scholarships

138

Spring 2022 Graduates

Arts + Architecture Honors Program (AAHP) — Zainab Elrahal

Class of 2022 — B.A. in Fine Arts Ceramics, Minors in Art History & Public Health

I have been in the Arts + Architecture Honors Program (AAHP) since my freshman year here at UNC Charlotte. As of 2021, I am the president of “Cerama,” the UNC Charlotte club. During my time in AAHP, I have been able to work closely with my professors and develop professional and artistic skills throughout the years. I am currently working on my honors capstone project, for which I am creating a solo ceramics show consisting of functional ceramic pieces that are inspired by ancient Syrian ceramic wares. My work over the years has been accepted into different art shows around campus including the UNC Charlotte student juried art show, as well as being published in the *NOVA* arts magazine.



“I have gained many skills during my time in AAHP, including how to communicate efficiently with others, how to prioritize my projects, and most importantly; how to ask others for resources when I need help”

- Zainab Elrahal

In my last semester, I am also completing my BFA Senior Thesis show, in which I am exploring the relationship between the mind and the body. This body of work revolves around how trauma and intense chronic emotion manifests itself into the physical body. I use a carved layered underglaze technique to create an intense visual field in order to communicate these feelings of confusion, pain, and being overwhelmed. I am excited to finish these projects, and I am hoping to continue my artistic journey after graduation through assistantships, teaching, and residencies.



Business Honors Program (BHP) — Hope Williams

Class of 2025 — B.S. in Accounting



I joined the Business Honors Program (BHP) in the fall of 2021. During my first year, I was a Class Representative on the External Vice President Committee, which involved planning and executing the Community Service projects for the program. As a second-year BHP student, I am currently working on our Non-Profit Consulting Group Project. We have connected with a local non-profit organization in the University City area to volunteer our time and efforts to help them resolve an issue. As we are in the beginning stages of this project, we are heavily focused on data collection and research. It's a way to learn about consulting and also to get involved with the local community.

"In honors we are constantly being taught how to improve ourselves professionally and personally, touching on subjects such as diversity and inclusion and prioritization of mental health"

- Hope Williams



From all of our monthly meetings and daily interactions with each other, you find a home within BHP, and with that comes a sense of pride and community. BHP also promotes academic success, which motivates me to do my best within my courses. As a BHP family, we all benefit from this standard, and we celebrate our accomplishments together. Transitioning to college can be really difficult for some people and knowing that you already have a support system on your first day makes all the difference. Outside of school, I have been serving as an Army Reservist since 2019. BHP has been very flexible and understanding of my commitments, constantly working with me to ensure if any conflicts arise, we are quick to resolve them.

University Honors Program (UHP) — Miguel Jover-Torres

Class of 2023 — B.S. in Computer Science with a concentration in AI, Robotics & Gaming

I have had the pleasure of being a part of the University Honors Program (UHP) since I began attending UNC Charlotte in Fall 2020. The sense of family in UHP served as a safe haven for me and many other UHPers during covid. The various UHP “Among Us” and movie night events helped me feel connected to other students who were also going through the same thing. I felt inspired to be a part of this group in order to better contribute to the sense of community within the program. Shortly after, I had the pleasure to serve UHP as the President-Elect for the Fall 2021 semester, which led to me becoming the President in Spring 2022.



“Thanks to the determination and hard work by the faculty in the Honors program, the members in the UHP Executive Board, and the Honors Ambassadors, we have massively reshaped the UHP to better reflect our goal of community, service, and scholarship”

- Miguel Jover-Torres

We have massively reshaped UHP to better reflect our community, service and scholarship, and I feel fortunate to be part of such a remarkable organization. Beyond the University Honors Program, I have also participated in a machine learning research project for the past year. We have made great strides in the field of brain signal data research, and we are in the process of having our findings published and reviewed. Finding balance is one of the most important lessons I have learned during my time here at UNC Charlotte. Positioning life, friends, UHP, research, and personal time has been a journey. It is something I am still working on, thankfully, there is always room to improve. Being a part of this program has positively shaped my university experience, and I would do it all over again.



Alumni Spotlight — Joshua Sun

Class of 2020 — B.S. in Computer Science, Minor in History — Crown Scholar — UHP



It has been over two years since I graduated from UNC Charlotte and started my career as a Software Engineer. I am currently the Interim Product Owner for a software engineering team that creates and maintains systems to help other teams deploy their applications onto Oracle's Cloud. I am in charge of designing, planning, and also scheduling the work for my team so that we can meet the goals of those who rely on our services. This position allows me to flow between both the technical and the managerial aspects of our work. I am extremely blessed to be able to do what I have always wanted to do very early on in my career.

