

Honors College Newsletter



Mission Statement:

The Honors College is an academic and support hub for high-achieving UNC Charlotte undergraduate students, including all members of honors programs, recipients of merit scholarships, students preparing to enter health professions, students seeking endorsement for prestigious national fellowships and awards, and students engaging in undergraduate research.

The Honors College directs multiple honors and scholarship programs, including the University Honors Program, the Crown Scholars Program, Albert Engineering Leadership Scholars Program, and Martin Scholars Program, coordinates the Honors Council, and supports the Honors Faculty as well as directors of honors and merit scholar programs; furthermore, we continuously advocate for opportunities to develop all high-achieving undergraduates.

83%

of UNC Charlotte's bachelors programs have departmental or college honors programs

There are currently

673

students in honors programs

Between 2015-2016 the number of students graduating with honors increased by

29%

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From the Executive Director, Dr. Malin Pereira



I am excited to bring to you our second annual Honors College newsletter! The Honors College has been on the move, and we have so much to tell you. New honors programs, more applicants for nationally competitive scholarships, more students graduating with honors, new merit scholar programs, more staff, new Honors Faculty, a new website, and a new residence hall with administrative offices opening this fall – all these advances show that we are growing everywhere we look. The number of students in honors programs has grown 23% since 2012!

Honors College staff have a saying: “We build something new every day.” And we couldn’t do it without strong support from you – our donors, deans and department chairs, campus partners, faculty, and students. Nowhere does Chancellor Phil DuBois’s frequent reminder that UNC Charlotte is a “uni”-versity find fuller expression than in the Honors College, where so many on campus and in the community mutually invest in our students and in our world’s future.

So, thank you for your interest in honors, and for your continued support. I hope you enjoy our second issue, and please do be in touch with me about anything honors!

Malin

Honors College Staff Updates

Welcome Dr. Cherese Childers-McKee!

Dr. Cherese Childers-McKee is the new Faculty and Curriculum Development Coordinator in the Honors College. She completed her M.Ed. at UNC Charlotte and her Ph.D. in Educational Studies with a concentration in Cultural Studies at UNC Greensboro. She also holds a graduate certificate in women’s and gender studies. Her research and pedagogical interests include honors education, social justice education, community engaged research, and interracial and intercultural relations among youth of color.

Dr. Childers-McKee’s teaching experiences range from K-12 to higher education. She has taught middle school, high school, and adult English Language Learners (ELLs); undergraduate pre-service teachers and social workers; undergraduate honors students; and graduate educational leadership and higher education students. Dr. Childers-McKee’s publication record includes refereed journal articles, book chapters, an encyclopedia article, and an edited book – all in which she explores topics such as critical race feminism, social justice education, university-urban school partnerships, and interracial and intercultural relations among youth. Her writing has appeared in venues such as *The Urban Review*, *The Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*, and *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism*. She is co-editor of the book, *Postcards from the Schoolhouse: Practitioner Scholars Examine Contemporary Issues in Instructional Leadership*.

Dr. Childers-McKee looks forward to working with honors curricula, honors students, and honors faculty across the campus. In her new role, she plans to work diligently to improve curriculum, foster collaboration, and challenge students to transform their social worlds. She believes that learning occurs not through agreed upon meanings of texts, but in the dialogic encounter between reader and writer, listener and speaker.



Congratulations to Mrs. Shannon Zurell-Carey!



Mrs. Shannon Zurell-Carey has worked at UNC Charlotte for over 14 years, joining the Honors College in August 2013. She provides administrative support for all Honors College programs, courses, and events. On July 16, 2016, she married her best friend after five years of dating, at a rustic venue – The Loft at 14th in Concord, NC – with 80 of her close family, friends, and colleagues in attendance. Shannon and Mike then went on an all-inclusive honeymoon to Ocho Rios, Jamaica, where they enjoyed snorkeling, a catamaran cruise, a scenic bike ride that started at 5000 feet, and relaxation.

Online Pre-Health Orientations

The Honors College is excited to announce the creation of online pre-health orientations!

For students who are interested in a future career in healthcare, UNC Charlotte offers a “pre-health track” and specialized advising by pre-health advisors, Dr. Elizabeth Hanie and Ms. Karen James. The starting point for the “pre-health track” involves completing an orientation to a specific track. This orientation provides students with information about the courses to take, the level of grades they would need to be competitive, the types and volume of extracurricular activities they need, and how to construct a timeline for their application to a professional school. Historically, Dr. Hanie or Ms. James conducted these orientations through in-person presentations, but beginning in the spring of 2015 pre-health orientations began moving online.

