



JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

# HONORS PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2012

## Welcome Back!!

We are continuing to  
*Pursue excellence*  
as we welcome a new year.



## Honors Program Mission Statement

The Honors Program at Jacksonville State University provides academically gifted students with an enriched educational experience in a diverse range of courses which foster independent, critical thinking and effective communication. The Honors Program helps students fulfill their potential in their chosen fields while preparing them to meet the challenges and responsibilities of becoming citizens with global perspectives.

## Dates to Remember

January 18	7:00 AM	Elite Honors Scholars Meeting
January 26	4:30—9:00 PM	Honors Bowl
February 1	7:00 AM	Elite Honors Scholars Meeting
February 4	9:00—11:00 AM	Preview Day
February 15	7:00 AM	Elite Honors Scholars Meeting
February 29	7:00 AM	Elite Honors Scholars Meeting
March 14	7:00 AM	Elite Honors Scholars Meeting
March 26-30		Spring Break



**Dr. Steven Whitton, Director**

The Honors Program continues to make its presence known on campus. During the Fall and Spring terms, the Program was able to offer classes in everything from English to Economics, from Art, Drama, and Music to History, Psychology, and Sociology. During the past school year, Honors classes were offered by 12 departments and Honors by Contract classes by many others.

Mid-November, the first Honors International Scholars Stipends were awarded so that 10 honors students might study at Taizhou University in China this May. As an example of the growth of the Honors Program, some of the recipients did not come from the present pool of Elite Honors Scholars, but are Honors students nonetheless. You'll see all the names elsewhere in this newsletter. They will be studying American and British Literature along with Chinese students.

Our service Projects continue to grow as well. January 2012 will see our first Honors Bowl, designated to raise money for renovations to the Honors House. Spring will also see our third "Shoes for Spring" initiative, which collects shoes for the needy and donates them to the Jacksonville Christian Outreach Center for distribution.

And, of course, the Honors Board will be selecting the 8 new recipients of the Elite Honors Scholarship. Those recipients will be the 4<sup>th</sup> group of scholars, bringing to fruition our plan to always have 24 Elite Honors Scholars at the core of our Program. Add to those all of the Honors students enrolled in our Honors Class offerings, and I'd say that we're growing by leaps and bounds.



**Jansen Harmon  
President  
Student Honors Board**

Dear Honors Students,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you back to JSU for the spring semester of 2012. I trust that all of you enjoyed your Christmas and New Year's break. As honors students, we can all set an obtainable resolution for this upcoming year: to give the gift of service to the community, university, and each other. It is our responsibility to mold this honors program into an inspiring, helpful, and exciting organization that everyone in this community can be proud of.

I am pleased to say that we have made great progress in these areas and many more over the past few years. We have already made a lasting impact upon the people whom we have helped and the organizations that we have contributed to. It is my hope that through us all, we can expand our influence and grow our family. This semester, we will be holding a mass meeting for all of the honors students. During this meeting we will make plans for the future of our program, so I hope all of you will be watching your inboxes for the invitation!

The thing that I am most excited about this semester is our annual Honors Bowl. On Jan. 26 at 4:30 p.m. on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of the library we will be hosting a trivia night for 9 teams of both honors students and professors. I hope to see all of you there that night supporting your favorite teams; admission is free, of course. Thank you once again for being a part of our growing community, and I hope that you are excited about this year's activities!



**I am trusting that you all had a wonderful holiday break with your families. Our Spring semester is about to kick in full force with many activities, so let's get in high gear and make it a great one!**

**Our welcome back get-together on January 10 was a great start to a new semester. We enjoyed pizza, dessert, games, laughs, and fun. Some students figured out what their "sign" would be as well as everyone else's. The sign game brought lots of laughs. Thanks to Allison Clark for introducing us to this game.**

**I am excited about all the upcoming events and look forward to a very successful Spring. Please watch your email and the Elite Honors Facebook page for details.**

**Janet Whitmore  
Program Coordinator**



**The sign game featuring Josh Wise , Evan Mince (middle), and Allison Clark (right).**



**Pictured above are some of the Elite Honors Scholars at the welcome back get-together.**



International Study for Honors Students

May 2012 Term

EH 399: Discovering China

(contingent upon stipend funding)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

EH 399 will be offered for the May 2012 term, contingent upon stipend funding. The course is an exciting and innovative international amalgam of American and Chinese culture and academics. JSU students will study the same Western works of literature being taught by Chinese professors to their own students at Taizhou University. JSU students will then travel to Taizhou University for ten days where both classes will be combined into one English-speaking class. While in China, JSU students will provide a cultural and academic bridge for their counterparts at Taizhou University, students who are considering JSU for degree work.

JSU students participating in this program will live in China and will study there in the midst of incomparable academic resources: art works and architecture, museums and libraries, as well as institutions of government, commerce, and learning. There will be two weeks of initial study on the JSU campus, a 12-day trip (including travel days) to China. The remaining days of the May term will be spent in evaluation/study of the experiential aspects of the course.

The course will be taught by:

**Ms. Gena E. Christopher**, Instructor of English. B.S.Ed., Jacksonville State University; M.A.E., University of Alabama at Birmingham. Already a veteran of Chinese travel, especially to Taizhou University, Ms. Christopher, is a popular and respected member of JSU’s English Department and currently serves as Director of the English Department’s Writing Clinic.

**Dr. Steven J. Whitton**, Professor of English. B.A., M.A., and Ph.D., University of South Carolina. A member of JSU’s English Department, Dr. Whitton is the recipient of the Cleo and Carla Thomas Award for Outstanding Community Education and Community Service and the Anna C. Grace Professorship of English. He is co-recipient for the Faculty Scholar Lecturer Award and currently serves as Director of JSU’s Honors Program.

The following students have been selected by the Honors Board to represent JSU:

**Gregory Felch**

**Whitney Gaut**

**Jansen Harmon**

**Lance Hicks**

**Lea Isbell**

**Kailea Jones**

**Lauren McClendon**

**Evan Mince**

**Ben Parr**

**Josh Wise**

Congratulations to those selected!! We are very excited about the experience they will gain from taking part in this trip.