There was not one specific class or event in college that directly led to me getting a job or promotion. More so, it was the collection of experiences shaped by the environment I was in that had a major impact on the individual I am today. Being in the Honors College, constantly around equally motivated and disciplined peers, encouraged me to work hard and push myself.



"The Honors College gave me many of the friends I still have today and many of my most exciting memories."

- Joshua Sun



The Honors College offers diverse opportunities and encourages students to be more than just academics. During my time there, I was able to collaborate with peers to solve real world problems in the Video and Image Analysis Research Lab, study abroad in Israel and Japan, and even take on leadership roles within the University Honors Program Student Association. Each of these experiences showed me a glimpse of life beyond being a student.

Honors Faculty Spotlight — Didier Dréau, Ph.D.

Honors in Biological Sciences Program Director

Educational Background

Following an education in France (BS from Rennes I University; MS from Clermont-Ferrand University and a Ph.D. in Cell & Molecular Biology from Ecole Nationale Agronomique de Rennes), I completed my training with two post-doctoral fellowships at Atrium Health. I then served as Assistant, Associate, and now full Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at UNC Charlotte. Success was made possible through the support of numerous dedicated teachers. Highlighting that life is full of twists and turns: early on, becoming a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine was the path, then research became more the focus. Serving as a Professor, and especially my role as Honors Program Director is fulfilling.



Career Background—Biological Sciences

I have worked at Atrium Healthcare for roughly eight years, and at UNC Charlotte for over eighteen years now. As a scientist, I have traveled for collaborative work and presentations in the USA and internationally. As a research scientist running a lab, you serve as the CEO and CFO, and staff of a small company raising funds, allocating those resources, hiring collaborators, monitoring and reporting progress. Research, especially biological sciences and cancer research, became a career along the way based on amazing teachers and mentors and an unwavering focus on furthering our understanding of cancer and of developing best therapeutics.



Current Honors and UG students engaged in research (May 2022)

Teaching Honors

The Honors in Biological Sciences program mainly aims to develop critical and well-rounded honors students. Most honors students leave the lab (all with accolades and some with awards) and enroll successfully into their preferred program/career path. Their contribution nurtures the research program in my lab. In addition to being listed into acknowledgements, some students earned authorships to peer-reviewed articles.

WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Jordan Boyd

Mr. Boyd, a UNC Charlotte alumnus, joined the Honors College in August of 2022, having previously worked as an athletic director and Social Studies teacher in the Charlotte metropolitan area. Mr. Boyd advises students in the University Honors Program on Honors Core Experiences, and specializes in community engagement opportunities. He also teaches an honors course on citizenship with an emphasis on the ways in which race, class, culture, and education act as key variables in the subject matter. Mr. Boyd is a Ph.D. student; he intends to graduate in May 2024 with a Doctorate of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction with an Urban Education specialization.

Colette Chenault

Ms. Chenault also joined the Honors College in August of 2022. She earned her B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Organizational Behavior from UNC Chapel Hill. Ms. Chenault provides administrative support to the Honors College. She also enjoys being involved in the community by volunteering at election polling locations and at a local food pantry.



Jeffrey Leak, Ph.D.



Dr. Leak was named Interim Associate Dean of the Honors College, effective August 1, 2022. In this two-year appointment, Leak manages the day-to-day functions of the University Honors Program — the largest honors program on campus. Additionally, he oversees the curriculum, course offerings, programming, advising, and instructional budget of the Honors College. Dr. Leak joined the Honors College as the first faculty fellow for the Martin Scholars Program, served as faculty president for the 2015-16 academic year, and won the American Council on Education fellowship in 2019-20.

HONORS COUNCIL

The Honors Council is an elected committee of Honors Faculty that serves as an advisory body to the Dean of the Honors College. The Council is responsible for reviewing and evaluating honors curricula. They provide shared governance of honors, and review program proposals and revisions.

The Honors Council consists of the following:

- 2 elected Honors Faculty representatives from College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- 1 elected Honors Faculty representative from each of UNC Charlotte's other colleges
- 2 elected At-Large Honors Faculty representatives, one to represent UHP
- 1 appointed undergraduate honors student representative

College of Arts + Architecture.....	Robert Campbell , Alternate: Mark Pizzato
College of Business.....	Carol Stivender , Alternate: Karen Ford Eickhoff
College of Computing and Informatics.....	Jessica Schlueter , Alternate: Mohamed Shehab
College of Education.....	Cindy Gilson , Alternate: Amy Good
College of Engineering.....	Andrew Willis , Alternative: Cathy Blat
College of Health and Human Services.....	Deborah Beete , Alternate: Kelly Powers
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.....	Ritika Prasad , Alternate: Jose Batista
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.....	Sandra Clinton , Alternate: Sara Levens
At-Large.....	Pilar Zuber , Alternate: Maren Ehlers
At-Large, UHP.....	Abigail Moore , Alternate: Susan Arthur
Ex-officio non-voting members.....	Malin Pereira and Jeffrey Leak