Dr. Hanie and Ms. James began construction on the Pre-Health Moodle page during the winter of 2015, in an effort to make the orientation process more convenient for students. The Moodle page serves as a place to house pre-health track orientations and other resources for pre-health students. Students are able to self-enroll in the Moodle page and complete the orientations where they want, when they want, and have all of the information available in one convenient location. With Pre-Med, Pre-PA, Pre-Dental, Pre-Physical Therapy, and Pre-Occupational Therapy orientations currently available online, and with the Pre-Pharmacy, Pre-Optometry, and Pre-Veterinary orientations currently under construction, students will soon have access to a great new resource. The online platform will undoubtedly make it more convenient to complete their orientations, and allow Dr. Hanie and Ms. James more time to conduct in-person advising sessions with students.



Student Success Story: Nathaniel Neptune

Duke University School of Medicine is one of the most difficult medical school acceptances to earn: for the 2016 entering class, 7,013 applicants vied for 115 seats. Meet Nathaniel Neptune, a recent UNC Charlotte postbaccalaureate student, who was accepted not only to Duke but also to six other US medical schools; he has just started his M1 year at Duke. Nathaniel has an interesting background: he completed his BS in Nursing degree from Cabarrus College of Health Sciences and was employed as a surgical-trauma intensive care nurse at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, NC. Demonstrating his leadership, communication skills, high level of competence, and other attributes, he worked his way from charge nurse to floor supervisor and code team leader. Wanting a higher level of training and responsibility, he set his sights on medical school and enrolled as a postbaccalaureate student at UNC Charlotte in 2013 to begin taking the pre-medical prerequisite courses while continuing full-time ICU nursing. Nathaniel excelled in his science courses at UNC Charlotte and achieved a high score on the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT); he attributes much of his success to the outstanding science departments and faculty on campus as well as the guidance he received from Pre-Health Professions Advising, particularly from Dr. Elizabeth Hanie. Congratulations, Nathaniel!



The University Honors Program Welcomes New Members



The University Honors Program (UHP) is an interdisciplinary honors program with a mission to inspire its members to be intellectually curious, creative problem solvers, and envoys of diverse and inclusive thinking in and outside of the classroom. UHP strives to provide a supportive community emphasizing scholarship, leadership, and community engagement on campus, in the greater Charlotte region, and beyond. With 200 current members from highly diverse backgrounds, interests, and academic majors, UHP is the largest honors program at UNC Charlotte and the only honors program housed within the Honors College.

Each August, incoming members of the program are welcomed to campus by the current UHP student leadership teams at Venture Adventure, a long-time annual tradition in UHP. During the day-long program facilitated by the Venture Department at UNC Charlotte, students work through a series of activities on outdoor challenge courses. The activities are designed to challenge while promoting team-building and the development of leadership skills they serve as the first step in preparing new members to engage with UHP and the campus community as they begin their development as scholar-citizens. This year 18 members of the current UHP student leadership team welcomed 50 new students to the UHP community.





National Association of Fellowship Advising Summer Tour

Ms. Karen James, Associate Director for Scholars Advising, joined the Honors College just over three years ago after working more than twelve years at UNC Chapel Hill and the Morehead Cain Foundation. In her roles there, she advised many students who earned Rhodes, Truman, and Fulbright Fellowships. When she was hired, part of her responsibilities in the Honors College included identifying and guiding high achieving students who wished to compete for nationally and internationally competitive fellowships. Since she has been with the Honors College at UNC Charlotte, applications for these awards have become increasingly successful, including four students earning Fulbrights and one earning an honorable mention for the Goldwater. As a result, her job responsibilities were recently restructured to allow her more time to devote to increasing the number of successful applicants through enlisting faculty and other university partners in identifying and mentoring these students.

In light of her expanded fellowship advising role, Ms. James sought out professional development opportunities and was able to participate in a study tour of UK universities with other National Association of Fellowship Advising (NAFA) colleagues. The tour provided information about postgraduate education and funding opportunities, and each college provided sessions that highlighted top departments and faculty, as well as campus tours and meals with administrators and faculty. The tour was sponsored by the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission, with cooperation from the Rhodes Trust and the Rothermere American Institute at Oxford, the Gates Cambridge Trust at Cambridge, and the Fulbright UK Commission. Mary Denyer, Marshall Assistant Secretary and Head of Scholarship Administration, planned the visits and traveled with the group, while also providing detailed information on the Marshall application process.



Karen James and Sarah Bufkin, a Rhodes Scholar and former Morehead-Cane Scholar whom Ms. James advised at UNC Chapel Hill

33%
increase in UNC Charlotte students applying for nationally and internationally competitive scholarships since Ms. James joined the Honors College in 2013.

