



HONORS PROGRAM

Newsletter | Spring 2015

Honors Program members get crafty with service projects

Alex McFry
Honors Program Vice President

Over the course of the 2014-2015 academic year, the Honors Program has participated in numerous volunteer opportunities and campus activities.

In the fall, members of the Honors Program got the chance to visit nursing homes in the area and sing Christmas carols to spread Christmas cheer to those who would not otherwise see their family and friends.



Peter Abney attaches a pot of gold to the door of one of the many patients in the Ronald McDonald House in Birmingham.

Members of the program turned their attention to the Honors House to put finishing touches on the basement that started as nothing but a concrete slab with dreary walls. The Elite Honors Scholars painted a tree on one of the walls to represent the link system that is set up so that freshmen have a group of mentors upon their arrival at JSU.

With a little elbow grease (and some luck) the pool table was relocated and balanced so that Honors Program members can practice billiards downstairs between classes.

The program hopes to get a couch, cable TV, and sound system installed so that members may take full advantage of the space that the university has given them to unwind and associate with other program members.

This spring, the Honors Program partnered with several organizations to make sure the springtime holidays were cheerful for everyone.

The Jacksonville Public Library makes crafts each Valentine's Day that are then delivered to local nursing homes. The Honors Program packed up their scissors, glue sticks, and other craft supplies to lend a helping hand.

But the crafts didn't stop there. The JSU Honors Program partnered with the Ronald McDonald House to bring a little St. Patrick's Day cheer to children



Jennie Tanner (left), Alyssa Cunningham, Emily Smith, Jake Brown, Katie Cline, and Peter Abney work on Saint Patrick's day decorations.

staying at the charity's home.

In addition to these volunteer experiences, members of the Honors Program got to say hello to high school students who had already been accepted to the university at the two Accepted Students Days JSU hosted.

The group had active participation in the Spring Preview Day, sharing their individual experiences with other potential students both near and far.

Anniston Army Depot held their annual "Making Tracks 5K" event for the community as well, allowing Honors Program students to cheer runners on and hand out water.

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Congratulations, Class of 2015!

Elite Honors Scholars



From left: Dr. Steven Whitton (Honors Program Director 2009-2014), Micah Burns, Barbara Edwards, Lea Isbell, Noah Trudeau, JSU President Dr. William A. Meehan, Emily Smith, Lauren McClendon, Daniel Jackson, Amanda Parker, and Honors Director, Dr. Lori Owens.

Honors Graduates

Jasmine Beaudette**
Michelle Blansit**
Olivia Brown***
Micah Burns
Hannah Couch**
Barbara Edwards**
Elise Erb***
Robert Harvell***
Hunter Heflin**
Amber Henderson***
Kalie Holmes***
Lea Isbell***
Daniel Jackson***
Taylor Lamb*
Gillian McCary***
Lauren McClendon*
Leah Mumpower*
Amadan Parker***
Emily Smith**
Noah Trudeau***

*cum laude (3.5 - 3.69)

**magna cum laude (3.7 - 3.89)

***summa cum laude (3.9 - 4.0)

Honors Program President's Farewell

Emily Smith

Honors Program President

I've had a great past year as your president. I'm so happy to have met so many of you at our get-together last semester. My mission as the president of this program was to bring our members together and get the name of our program out. We have been able to meet a little more often than in the past, but we need to strive to do more.

Our program has continued to grow and develop this year, and I would love for us to be able to get together with other programs and get even more ideas for ways we can improve. This year, we implemented a service requirement for some of our members, and we hope to have that extended to the whole program.

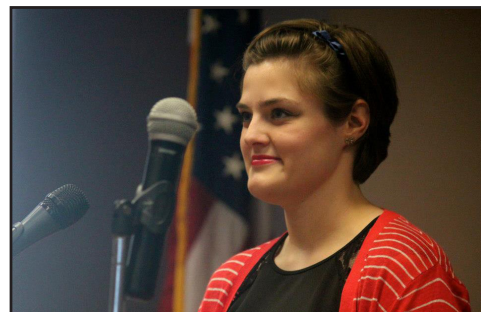
I would love to be able to utilize our position to give us an active role in community leadership so that we as a program can do everything that we

possibly can to benefit others.