NEWLY APPOINTED HONORS FACULTY

College	Name	Title	Department
CLAS	Jurgen Buchenau	Professor	History
CCI	Qiong Cheng	Lecturer	Computer Science
CHHS	Patricia Crane	The Carol Grotnes Professor	School of Nursing
CCI	Mohsen Dorodchi	Teaching Professor	Department of Computer
CCI	Wenwu Dou	Associate Professor	Computer Science
CLAS	Maren Ehlers	Associate Professor	History
CCI	Minwoo Lee	Assistant Professor	Computer Science
CCI	Heather Lipford	Professor	Software and Information
CHHS	Laura Magennis	Clinical Assistant Professor	School of Nursing
CHHS	Timothy McGuffin	Associate Director	School of Nursing
CCI	Marlon Mejias	Assistant Teaching Professor	Software and Information
CLAS	Juan Meneses	Associate Professor	English
CLAS	Gregory Mixon	Professor	History and Africana Studies
CLAS	Erika Montanaro	Assistant Professor	Psychological Science
CCI	Nadia Najjar	Assistant Teaching Professor	Software and Information
CLAS	Loc Nguyen	Assistant Professor	Mathematics and Statistics
CHHS	Jyotsana Parajuli	Assistant Professor	School of Nursing
CLAS	Benjamin Radford	Assistant Professor	POLS
COB	Jackie Robinson	Lecturer	Marketing
CLAS	Vaughn Schmutz	Associate Professor	Sociology
CHHS	Cory Sheeler	Clinical Assistant Professor	School of Nursing
CLAS	Kristina Shull	Assistant Professor	History
CLAS	Gregory Starrett	Professor	Anthropology
CLAS	Juan Vivero-Escoto	Associate Professor	Chemistry
CCI	Pu Wang	Associate Professor	Computer Science

RE-APPOINTED HONORS FACULTY

College	Name	Title	Department
CLAS	Bruce Arrigo	Professor	Criminal Justice
CLAS	Jeanette Bennett	Associate Professor	Psychological Science
CLAS	Matthew Eastin	Associate Professor	Geography & Earth Science
COAA	James Franki	Professor	Art and Art History
CHHS	Reuben Howden	Professor	Applied Physiology
CLAS	Jeffrey Leak	Professor	English
CLAS	Janaka Lewis	Associate Professor	English
COAA	Emily Makas	Professor	Architecture
COED	Michael Matthews	Professor	Special Education & Child
CHHS	Susan McCarter	Professor	Social Work
CLAS	Mary McKenzie	Senior Lecturer	Sociology
HONR	Malin Pereira	Professor and Dean	Honors College, English
CHHS	Amy Peters	Senior Lecturer	School of Social Work
COED	Paola Pilonieta	Associate Professor	Reading & Elementary
EDUC	Michael Putman	Associate Professor	Reading and Elementary
CLAS	Alan Rauch	Professor	English
CCI	Mohamed Shehab	Professor	Software & Info. Systems
COED	Rebecca Shore	Associate Professor	Educational Leadership
CLAS	John Smail	Professor	History
COE	Ron Smelser	Professor	Engineering
CLAS	Ashli Stokes	Professor	Communication Studies
CLAS	Peter Thorsheim	Professor	History
CLAS	Aaron Toscano	Associate Professor	English

FACULTY FELLOWS



Reuben Howden | Ph.D.

Dr. Howden has been a faculty member at UNC Charlotte since 2008, and is the Faculty Fellow for the Albert Scholars and University Honors Programs. Dr. Howden is a professor in the Department of Applied Physiology, Health, & Clinical Sciences. He is also a member of the Laboratory of Systems Physiology.



Olga Padilla-Falto | Ph.D.

Dr. Padilla-Falto has been a faculty member since 2016, and she is the Faculty Fellow for the Martin Scholars Program. Dr. Padilla-Falto is a teaching professor in the Languages and Culture Studies department, as well as the coordinator of Elementary Spanish.

STUDENT INTERNS

Nikol Stoycheva

Marketing and Outreach Intern

Communiqué Editor

Class of 2024

Major: Marketing

Hometown: Targovishte, Bulgaria

"What makes the Honors College truly great is the extraordinary staff and students. I have been enjoying my time interning here all thanks to them!"



Nemitha Vudaru

Graduate Assistant

Class of 2023

Major: Computer Science

Hometown: Hyderabad, India

"Interning at the Honors College as an international student has given me an opportunity to meet some amazing people and make great memories."



Honors College Directory

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