The tour covered 16 universities in just over two weeks, with days often starting at 7:30 a.m. and ending at 11:00 p.m. The group started out in London, where they were hosted by University College London, Imperial College, King's College, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. From there, they traveled to Cambridge, University of Sheffield, Durham University, and the University of Glasgow. The group then had one "free" day of the trip in Glasgow, Scotland, before heading back to England. The University of Sussex was next, where activities for the group extended from day lectures, presentations, and campus tours to an evening dinner and a tour of the seaside town of Brighton led by a professor. From there, the tour visited the Universities of Southampton, Oxford, Warwick, Birmingham, Manchester, and a grand finale at Bristol.

In addition to learning from the UK fellowship administrators and university personnel, Ms. James found she learned much useful information from the 40 other fellowship advisors who were on the trip. Long train rides and bus trips between campuses provided ample time for discussion of current issues and best practices. Ms. James also will be able to share the experiences of the current scholars she was able to talk with on the tour to help students decide which university might be the best fit for their postgraduate education. Ms. James has already shared what she learned on these trips with several students, and she looks forward to educating others about opportunities in the UK at Cambridge, Oxford, and beyond.





Study Abroad

The opportunity to study abroad is a unique and high-impact experience that serves as a complement to any student's college career. The Honors College believes in the importance of study abroad and encourages its students to study abroad both through scholarships and honors-dedicated programs. The Honors College offers several scholarship opportunities to its members in order to encourage study abroad: all Crown Scholars are provided with a \$5,000 study abroad stipend to be used during their college career; the Honors College also offers the Delbridge E. Narron Travel Scholarship, a \$2,000 award available to any

student in departmental or University Honors; and the University Honors Program offers a \$500 Study Abroad Scholarship to its students. During the summer of 2016, the Honors College offered its first-ever honors study abroad trip, "Arts and Architecture in the City of Light," led by Dr. Angela Rajagopalan of the Department of Art and Art History, and Faculty Fellow for the Levine Scholars Program, focused on Paris, France. The program provided students with the unique opportunity to explore the awe-inspiring architectural and artistic masterpieces that can be found in Paris and Toulouse.

According to Dr. Rajagopalan: "As a [Levine] Faculty Fellow, one of my goals was to promote ways for the Levine Scholars Program to interact with other Honors programs on campus. Over the course of my two-year term, I developed a new summer study abroad program focused on the Art and Architecture of Paris. This program was developed as the Office of Education Abroad's first honors-level study abroad class. Eight students participated in the program and they came from the Levine Scholars Program, the University Honors Program, and the Crown Scholars Program.



In 2015-2016 the Honors College provided
\$39,000
in scholarships for Study Abroad, which funded travel to locations all over the world, including:

- London, England
- San Jose, Costa Rica
- Santiago, Cuba
- Jerusalem, Israel
- Paris, France
- Milan, Italy
- Copenhagen, Denmark
- Santander, Spain

I loved having such a bright, engaged, and fun group with very diverse disciplinary interests. While I taught eight non-majors about art, French history, and stylistic developments, they shared insights on Engineering, Music, and other topics and asked questions that made me think about my own material in new ways. I feel very lucky to have had a flexible group of intrepid travelers, open to new foods, new experiences, and diverse visual, literary, and aesthetic traditions.

During the course, we visited all of the major sites and monuments in Paris, like the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and the Musée D'Orsay. We also traveled to lesser-known sites and collections that most visitors don't see on a typical tourist visit, like the Musée Marmottan, that houses the world's largest collection of Monet's work. I especially enjoyed traveling with the students to Toulouse in the south of France. We experienced the quieter French life outside Paris and learned about spectacular historical sites in the nearby towns of Albi and Carcassonne."

- Dr. Angela Rajagopalan



Conference Participation

Undergraduate Research Conference



Honors students were well represented at the annual UNC Charlotte Undergraduate Research Conference. In 2016, honors students represented 20% of the participants at the conference. Award-winning presentations included:

- The Life and Works of Gabrielle de Coignard, Eileen Jakeway (Levine Scholar, English Honors)
- The Effects of PolyDOTs on the Eastern Oyster, Crassostrea Virginica, Daniel Smith (Crown Scholar, Biological Sciences Honors, University Honors Program)
- Implications of Gender Gaps in Education, Sarah Riegel (Crown Scholar, University Honors Program)
- Tactual Mapping with the Emergence of 3D Technologies, Kelly O'Connor (Geography and Earth Sciences Honors)
- Occurrences of Microplastic in An Urban Piedmont Stream, Whitney King (Geography and Earth Sciences Honors)

20%
of presenters at the Undergraduate Research Conference were honors students, and

100%
of the winners of the Atkins Library Awards are or were honors students

Student Conference Participation

The Honors College actively encourages student conference participation by inviting students to national and regional honors conferences, and by providing funding to help students cover the cost of presenting their research at a conference.