In the future, our members should expect to see more gatherings like the one we had last semester. Hopefully, they will be more frequent and there will be a greater variety in the events at each one. I would love to see our program develop a sense of cohesiveness and see our members socializing more frequently so that we can enjoy ourselves, too. After all, we're in classes together fairly often.

In the next year, we hope to send several of our members to the Southern Regional Honors Council Conference. This is a wonderful way to make contacts at other schools and utilize your resources as a member of our honors program. These members can bring back an entirely new perspective so that we as a program can obtain new ideas for service projects, volunteer opportunities, and networking.

I am so proud of each and every one of our members. The JSU Honors Program



Emily Smith, president of the Honors Program from 2014-2015, welcomes new Elites in the fall.

is constantly growing, and I'm ecstatic to have been able to be a part of that. I am honored to have worked with such wonderful officers and faculty this year, including our new director Dr. Lori Owens, who is going to continue to be a wonderful asset to the program. I'm also very excited about what our upcoming officers are planning. As always, please give us feedback on how we're doing and what we could do better, as this program exists to serve our students.

Thank you all for a great year.

From the Director's Desk...

Dr. Lori Owens

Honors Program Director

Jacksonville State University recently hosted the Alabama Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Employees and members of the Honors Program were substantially involved in the planning phase and conference itself. The event, which was held on March 6 & 7, featured professors, graduate students, and undergraduate students from Alabama universities and surrounding state colleges—we even had a presenter come all the way from New York! JSU agreed to serve as the 2015 host for the annual meeting several years ago, so when I became Director of the Honors Program last fall, I was naturally concerned about being able to plan a conference and carry out my new responsibilities with the Honors Program. As it turned out, I had nothing to worry about. In fact, the move from Political Science to Honors and Academic Services actually resulted in more assistance with planning and implementing the conference than I would have had otherwise.

Ms. Janet Whitmore, Program Coordinator for Honors, and Ms. Sherry Cospser, Secretary to Honors Director/Director of Academic Services, both stepped up to provide support for the conference. This included communication with hundreds of political scientists and

students, panel organization, logistics, drafting the program, registration and payment records, and set up and take down for the event. Moreover, we were able to utilize members of our Honors Program for assistance with registration, set up, and take down. I would like to acknowledge the wonderful help from the following members of the Honors Program: Micah Burns, David Rickless, Amanda Parker, Lora Corbin, Trent Ford, Erin Whetzel, Katie Wood, and Barbara Edwards.

The annual meeting included panels featuring state and local politics, elections/voting behavior, executive power, presidential performance, educational issues in China, political theory, American foreign policy, the Middle East, Europe, comparative politics on the Seven Revolutions as described by the Center for Strategic Studies, international conflict and intervention, a round table discussion on Alabama politics, and a film screening profiling Anniston's role in the civil rights movement.

The meeting also included a special panel on threats to the Nation and Alabama, featuring representatives from the Center for Domestic Preparedness, Alabama Emergency Management, and the Center for Information Security and Assurance. A major highlight of the two-day event included a tribute to Dr. William H. Stewart, professor emeritus at The



University of Alabama and preeminent expert on Alabama government and a founding member of the Alabama Political Science Association.

Carlos Acosta, graduate assistant for the American Democracy Project, and Kevin Spann, graduate assistant for Political Science and Public Administration, also devoted considerable time in organizing the panels and making sure that the conference ran smoothly.

We received numerous compliments regarding the 2015 Alabama Political Science Association Annual Meeting. I am glad to have the opportunity to recognize and thank all of those who assisted in this endeavor.



JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Honors Program

Online at:

<http://jsu.edu/cas/honors>



**Like the
"JSU Honors Program" on
Facebook today!**

Honors Program Student Spotlight

Honors Graduates with a 4.0 GPA

Olivia Brown
Elise Erb
Kalie Holmes

Daniel Jackson
Gillian McCary
Amanda Parker

Congratulations to Daniel Jackson for having the highest GPA of the entire graduating class!

Lauren McClendon

JSU Greek Woman of the Year



Noah Trudeau
Outstanding Economics Graduate

Are you a member of the JSU Honors Program? Share your achievements with us! Email us at honors@jsu.edu or send the JSU Honors Program a message on Facebook!

Honors Faculty takes on Southern Regional Honors Conference



Mrs. Janet Whitmore
Honors Program Coordinator

This year, Dr. Owens and I were privileged to attend the Southern Regional Honors Conference in Greenville, South Carolina from March 18-21. Being able to attend varied sessions on the aspects of honors classes, student activities, education abroad, student research, and other aspects of college level honors program success was both enjoyable and enlightening.

We returned with our mental and physical notepads full of new ideas and energy relating to our own program. Being able to sit with other program staff members and directors and discuss ideas was very beneficial.

As we have already experienced with our own honors students, we saw the outcome of fostering brilliant minds of honors students and implementing their

knowledge through their presentations. We plan to engage some of our own students in the 2016 SRHC Conference.

On May 1, 2015, twenty members of the Honors Program graduated, having completed all program requirements. We have also announced the eight recipients of the Elite Honors Scholarship for the fall.

The Honors Program continues to become more widely known and recognized across campus as well as in the community with the enrollment reaching almost 300 students. The addition of Dr. Lori Owens as our Director, and Ms. Sherry Cosper as our part-time Secretary, has opened doors to many new opportunities. They have been wonderful additions to the program and have become a very vital part of our day-to-day activities.

The JSU Honors Program is growing rapidly and we look forward with much anticipation.

Elite Honors Scholars leave their legacy

Alex McFry
Honors Program Vice President

One of the biggest projects since the Honors Program was established at JSU has been the basement of the Honors House. What was once a barren, empty room that did nothing but depress passersby is now a lively, welcoming environment for all members of the Honors Program to enjoy.

Equipped with a pool table, a television, and numerous tables and chairs, the basement is a great asset to the Honors Program, serving as a meeting place, a relaxing hideaway from the chaos during the semester, and as offices for our dedicated faculty.

Still, even with all the new additions, something was

missing from the honors sanctuary.

During several meetings, students brainstormed about what to do to decorate the walls of the basement. They decided to make one of the walls in the back a tribute to the Elite Honors Scholars that have passed through the Honors Program at Jacksonville State University. This way, all alumni could come back and see how far the program has come.

The honors tree was born. The trunk of the tree, which will consist of the first group of Elite Honors Scholars, has eight branches. From here, each cluster of leaves represents the next member of each Elite's link system—a family tree for the Elite Honors Scholars.



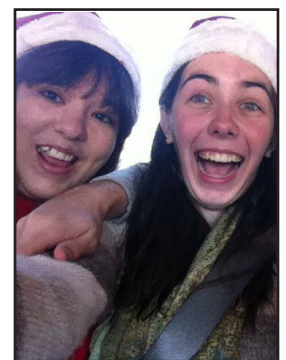
Elite Honors Scholar Peter Abney and Honors Scholar Megan Wise came together to help bring this idea to life. With the dynamic duo's artistic talents, the Honors Program came together to commemorate those that will

graduate from JSU as Elite Honors Scholars.

Students' names have yet to be added to the tree, but once they are, this project will be complete.

An "unveiling" is planned for later this year.

Honors Activities, Gatherings, Service Projects, & more



What's Next?

JSU Honors Program 2015-2016

Oh, the
Places
We'll

GO!



Focusing on education for the next generation!

JSU Honors Program Meet & Greet

When? August 25, 2015 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Where? The Honors House (across from Stone Center)

Bring a box of crayons for the St. Jude Crayon Drive, and see how you can get involved in the program this year!