Conferences attended by honors students in 2015-2016:

- American Chemical Society National Meeting and Exposition (Boston, Massachusetts)
- American Medical Student Association Annual Convention & Exposition (Washington, DC)
- American Public Health Association Meeting and Exposition (Chicago, Illinois)
- Midwest Political Science Association Conference (Chicago, Illinois)
- National Collegiate Honors Conference, 50th Anniversary (Chicago, Illinois)
- North Carolina Honors Association Conference (Asheville, North Carolina)
- Society of Affective Science Conference (Chicago, Illinois)
- Social and Affective Neuroscience Society Conference (Boston, Massachusetts)
- Southern Political Science Association Conference (San Juan, Puerto Rico)



Emily Grasset, a member of UHP and the Political Science Honors Program, presented her research with Dr. Martha Kropf of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the Southern Political Science Association Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Staff Conference Attendance

In addition to supporting student conference participation, the Honors College also supports staff conference participation. In 2015-2016 Honors College staff attended conferences nationally and internationally, presenting both on honors-related topics and their own academic research.

Conferences Attended by Honors College Staff in 2015-2016:

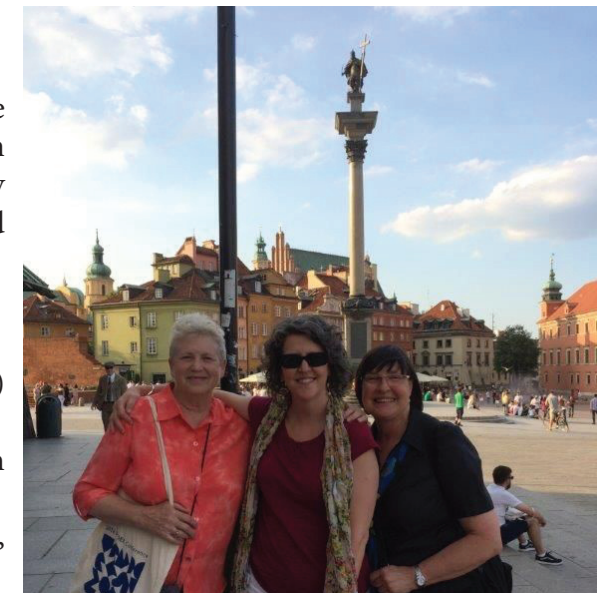
- Health Professions Advisors of North Carolina (HPANC) Conference (High Point, North Carolina)
- National Collegiate Honors Conference (NCHC), 50th Anniversary (Chicago, Illinois)
- North Carolina Honors Association Conference (Asheville, North Carolina)
- National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Conference (Las Vegas, Nevada)
- The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas (MESEA) (Warsaw, Poland)

The Honors College staff gave several presentations at the 2015 NCHC, including:

- “Making Big Plans: Growing Honors through Disciplinarily Diverse Capstone Experiences.” Presented by Malin Pereira, Dennis Livesay, and Jennifer Warner.
- “Implementing the Vision of UNC Charlotte’s Honors College to Engage Students in Local Social Justice Work.” Presented by Malin Pereira, Janni Sorensen, and Robert Arnold.



Honors College students Maya Black and Wendall Horton, along with Honors College staff Dr. Jennifer Warner and Karen James, and Honors College Advisory Board Chair Delbridge Narron



Dr. Malin Pereira and colleagues in Warsaw, Poland.

In 2015-2016 the Honors College provided

\$11,000

to fund student conference participation

Merit Scholarship Programs

The Honors College is excited to announce that, with the addition of the new Martin Scholars Program, the Honors College now administers three distinct merit scholars programs!

Crown Scholars Program

The Honors College began administering the Crown Scholars Program in 2015. Since Honors College administration began, the participation by Crown Scholars in study abroad programs and undergraduate research has increased dramatically. In the spring and summer of 2016, twelve Crown Scholars studied abroad, compared to one in 2015 and four in 2014. There are also eight Crown Scholars conducting research in disciplines ranging from mechanical engineering to psychology.



Honors College staff welcome the parents of the Crown Scholars class of 2020

In addition to the increased participation by Crown Scholars in study abroad and research, there has been development of programming for the Crown Scholars Program. Prior to the program's existence, few of the scholarship recipients had any contact with each other or knew who the other merit scholars were. The Honors College has made an effort to increase the programming offered to Crown Scholars in order to give them both the opportunity to get to know each other and to increase professional and personal development. Programming has included welcome events for new Crown Scholars and their parents, meals hosted at international restaurants around Charlotte, a student panel on research hosted by the Crown Faculty Fellow, and a workshop on nationally competitive awards and scholarships.

To learn more about the Crown Scholars Program, visit crownscholars.uncc.edu.



Now in the Honors College, the Albert Engineering Leadership Scholars Program

The Honors College began administering the Albert Engineering Leadership Scholars Program in 2016. In partnership with the William States Lee College of Engineering, the Honors College provides advising and programming to the Albert Scholars.

To find out more about the Albert Scholars Program, visit albertscholars.uncc.edu.

Coming Soon, the Martin Scholars Program

The Honors College is honored to be the custodian of new scholarships through the generosity of Demond T. Martin (of Popp Martin Student Union fame), and his wife, Dr. Kia Martin. The Martin Scholars Program will target qualified, Pell-eligible students from underrepresented groups with unmet financial need; the objective is to remove barriers and attract them to honors programs and other enrichment opportunities. Students will receive, in addition to the merit scholarship, funding to support study abroad and professional internships. First-year freshmen, continuing students, and also transfer students will be served.

More information will be available by January 1, 2017, on the website at martinscholars.uncc.edu. Stay tuned!



Photo Credit: Wade Bruton



In November 2015, merit scholars from across campus gathered to connect at the first Merit Scholars Reception, hosted by the Honors College.

Honors College Scholarship Winners

In addition to its merit scholarship programs, the Honors College awards six targeted scholarships:

Albert Maisto Honors College Scholarship

A \$1,000 award that provides assistance to full-time undergraduate students who exhibit exemplary academic performance, honors citizenship, and service.

2016 Winner: Wendall Horton

Avenir Foundation Scholarship

A \$1,000 award that provides assistance to a deserving undergraduate honors student with demonstrated financial need, a relationship with a mentor, and who is engaged in completing their senior honors capstone.

2016 Winner: Christina Gullo

Delbridge E. Narron Scholarship

A \$2,000 award that provides assistance to a rising junior or rising senior who is enrolled full-time in the University Honors Program and/or is pursuing departmental honors. The recipient must present evidence of character, evidence of a commitment to learning, an open mind, and an acceptance of diverse cultures, genders and sexual orientations.

2016 Winner: Diane Gromelski

Delbridge E. Narron Travel Scholarship

A \$2,000 award that supports travel outside the United States for the Delbridge E. Narron Scholarship recipient. In the event that Delbridge E. Narron Scholarship recipient does not plan to travel abroad, other rising junior or rising senior Honors students may be awarded these funds.

2016 Winner: Diane Gromelski

J.D. Hicks UHP Outstanding Portfolio Scholarship

Three \$200 awards are distributed to students of the University Honors Program for outstanding portfolios.

2016 Winners: Ryan Hess (Senior Portfolio), Emily Arkin (Citizenship Portfolio), and Tess Overton (Colloquium Portfolio)

University Honors Program Study Abroad Scholarship

A \$500 award that provides supplemental funding to a full-time University Honors Program student planning to study abroad.

2016 Winner: Sarah Crawley

Congratulations to all of the 2015-2016 Honors College scholarship recipients!



Honors Capstones

In May 2016, the University saw its highest number of honors graduates ever, with 84 students graduating from at least one of the 25 different honors programs on campus. In order to graduate with honors distinction on their transcript, students are required to complete all honors program requirements as well as a capstone honors project, thesis, or portfolio, depending on their program.

A sample of the 2016 Capstones included:

Title	Student	Advisor	Program	Program Director
Exogeneity in the Solow Growth Model: A Macroeconomic Analysis of Variables Determining Agricultural Technological Progress	Lea Arapovic	Dr. Ted Amato	Business Honors Program	Dr. Ted Amato
Technology: Its Influence on Culture and Individual Identity	Emily Murphy	Dr. Barbara Presnell	University Honors Program	Dr. Jennifer Warner
Supervisor Social Skill and Emotional Intelligence as Related to Subordinate Perceived Organizational Support and Engagement	Leanne Barry	Dr. Linda Shanock	Psychology Honors Program	Dr. Al Maisto
Study of Optimal Investment	Muqing Yue	Dr. Mingxin Xu	Math Honors Program	Dr. Mingxin Xu
The Cruise Missile Technology Control Regime and Nonproliferation: Why States Comply with Cruise Missile Export Controls	Andrea Greer	Dr. James Walsh	Political Science Honors Program	Dr. Beth Whitaker
Motives for the Assimilation of the Sioux and Sioux Responses to "Americanization"	John Moran	Dr. Oscar Larsen	History Honors Program	Dr. Oscar Larsen
Transforming Growth Factor Beta, Periostin and Transforming Growth Factor Induced Expression in Breast Cancer	Bryanna Sierra	Dr. Didier Dreau	Biology Honors Program	Dr. Didier Dreau

UHP Alumna Story: Jennifer Paules

Jennifer Paules graduated from UNC Charlotte in 2001 with a degree in Communication Studies and with University Honors distinction. She currently works as a Senior Vice President at Bank of America and serves as a member of the Honors College Advisory Board. In early 2016 she sat down and spoke with Dr. Malin Pereira to answer some questions about her experience in honors. Below is a brief excerpt from that interview.

MP: So why did you join the University Honors Program?

JP: I really wanted to have the general population college experience, so when my mom had asked me “Do you want to apply for the honors program? Seems interesting,” I said “No, I don’t want to be the nerd for once. I just want to be a regular college student in a regular college dorm.”

That lasted for the first half of my first semester. I felt very fish out of water because my roommates were partying a lot and drinking a lot and skipping a lot of classes. I was very seriously there to learn and get my money’s worth for my education. I wasn’t able to sleep there, and it was very difficult to study. So I dropped by the honors office one day and said “I’m in a bad situation, do you have any spots open in the honors dorm if I join the program?” It just so happened that someone had gotten sick and moved out. There was literally one spot open in the dorm. So I got the papers and joined the program. They said “You know you have to take one honors class a semester to stay in, and keep your GPA up” and I said “Alright.” I had no intention of going through the whole thing to graduate with Honors – I just wanted to live in the honors dorm.

As soon as I moved in, it was just the sound of angels. I felt I had come home, that this was where I was supposed to be all the time. The students would hang out in the lounge and discuss things we had learned in our classes and news and politics. I loved the Honors classes, and kept going with the program, doing my thesis and graduating with University Honors. But I did not seek out the program – I came to it as a necessity and then it made me fall in love.

MP: You touch on a couple of things that are true for a lot of our students. A lot of students aren’t interested in Honors because they think it’s extra work. Or like you said, the nerdy thing. But once you realize that it really is YOU and you own it and love it. And the benefits are simple: being with like-minded people, it’s not having to deal with bad behaviors of some other students, and a more intellectual environment with people who want to succeed at school.

JP: Yes. The classes were more challenging. Unlike my required coursework, where I could just study the book, make sure I really understood the material and write an essay or answer the questions with a right or wrong answer, in honors classes it was about thinking through issues and ideas and there wasn’t a right or wrong answer. That was really uncomfortable for me at first because I was a very black and white thinker. It really taught me to question things more and have a process for critical thinking. It didn’t take me long to adjust to that, but it was totally different and I loved it.

MP: Can you talk about any other key honors experiences for you?

JP: I really loved interacting with Dr. Al Maisto. I would drop by the office and hang out with the staff. There were a couple other students always hanging out there between classes who I got pretty close with. That was kind of like our clubhouse, our little spot to hang out. Al was always very open about including students in his life and holiday parties. He had a beach trip I went on every year that was a good way to bond away from school. I know you all don’t do that any more, but that was definitely one of the highlights for me.

MP: So, what would you say if you wanted to tell a student why they should join an honors program? What would be the things they should hear? Try to think back on yourself, and what would you say to sell Honors to students.

JP: It gives you a like-minded, academic-focused community to be in. It helps to get you out of your comfort zone academically and pushes you to think about topics and themes that you aren’t going to be covering in your regular coursework. It really helps you to develop critical thinking skills and the ability to speak and write critically and persuasively on issues that matter in everyday life and are going to matter for the rest of your life. Ideas and issues that you’ll be talking about around the dinner table, or when you’re networking, or with your friends or with your family, and probably at work too. It helps you think about how you can be a better global citizen. You begin to ask yourself, “Where do I want to have an impact? How can I identify issues that matter to me and talk about them intelligently? Where can I find places to dig in and make a difference?” That’s what has been meaningful to me in my honors experience.

MP: You are the principal donor for the Maisto Scholarship in the Honors College. Why did you think that was something important to donate to?

JP: I like giving, my husband and I both do. I’ve been involved in charitable donations pretty much since I graduated from college. It’s something that my husband and I really enjoy doing together. We feel very strongly about the value of a college education. I still feel very connected with the University Honors Program even though, as you know, I don’t live in Charlotte or go on campus terribly often anymore. I’m in touch with only a handful of people I went to school with, but it really was a formative experience. If I can do anything to help students stay in the program or make it more accessible, I love that. And I loved the idea of honoring Al, because I think the world of him. He is one of my favorite people ever.

MP: What do you hope to contribute by being a part of the Honors College Advisory Board?

JP: I know the program has changed a lot -- it’s certainly bigger than when I was there -- but I hope that the students still have that personalized infusion of challenge and equipping for the real world that I got from the program, even as it continues to grow. That’s what I’m interested in, being able to enable and protect that.



A vintage group picture of the University Honors Program during their annual beach trip when Jennifer Paules was in the program.

New Honors Programs

New Engineering Honors Program

The William States Lee College of Engineering launched its new honors program this fall. The program has approximately 30 students enrolled in the first seminar course. The seminar is offered in conjunction with the capstone senior design program that all students complete as part of their engineering curriculum. A second seminar will be offered in the spring as students complete the capstone experience and exhibit their work at the Engineering Expo.



Dr. Kirk Melnikoff, Director of the English Honors Program, and his senior honors seminar, Monarchal Shakespeare.

New English Honors Program

The new honors program in the Department of English got off to a strong start this fall, admitting nineteen majors and offering two honors seminars: Video Games and Culture and Monarchal Shakespeare. In November, the program, with support from UNC Charlotte's Shakespeare-in-Action Initiative, will be taking honors students to a production of King Lear at the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, Virginia. According to Dr. Kirk Melnikoff, the Director of the English Honors Program, the program's goals include "providing an energizing curriculum that will both challenge and inspire our best undergraduate students. In our small classes, faculty from all areas of English studies will have a venue to develop new and different kinds of undergraduate coursework and to work on a variety of different capstone research projects. But beyond these ends, we also have long been eager to build a community of ambitious and intellectually curious undergraduates that would attend department talks and events; that would populate our library, halls, and lounge; that would actively participate in the day-to-day goings-on of our department. The program has only been up and running for three months now, but so far, so good." Students are also very excited about the introduction of this new program. Senior Eileen Jakeway was very excited about the creation of the program:

Q: Why did you join the English Honors Program?

A: I actually approached the English Department before the program was officially instated because I was looking for an opportunity to write an Honors Thesis in English literature. Since I am applying for graduate school in English and Comparative Literature, writing a thesis is a crucial component of my application package. I was thrilled when the Honors Program became a reality the next semester and I was able to join.

Q: What do you hope to gain from the program?

A: I hope to further develop my critical writing skills in English literature and produce a writing sample that could potentially serve as the foundation for my master's thesis.

Honors Faculty

While any faculty member at UNC Charlotte can propose a course to teach in the Honors College, only faculty who have taught honors students and/or provided service to honors can be appointed to the Honors Faculty. Honors Faculty are a resource for Honors College students and administrators and provide faculty governance for honors through their election of Honors Council representatives and service on Honors College task forces and committees.

Each spring, the Honors College invites department chairs to nominate their faculty to the Honors Faculty, for a five-year renewable term. Chairs consider who among department faculty has: taught an honors course; provided service to honors in their department, college, or the Honors College; or acted as a thesis/project advisor or mentor for an honors student.

New Honors Faculty in 2016:

In the Spring of 2016 the Honors College welcomed 20 new members to the ranks of Honors Faculty.

David Brodeur, Associate Professor, Department of Art and Art History
Robert Campbell, Associate Professor, Department of Art and Art History
Jacqueline Chattopadhyay, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Public Administration
Gang Chen, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences
Sandra Clinton, Research Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences
Daniela Dal Pra, Lecturer, Department of Languages and Culture Studies
Jane Dalton, Assistant Professor, Department of Art and Art History
Casey Davenport, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences
Eric Delmelle, Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences
Karen Ford-Eickhoff, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Management
Heather Freeman, Associate Professor, Department of Art and Art History
Laurie Garo, Lecturer, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences
Maja Godlewska, Associate Professor, Department of Art and Art History
Aspen Hochhalter, Associate Professor, Department of Art and Art History
Lisa Homann, Assistant Professor, Department of Art and Art History
Joseph Marino, Assistant Professor, Department of Kinesiology
Kirk Melnikoff, Associate Professor, Department of English
Heather Perry, Associate Professor, Department of History
Celia Sinclair, Senior Lecturer, Department of Religious Studies
Erik Waterkotte, Assistant Professor, Department of Art and Art History

Congratulations to all of the new, and continuing, Honors Faculty!

To see the full list of current Honors Faculty, please visit the Honors College website: honorscollege.uncc.edu/faculty-and-staff/honors-faculty

Since 2013,
40%
of finalists for the Bank
of America Teaching
Award have been
Honors Faculty

Focus on Faculty Teaching in Honors: Stacy Utley

Born in Suffolk, England, and raised in Raleigh, North Carolina, Mr. Stacy Utley is a practicing artist who now resides in Charlotte, North Carolina. Mr. Utley's early works of art were diverse in medium and topic. Everyday life: cityscapes, barbershops, salons and family gatherings were depicted in pencil, ink, watercolor, acrylic and oils. Currently, through the medium of collage, Mr. Utley's work addresses complex narratives found within the African American diaspora, specifically the destruction and reconstructing of communities. He has a Bachelor of Architecture from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and a Masters of Fine Art in Studio Art from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Currently, Mr. Utley is working as adjunct faculty with the Honors College.

Mr. Utley teaches an honors liberal studies course as an interdisciplinary study into the subject of art and its narration and role in gentrification and displacement within the urban fabric. The goal of this course for students is to gain an understanding of the topic, its history, its influence and effect. Throughout the course, students delve into various texts pulled from journals and articles, view and discuss documentaries, and review the art that is inspired by and narrates the topic.

What Mr. Utley enjoys most about teaching the honors course is the dialogue with the students during and after class. Students are excited and provide a unique perspective when discussing the topic. Utley believes that student enthusiasm is important when it comes to pushing the boundaries of their creativity on an art project – particularly when they each come from various backgrounds and majors.



Honors College Advisory Board

The Honors College Advisory Board serves as a fundraising board for the Honors College. Members are drawn from community leaders and UNC Charlotte Alumni. The Advisory Board meets twice per academic year, once in the fall and once in the spring. In 2016, the Advisory Board successfully fundraised for the Al Maisto Scholarship, in recognition of long-time Professor of Psychology and former director of the University Honors Program and Associate Dean of the Honors College, Dr. Al Maisto. The Honors College Advisory Board looks forward to its next fundraising opportunity!



Delbridge Narron

Advisory Board Chair
Senior Vice President, General
Counsel and Corporate Secretary
at Springs Global US, Inc.



Hilary Davidson

Sustainability Director at Duke
Energy Corporation

UNC Charlotte Alumna (M.S.C.E.
1991)



Brian Zapata

Project Manager at Zapata
Incorporated

UNC Charlotte Alumnus (B.S.C.E.
2003, M.S.C.E. 2007, Ph.D. 2012)



Alan Smith

Senior Private Client Advisor at
Park Sterling Bank

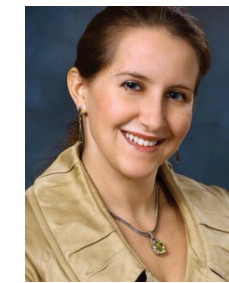
UNC Charlotte Alumnus (B.S.
1998)



Brian Farkas

Director of Client Relations and
Development at JFK Architecture

UNC Charlotte Alumnus (B.A.
2009, University Honors)



Jennifer Paules

Senior Vice President at Bank of
America

UNC Charlotte Alumna (B.A.
2001, University Honors)



Brenda Tindal

Senior Vice President at the Levine
Museum of the New South

UNC Charlotte Alumna (B.A.
2004, University Honors)



Harry Creemers

Counsel at CapDev
UNC Charlotte Alumnus (M.U.A.)

(Former Director of Development,
Honors College)



Levine Hall Update



As of press time, our soon-to-be new residence hall and administrative office suite, Levine Hall, is scheduled for completion by the end of the fall semester. Students are to be moved (assisted by Housing and Residence Life) from their current Sanford room to their new room in Levine Hall before classes begin in January. For the two-story administrative wing, we have completed all of the planning for finishes, décor, furniture, and are planning for original artwork! There will be an Honors Faculty community office with private conference rooms, an Honors College office suite and a Levine Scholars Program suite, two seminar rooms, a conference room, a kitchen/lounge, a study room, and an advising office suite. One unique feature is a guest room for visiting faculty speakers, so honors students can have special access to a wide range of intellectual expertise.

We expect to have a celebration once we are moved in and get settled. Please feel free to stop by and visit, any time. We are located at the entrance to campus off of University City Blvd, at the roundabout.

Levine Hall

\$38.5 Million

Project

will provide the Honors College with

12,800 sq ft

of office space to better serve its students



Photo Credits: Wade Bruton

Honors College Staff Directory

Malin Pereira, Ph.D., Professor of English and Executive Director, Honors College
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Karen James, J.D., M.A.T., Associate Director for Scholars Advising
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Shannon Zurell-Carey, Administrative Associate
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Gretchen Bagley, NCCP, Administrative Assistant
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University Professional Internship Program Student Interns:

2015-2016:

Kelly Brabec
Jordan Brusso
Darby Ford
Wendall Horton
Melissa McGrath
Hannah Thomson
Noah Vetter
Elizabeth Witham

2016-2017:

Kelly Brabec
Jordan Brusso
Darby Ford
Wendall Horton
Noah Vetter (Newsletter
editor and designer)

honorscollege@uncc.edu

 honorscollege_uncc  The Honors College at UNC Charlotte  @UNCCHonors

Honors College by the Numbers

3.7

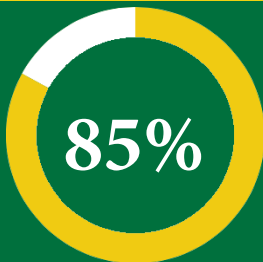
Average GPA of Honors Students

\$300,000

In Scholarship Money Distributed
by the Honors College Annually

163

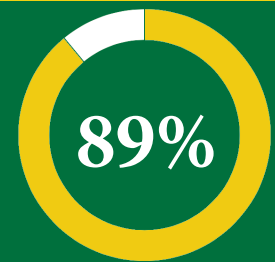
Members of the Honors Faculty



85% increase in
the number of
departmental honors
programs graduating
students since 2012



100% of honors
students receive
priority registration



89% of departments
have departmental
or college Honors
programs



UNC CHARLOTTE
Honors College